

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**THE ROLE OF DIPLOMACY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN  
AFRICA: THE CASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INGOs IN KENYA AND  
NIGERIA**

**JUDITH MUTHEU NGUTA**

**REG NO: R50/11821/2018**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**DECEMBER 2021**

DECLARATION

Declaration by the student

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.



Signed

**Judith Mutheu Nguta**

Reg no: R50/11821/2018

29/11/2021

Date

Declaration by the Supervisor

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor.



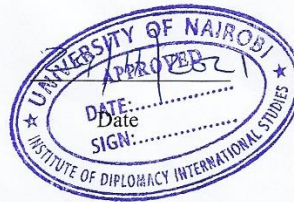
Signed

**Amb. Prof. Maria Nzomo**

University Professor,

Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies,

University of Nairobi.



## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research project to everyone that is making effort to preserve the environment.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to show my appreciation to my supervisor, Prof Maria Nzomo, for the guidance she accorded me throughout the writing of this research project. The knowledge and direction she offered me helped to shape the structure of the project and its completion. I would also like to thank my classmates for being very supportive both with coursework and in this project. To my family and friends, thank you so much for the support and motivation as I worked on this research project. Lastly, and very important, I am entirely grateful to everyone that took their time to respond to my questionnaires, interviews and request for information. Your willingness to engage with me on this topic was very instrumental in my successful completion of this research project.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	:	African Development Bank
AGNES	:	African Group of Negotiators-Expert Support
ANAW	:	African Network for Animal Welfare
CIEL	:	Centre for International Environmental Law
CIFOR	:	Centre for International Forestry Research
CITES	:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CJGEA	:	Centre for Justice Governance and Environmental Action
COP	:	Conference of the Parties
DRC	:	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EAC	:	East African Community
ECOWAS	:	Economic Community of West African States
ENGO	:	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
FIELD	:	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
FoE	:	Friends of the Earth
FSC	:	Forest Stewardship Council
GBM	:	Green Belt Movement
GCF	:	Green Climate Fund
GEF	:	Green Environment Facility
ICRAF	:	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPCC	:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IUCN	:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MOSOP	:	Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People
NDCs	:	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEMA	:	National Environmental Management Authority
NECC	:	National Environmental Complaints committee
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
UNCCD	:	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WRI	:	World Resources Institute
WWF	:	World Wide Fund for Nature

## ABSTRACT

This study looks into the rampant environmental degradation in Africa and why it is such a big problem, interrogates the efforts - by different actors - that have gone into preservation of the continent's environment and then delves into the role played by International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) in promoting environmental diplomacy. It seeks to establish the extent to which INGOs influence the environmental protection responsibility of organisations, governance institutions, individuals, among others. The study looks into the situation in Kenya and Nigeria to establish the role INGOs have played in the respective countries' state of the environment. The researcher was guided by the assumptions that environmental degradation is a huge problem in Africa; not enough tools and actors have been devoted to promoting environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria and that INGOs play a significant role in environmental diplomacy in both countries. The study employs liberalism as the theoretical framework, as liberals believe in the role of international institutions in the cooperation of states and increased interdependence as these create an opportunity to solve problems and reduce conflict. It uses both qualitative and quantitative data. From the study, it is evident that environmental degradation has created a trail of impacts that continue to affect many aspects of life, including health, economy, and society. For instance, cases of exposure to and spread of diseases and ailments, conflicts, competition for limited resources, human-wildlife conflict, flooding, contamination of soil and water bodies, reduced agricultural produce are some of the effects that demonstrate the magnitude of the environmental degradation menace. The study also outlines tools and actors that have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria and found that several instruments including environmental laws, court processes, activists, volunteers, local NGOs, community-based organisations, intergovernmental organisations, media, and even corporate organisations have in different ways created a framework to support environmental diplomacy. The problem of environmental degradation still continues to grow and pose danger to the existence of the continent's strategic resources. The role of INGOs in environmental diplomacy is quite diverse as different organisations of this nature are founded to serve varying missions. The study has found that majority of environmental INGOs perform roles including education and capacity building, raising awareness on pressing or looming environmental issues, joining court cases to add voice to the matters of concern, organising protests and campaigns, ecosystem restoration, publishing reports or press releases on the state of the climate and guiding authorities and institutions on climate negotiation and climate action. There are also INGOs that are making impact by participating in and contributing towards creation and implementation of international conventions especially by offering advisory to institutions and organisations. Several INGOs are admitted to international conferences and processes as observer organisations, they however do not bear voting rights when major decisions and resolutions are being made.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	
<b>DEDICATION</b> .....	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	iv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	v
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	vii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	xii
<b>DEFINITION OF TERMS</b> .....	xiii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY</b> .....	1
1.0 Background of the Study .....	1
1.1 Statement of the Research Problem.....	5
1.2 Research Questions .....	5
1.3 Research Objectives .....	6
1.3.1 Main Objective.....	6
1.3.2 Specific Objectives .....	6
1.4 Literature Review .....	6
1.4.1 Widespread Environmental Degradation.....	6
1.4.2 Instruments and actors in Environmental Protection.....	10
1.4.3 Diplomacy in Environmental Protection .....	14
1.5 Gaps in the Literature.....	18
1.6 Justification to the Study.....	18
1.6.1 Academic Justification.....	19
1.6.2 Policy Justification.....	19
1.6.3 Justification to the Public.....	19
1.7 Theoretical Framework.....	20
1.8 Hypotheses.....	21
1.9 Research methodology .....	21
1.9.1 Research design .....	21
1.9.2 Target Population.....	22
1.9.3 Data Collection .....	22
1.9.4 Data Analysis and Presentation .....	22



1.9.5 Ethical Considerations .....	22
1.9.6 Scope and Limitations of the Research.....	23
1.10 Chapter Outline.....	23
<b>CHAPTER TWO: AFRICA’S WIDESPREAD ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	
<b>DEGRADATION .....</b>	<b>24</b>
2.0 Introduction.....	24
2.1 Poor Policy Formulation and Regulation.....	24
2.2 Overpopulation/Urbanisation.....	26
2.3 Substandard Infrastructure and Physical Destruction .....	28
2.4 Oil spills.....	28
2.5 Solid Waste and Dumping .....	30
2.6 Natural Disasters .....	30
2.7 Insufficient International Cooperation.....	33
2.8 Unfair International Trade Agreements .....	34
2.9 Industrialisation.....	35
2.10 Conclusion .....	37
<b>CHAPTER THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IN KENYA AND</b>	
<b>NIGERIA; TOOLS AND ACTORS.....</b>	<b>38</b>
3.0 Introduction.....	38
3.1 Environmental Laws .....	38
3.2 Community Activism and Courts .....	40
3.3 Corporate Social Responsibility .....	44
3.4 Volunteerism.....	45
3.5 Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) .....	47
3.5.1 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).....	47
3.5.1.1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).....	48
3.5.1.2 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change .....	50
3.5.2 AfDB.....	52
3.5.3 African Union/ EAC/ ECOWAS .....	53
3.6 Media .....	54
3.7 Conclusion .....	55

<b>CHAPTER FOUR: INGOS INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IN KENYA AND NIGERIA</b> .....	57
4.0 Introduction.....	57
4.1 Participation and Contribution in International Conventions .....	58
4.2 Enjoined in Court Cases.....	60
4.3 Staging protests .....	60
4.4 Ecosystem Restoration.....	61
4.5 Education and Capacity Building .....	63
4.6 Raising Awareness on Pressing Environmental Issues.....	66
4.7 Conclusion .....	67
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS</b> .....	68
5.1 Introduction.....	68
5.2 Geographical Location Of Respondents .....	68
5.3 Experience of environmental degradation in current locality .....	69
5.3.1 Common Forms of Environmental Degradation Encountered .....	69
5.3.2 Highest contribution to environmental degradation .....	70
5.3.3 Major results of Environmental Degradation .....	71
5.3.4 Evaluation of the degree to which environmental degradation is a major problem .....	72
5.3.4 Environmental degradation is a major problem.....	72
5.4 Assessment of respondents' participation in activities meant to protect the environment .....	72
5.4.1 Assessment of organisers of the activities meant to protect the environment .	73
5.4.2 Assessment of respondents' perception of entities making effort to promote environmental diplomacy.....	74
5.5 Assessment of whether respondents' think INGOs are doing their part to promote environmental diplomacy .....	75
5.5.1 Assessment of activities and initiatives that environmental INGOs carry out	77
5.6 Conclusion .....	79

<b>CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>80</b>
6.0 Introduction.....	80
6.1 Summary of the Study .....	80
6.2 Conclusions.....	81
6.3 Recommendations.....	83
6.3.1 Academic Recommendation .....	83
6.3.2. Policy Recommendation .....	83
6.3.3 Public Recommendation .....	84
6.4 Area of Further Study .....	84
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Appendix 1. Research Questionnaire.....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Appendix II. Interview Schedule.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Appendix III: NACOSTI letter .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Appendix IV: Plagiarism report.....</b>	<b>102</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 5.2</b> Location of respondents.....	68
<b>Figure 5.3</b> Experience of environmental degradation.....	69
<b>Figure 5.3.2:</b> Highest contributors to environmental degradation .....	70
<b>Figure 5.3.3</b> Results/impact of the various forms of environmental degradation.....	71
<b>Figure 5.4</b> Respondents' participation in environmental protection .....	73
<b>Figure 5.4.1</b> Activity organisers.....	73
<b>Figure 5.4.2</b> Entities making effort as agents of environmental diplomacy .....	74
<b>Figure 5.5.1</b> Initiatives that INGOs carry out .....	77

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Environmental degradation** - Environmental degradation is the undesirable change or disturbance on the environment, which in many cases results to loss of habitats and ecosystems as well as the depletion of resources.

**International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO)** - An International Non-Governmental Organisation is an international organisation not created by intergovernmental agreement or treaty and may include organisations that admit members nominated by government authorities, as long as their involvement does not interfere with the functioning of the organisation.

**Environmental diplomacy** - Environmental diplomacy is an approach in international interactions and cooperation that involves a combination of tools and methods to influence how prevailing or potential environmental stressors are addressed. It can be applied at all levels of governance including community, national, regional and international.

**Environmental impact assessment** - This is the thorough examination of the impact that a certain project has on the environment, including how it would affect people and ecosystems.

**Climate litigation**- Climate litigation is the presentation, before courts, of cases related to climate change such as adaptation, mitigation, degradation, among others.

**Corporate social responsibility (CSR)** - Corporate social responsibility are the ways, formal or informal, in which organisations take part in improving the conditions of the communities or countries where they are based.

**Volunteering-** Volunteering is the practice of providing time, resources and skills for the benefit of another entity - whether individual, community, institution or nations without expecting financial gain.

**Intergovernmental organisation (IGO) -** An intergovernmental organisation (IGO) is an organisation formed through a treaty, and involving two or more states working in good faith, on matters of mutual concern.

**Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) -** These are national plans by each country setting out how it intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute towards implementation of Paris Agreement.

**International convention-** An international convention is a treaty signed between two or more states, and it acts as a binding agreement to regulate the behaviour of the actors involved.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

### **1.0 Background of the Study**

This study looks at the role of diplomacy in environmental protection in Africa, using case study of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in Kenya and Nigeria. This chapter comprises the background to the study, problem statement, research questions, research objectives, justification to the study, and literature review. It also looks at the gaps in the literature, theoretical framework, highlights the research hypotheses, research methodology, scope and limitations of the research and lastly it provides the chapter outline of the entire study.

Environmental degradation is the undesirable change or disturbance on the environment, which in many cases results to loss of habitats and ecosystems as well as the depletion of resources. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development terms environmental degradation as degeneration in the quality of the environment arising from pollutants and activities such as natural disasters and improper land use. Environmental degradation is a major challenge that Africa has grappled with for decades, and which threatens to destroy livelihoods in many countries on the continent. From deforestation, open pit mining, oil leakages, encroachment of wildlife protected zones by private developers and the public, to clearing of forest land for farming, the environmental threats keep on growing.

Globally, numerous cases of land degradation have been reported in developed as well as in developing countries. The book "The Globalization of Environmental Crisis", edited by Jan Oosthoek and Barry Gills states that environmental concerns have gone through a series of phases and one of those phases is that the environmental crisis is becoming increasingly globalised, especially driven by the expansion of the economy.

Another phase that dates back to the 1960s is the publication of materials that raised concern about the impact that was created by population growth and economic development. Oosthoek and Gills argue that some of the earliest signs of environmental distress was the ozone layer depletion especially in the polar regions, a scenario that was caused by CFC aerosols and refrigeration systems. The other critical sign of environmental crisis was the discovery that global warming, brought about by the extensive use of fossil fuels, was on the rise and that it would distort climatic patterns and affect the entire planet.<sup>1</sup>

Environmental concerns have since been increasing, especially as the world seeks to improve the speed of production and maximise earnings. While the world is trying to move away from using coal and other fossil fuels as a source of energy, there have been concerted efforts to establish or sustain coal plants in some countries around the world. Some of the countries where coal has been used in large scale to support production processes are Australia and South Africa. Recent attempts to shift to other forms of energy have been and are still facing resistance by those that own and control capital. In Kenya, the country is suffering from massive deforestation with a forest cover of a mere 7%.<sup>2</sup> It's neighbours in the East African region too, grapple with deforestation greatly affecting the region's resilience to climate change. In South Africa, a country that drives its economic growth majorly through mining, the challenge of tailings dams continues to pose a big environmental threat. The country has some of the riskiest tailings dams in the world and which pose a big threat to neighbouring communities in the event of a collapse<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Oosthoek, J. et al, *The globalization of Environmental Crisis*, Routledge (2008)

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Kenya, *National strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% tree cover by 2022*, (unpublished), May 2019

<sup>3</sup> Warburton M. et al (Jan. 3, 2020) *The looming risk of tailings dams* <https://graphics.reuters.com/MINING-TAILINGS1/0100B4S72K1/index.html>



Other environmental challenges include contamination of water bodies from chemicals used in the mining operations and the improper rehabilitation of the areas after mining has been completed. Environmental hazards related to the exploration, drilling and transportation of oil are rife in Nigeria, the biggest economy in West Africa. The destruction is so bad that it has destroyed agricultural land and consequently affected the livelihood of people, and especially youth, in the region<sup>4</sup>. This is true for the oil endowed region of Niger Delta as well as the port cities from where crude oil is exported. The Congo basin too, has had its set of environmental challenges ranging from deforestation, to industrial exploitation of the forest ecosystem. This has left the local communities without their traditional source of livelihood.

The efforts at tackling the environmental problem don't seem to be sufficient. Some international treaties have been passed to aid in safeguarding the natural environment, local civil society organisations too have been calling out the destruction of the natural resources, activists, volunteers as well as corporates too have been making their bit of effort to sensitize the public about the need to take a solid stance at preserving the environment. But these efforts do not match the scale of destruction that is taking place. This study thus looks into the role played by INGOs, as instruments of diplomatic practice, in dealing with environmental degradation.

An International Non-Governmental Organisation is an international organisation not created by intergovernmental agreement or treaty and may include organisations that admit members nominated by government authorities, as long as their involvement does not interfere with the functioning of the organisation. Such organisations often focus on a specific issue as environment, hunger, disease, education, humanitarian and rural

---

<sup>4</sup> Alozie, M. The political ecology of oil in the Niger Delta: understanding youth violence from the perspectives of youths, 2020

development etc. INGOs may be funded through philanthropies or partial government funding. Article 71 of the United Nations Charter provides for consultation with NGOs that are concerned with specific matters within its mandate. Through Resolution 28 of 1950, the Economic and Social Council defined International NGOs as international organisations that are not established through intergovernmental agreement<sup>5</sup>.

Spiegel in his book *World Politics in a New Era* noted that not all organisations that take active role in international affairs are affiliated with governments. Such organisations operate within certain focus areas and projects that command a global public support and through which they can influence the conduct of states.<sup>6</sup> Some INGOs have technical expertise that is very much admired by governments and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs). The INGOs therefore come in to consult or partner with the governments and such IGOs like the United Nations, African Union, and regional bodies. Because of the access to vast and remote places, INGOs end up having a lot of data and information that governments and other partners can use to address issues at local and international level. Some of the notable involvement by INGOs in the development of the environment agenda is the participation of organisations like Greenpeace and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in the high level negotiations of the United Nations conferences.

Diplomacy involves relations between states, and between states and other actors. Environmental diplomacy can arise in response to various issues of international concern, including environmental degradation, and it can be applied at all levels of governance including community, national, regional and international. Despite the

---

<sup>5</sup> UN Charter <http://legal.un.org/repertory/art71.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> Spiegel. S, *World Politics in a New Era*, Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995

public, holders of capital, and decision makers' realisation of how big the problem is, as well as the growing number of environmental agreements being entered into, the status of environmental protection is not improving exponentially. Researchers are increasingly warning of the dangers that the world faces, if humanity continues with the wanton exploitation of natural non-renewable resources. The dangers include food scarcity, global warming, conflict, disappearance of island nations among others.

### **1.1 Statement of the Research Problem**

Environmental degradation is an issue of national and international concern and if it continues unchecked, there is great risk of losing the world's strategic resources. The desire by corporations and individuals to expand their territories and maximise profits, large scale agricultural projects and infrastructure projects are some of the factors driving up environmental destruction. In African countries, the situation is so dire that in some places it is causing loss of livelihood for the inhabitants. It has also led to conflicts over resources, and has pushed many people into poverty.

Literature shows that several entities including civil society groups, courts, legislature, government institutions have come out to act against the destruction and misuse of natural resources. But not enough research is available about what international NGOs are doing to push forward the agenda of environmental diplomacy in Africa. This study therefore seeks to establish the diplomatic role played by INGOs in influencing decisions of different actors about the environment.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

- i. Why is environmental degradation such a big problem in Africa?
- ii. What tools and actors have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria

- iii. To what extent have INGOs taken part in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

#### **1.3.1 Main Objective**

To examine the role of diplomacy in environmental protection in Africa; the case of environmental INGOs in Kenya and Nigeria

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To examine the widespread environmental degradation in Africa
- ii. To outline tools and actors that have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria
- iii. To assess the extent of INGOs involvement in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria

### **1.4 Literature Review**

This study analyses literature about environmental diplomacy to try and understand what amount of work and focus has gone into this field. It pays attention to the resultant situations and effects of the massive environmental degradation, looks at some instruments that have been used to bolster environmental diplomacy and it gives a special focus to what INGOs have done to further the environmental agenda.

#### **1.4.1 Widespread Environmental Degradation**

Literature and reports from the media and other agencies document numerous cases of environmental degradation across the world and in the African continent, in particular. Poor implementation of rules and regulations tends to weigh down many attempts at protecting the natural environment. Illegal logging is on the rise in most countries, and regulations to control it are wanting. Global demand for palm oil is driving up the rate

at which forest land is being replaced by oil palm plantations Asian countries and in Africa, especially in the West Africa tropical belt where large scale land acquisitions have led to numerous environmental concerns.

In Asia, some of the most pronounced cases of environmental degradation include deforestation, air pollution and water management and which pose a threat to food security, peace and stability as well as economic growth.<sup>7</sup> In Australia, where bushfires have become a perennial problem in the last decade, habitats for wildlife are being threatened and this is likely to shorten the lifespan or the entire existence of certain wildlife. A climate action report published by UNEP highlights some impacts that the bushfires create including ecological and biodiversity imbalance, deteriorating air quality and effect on health, mental trauma from losses, impact on agriculture, and economic costs.<sup>8</sup> In Canada, environmental issues such as road salt pollution, air pollution, melting glaciers, forest fires have been occasioned by situations like rising temperatures and fluctuating weather conditions. Alberta oil sands, a highly controversial national project, is a source of pollution from oil leakages as well as liquid and gas effluents. Environmentalist Tzeporah Berman has previously termed it as the single most destructive project on earth.<sup>9</sup>

In rural areas where dwellers rely on wood for fuel, deforestation is a major contributor to environmental destruction, which then leads to other forms of degradation. Lack of, or inadequate policies is the culprit. In Zimbabwe, for instance, about 94 per cent of rural communities rely on fuelwood for cooking while 20 per cent of urban dwellers

---

<sup>7</sup> Howes, et al. Asia's Wicked Environmental in ADBI Working Paper Series No. 348 February 2012

<sup>8</sup> UNEP, Ten impacts of the Australian bushfires <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ten-impacts-australian-bushfires>

<sup>9</sup> King E, Meet the woman who took on Canada's tar sand barons <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2016/07/11/meet-the-woman-who-took-on-canadas-tar-sand-barons/>, July 2016

use wood as a source of cooking fuel. This trend is driven by not only rural households, but also actors at the local community level, government level and the state of international relations.<sup>10</sup>

Poor governance compounded with inadequate government communication and coordination is a key factor in the failure to curb environmental degradation especially that which requires interstate cooperation. A 2017 study stated that the West African region loses about USD2 billion annually to illegal fishing and the situation is so severe that it is depleting endangered species as well as threatening food security.<sup>11</sup> Dealing with the runaway illegal fishing in countries including Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, has been hampered by such inadequacies in governance and communication. When governments don't talk to each other, enforcing any existent regulations falls short and that leads to economical loss for the countries involved.

Colonial legacy in Africa has had a detrimental effect on the continent's environment. Almost all colonial powers concentrated their voyages on amassing more and more territory as well as exploiting precious resources. In her book "This Changes Everything", Naomi Klein writes about the situation in Nigeria's Niger Delta, where colonial powers opened the doors to foreign investors who have since bumped billions of dollars' worth of crude oil out of Nigeria, leaving behind a trail of oil leakages, among other forms of land, water and air pollution.<sup>12</sup> This has resulted in denying the local communities a source of livelihood and in some places, it has bred insecurity due to the competition for limited resources. Such is the situation in the colonial Congo

---

<sup>10</sup> Chipango, E. Reinterpreting energy poverty in Zimbabwe: A scalar perspective. *Journal of Political Ecology*. Vol 25 No. 205, 2018

<sup>11</sup> Doumbouya A, Camara OT, Mamie J, et al Assessing the Effectiveness of Monitoring Control and Surveillance of Illegal Fishing: The Case of West Africa. in *Frontiers in Marine Science* Vol 4 No. 50, 2017

<sup>12</sup> Klein N, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism v. the climate*, Penguin Random House UK, 2014

whose resources, including rubber and ivory, were plundered by imperial powers while exploiting free slave labour from the locals. Adam Hochschild writes that the region surrounding the length of the Congo River has seemingly not recovered from this exploitation, so many decades later.<sup>13</sup> The country has high levels of poverty and underdevelopment due to the focus of extracting minerals for export. Insecurity and lawlessness characterise a vast majority of forested and mineral rich areas of the country.

As many countries in Africa industrialised, there was a widespread shift towards mining for resources to match the demand. Mining has particularly played a significant role in South Africa's economy for decades, with gold and coal being among the main natural resources. Large scale mining leaves behind a trail of destruction, health complications and loss of livelihoods. Mining companies have been criticised for improper disposal of waste with a resulting huge amount of soil, water and air pollution. Approximately 1.6 million people live in settlements that are located close to mine dumps. The exposure to dust and other elements found in the waste products is a major health concern for these communities and research has found high levels of asthma, pneumonia, chronic cough, bronchitis and other respiratory ailments linked to these mine dumps.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Hochschild, A. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. Pan Macmillan, 1998

<sup>14</sup> Nkosi V. How mine dumps in South Africa affect the health of communities living nearby <https://theconversation.com/how-mine-dumps-in-south-africa-affect-the-health-of-communities-living-nearby-77113>, May 2018

### **1.4.2 Instruments and actors in Environmental Protection**

Around the world, there have been efforts by different groups to tackle the problem of environmental degradation. Countries have laws that govern how various environmental resources will be utilised as well as courts to deal with cases relating to environmental offences. Activist groups have held campaigns to bring authorities to act on environmental issues and individuals have taken up the task to remind leaders of their responsibility towards the environment. In 2018, teenage activist Greta Thunberg caught the attention of the world for her campaign calling on world leaders to take action and save the planet. Her campaign created a global movement Fridays For Future that continues to gain international following.<sup>15</sup>

A court ruling, deemed as a landmark environmental court ruling, in Australia led to the stopping of a large hydro-electric dam in Tasmania. Opponents of the dam argued that its construction would lead to flooding in the areas around the dam, and would eventually destroy the habitat which had been classified as world heritage site. The Tasmanian government had granted the hydro-electric commission permission to proceed with the construction, but the commonwealth government went to court to protest the decision, leading to the stoppage.<sup>16</sup> Corporate social responsibility has been a way for companies and organisations to stay connected to the communities they operate in. In a study carried out in the European Union, Almerinda Forte says that companies in French, British and Dutch companies prioritised environmental protection on the list of activities that they engage in as part of their CSR.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Alter, C. et al. Greta Thunberg <https://time.com/person-of-the-year-2019-greta-thunberg/>

<sup>16</sup> Tasmanian Dam Case, <http://envlaw.com.au/tasmanian-dam-case/>

<sup>17</sup> Forte, Almerinda. Corporate Social Responsibility In The United States And Europe: How Important Is It? The Future Of Corporate Social Responsibility. *International Business & Economics Research Journal (IBER)*. 12. 815. 10.19030/iber.v12i7.7970, 2013



In Brazil, Amazon forest has been facing numerous dangers from deforestation and human encroachment. Scientists, environmentalists and their organisations, indigenous people who see the value of the forest to the Brazilians and the region have united to fight the destructive plans to carry out developments within the forest. Their efforts have led to Brazil taking significant steps towards protection and preservation of the Amazon.<sup>18</sup> Around the world, the media have been seen to report on issues touching on the environment and climate and especially in areas that are facing the danger of degradation and even extinction of species. Alwi Dahlan writes that environmental surveillance is one of the recognised functions of communication in all societies and that the media should expand its reporting responsibility to include communication functions such as the ecological perspective of the environment.<sup>19</sup>

Environmental civil society groups and NGOs in Kenya have in the past few years campaigned against the government's plan to construct a railway through the Nairobi National Park, as such a move would affect the natural ecosystem of the wildlife in the park. Wildlife Direct, Africa Network Animal Welfare, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Friends of Nairobi National Park are among the environmental groups which participated in the campaigns. Through peaceful protests, online activism, educational opinion pieces, among others, the campaigns captured the attention of international media and the international community.<sup>20</sup> This activism, however, did not bear much success as the government of Kenya went ahead with construction of the railway

---

<sup>18</sup> Barbosa L, *Guardians of the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest: Environmental Organizations and development*, Routledge 2015

<sup>19</sup> Dahlan, M.A, *Expanding the Role of Media in Environmental Protection*, *Media Asia*, 21:3, 157-163, DOI: 10.1080/01296612.1994.11726449, 1994

<sup>20</sup> Sebastian GIL, *Is Nairobi National Park under threat from a new railway?* [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=57938](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item_id=57938), 20/04/2017

traversing through the park. The public, however, continues to express awareness of the dangers presented by such numerous infrastructural projects.

Aggrieved parties have on occasion sought the redress from the justice system for environmental ills affecting them. One such case was the planned construction of a coal plant in Lamu, along Kenya's coast and which was halted by the National Environmental Tribunal. The tribunal found that the country's National Environmental Management Authority had not done a satisfactory environmental impact assessment and several impacts of the plant on the environment had not been taken into consideration.<sup>21</sup> Effort is still under way to prevent the commissioning of coal plants in the country, particularly in Lamu and Kitui counties both of which are said to have large deposits of the sedimentary rock.

Poor or total lack of impact assessment was cited in the case of a lead smelting plant that was located at Owino Uhuru in Mombasa, also along the Kenya's coast. The plant, which was shut down in 2014, had resulted in severe cases of lead poisoning in children and adults in the area and its closure left behind a trail of pollution and a host of serious health complications. Local advocacy groups have on occasion held protests to try and pressure authorities to act as well as educating the affected communities of the dangers they are exposed to. In the case of the lead smelter, protests and advocacy groups played a key role in its closure. They also caught the attention of both local and international media. In July 2020, the court awarded residents of Owino Uhuru slum in Mombasa a

---

<sup>21</sup> deSouza P. and Ikawah A, Aug 2019. How the deCOALonize Campaign Challenged a Politicised Bureaucracy and Legal System <https://www.theelephant.info/features/2019/08/01/this-too-is-kenya-how-the-decoalonize-campaign-challenged-a-politicised-bureaucracy-and-legal-system/>

1.3 billion Kenyan shillings compensation for lead poisoning occasioned by the smelting plant. It also ordered that the site be cleaned up.<sup>22</sup>

Local initiatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been undertaken by the indigenous people living in the country's forested areas to help protect the forests from exploitation. An example is the grassroots activism carried out by the residents of Itombwe forest in DRC. Together with local conservation groups, the locals have taken the matter of protecting the immediate forests into their own lands. The Mbuti people, indigenous to the Itombwe forest protested the establishment of a natural reserve within the forest as it would lead to their evictions and deny them their source of livelihood.<sup>23</sup>

Community initiatives have been seen to be effective in the management of forests in DRC, where the government grants communities formal rights to land, including right to recourse in the event of unauthorised resource extraction. The community forestry initiatives, however, are only successful when the local people are assured that it will contribute towards improving their capital, both physical and financial<sup>24</sup>.

Over two decades ago, a grassroots activists' group was set up to fight against the ills caused by multinational oil companies that had set camp in Niger Delta. The grassroots organisation, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) which was led by Ken Saro-Wiwa took a particular interest at Shell, which had done large scale extraction in Ogoniland. Through peaceful protests, Shell was forced to shut down its

---

<sup>22</sup> Ogila J, July 16th 2020, State to pay Owino Uhuru residents Sh1.3b for lead poisoning <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/coast/article/2001379058/court-orders-state-to-pay-owino-uhuru-slum-residents-sh13b>

<sup>23</sup> Gauthier M. et al, (Aug 2016) Clashing over conservation; saving congo's forest and its pygmies <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/aug/30/clashing-conservation-saving-democratic-republic-congo-forest-pygmies-drc>

<sup>24</sup> Lescuyer G. et al, Are community forests a viable model for the Democratic Republic of Congo? *Ecology and Society* Vol 24 No 1: 6, 2019

operations in Ogoni<sup>25</sup>. The victory was not without its downsides, as the activism of Saro-Wiwa led to his death as he was killed for agitating for the rights of this fellow Ogoni people. Shell has, however, continued with oil extraction in other parts of the Delta.

### **1.4.3 Diplomacy in Environmental Protection**

Environmental diplomacy is an approach in international interactions and cooperation that involves a combination of tools and methods that address problems common to the parties involved. It plays a role of tackling prevailing or potential environmental stressors.<sup>26</sup> Environmental diplomacy is based on two aspects namely, compliance with and implementation of agreements, and conservation of the environment and environmental obligations. To achieve these requires the input of international actors among them NGOs.

Environmental NGOs are those NGOs that work for the betterment and preservation of the environment. Their progress and success is linked to the participation of the communities that they operate in, which means there is need for collaboration at different levels including individuals and governance structures. They provide an avenue for the participation and, consequently, influence in environmental politics. These organisations can cause inclusivity in the political process by increasing the engagement of citizens who are interested and by holding to account the representatives of government.<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> Klein N. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*, Penguin Random House UK, 2015

<sup>26</sup> Tayebi S, et al, 'Environmental Diplomacy: A Framework for Growth of International Interaction and Cooperation for Achievement of Global Peace', *Journal of Politics and Law*; Vol. 9, No. 9; 2016

<sup>27</sup> Fowler. A, "Strengthening civil society in transition economies — from concept to strategy: mapping an exit in a maze of mirrors", in A Clayton (editor), *NGOs, Civil Society and the State* Chapter 1, (1996) pp 12–33

An assessment report released by UNEP in 2009 warned that up to 25 per cent of the world's food production may be lost by 2050 due to environmental degradation, unless action is taken. The report adds that environmental degradation resulting from indiscriminate human practices is significantly endangering the planet's production mechanism.<sup>28</sup> This calls for multiagency approach in dealing with the situation by protecting the environment.

Martin Sullivan and other researchers, in a 2017 study, writes that African rainforests store more carbon than those in the Amazon thus necessitating formulation of policies to protect these forests. The researchers opine that help for African rainforests may come from international policies to tackle climate change.<sup>29</sup> INGOs are often seen as advocates and brokers of activities including introduction of environmental policies and the provision of information relating to environmental issues.<sup>30</sup> INGOs such as Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), among others, and with support of research and resources from organisations like the World Resources Institute, have played part in advocating and brokering global agreements and commitments aimed at dealing with environmental degradation, including the New York Declaration on Forests of 2014 where 27 countries and 34 companies, backed by 61 NGOs pledged to end deforestation by 2030 and others aimed at achieving zero net deforestation within set timelines.<sup>31</sup> The success of such commitments, however, depends to a large extent on the seriousness accorded to the implementation by the involved parties.

---

<sup>28</sup> Nellesmann, C., et al (Eds). February 2009. The environmental food crisis – The environment's role in averting future food crises. A UNEP rapid response assessment, GRID-Arendal, [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)

<sup>29</sup> Sullivan, M., Talbot, J., Lewis, S. et al. Diversity and carbon storage across the tropical forest biome. In *Nature, Scientific Reports* Vol 7, No. 39102, 2017

<sup>30</sup> Yamamura, T, Environmental NGO (Sinzansya, Tokyo) pages 4–7, 1998

<sup>31</sup> Kanowski, P. Stopping global deforestation will take more than more words, <https://theconversation.com/stopping-global-deforestation-will-take-more-than-more-words-32265>, September 30, 2014

INGOs carry out their mandate by influencing both companies and governments to act on certain issues of concern. Actions may be taken either individually, or by becoming signatories to agreements. The strategies and tactics used by INGOs to influence action take the form of collaboration or confrontation, depending on their mode of operation.<sup>32</sup> Greenpeace, for instance, takes the confrontational strategy which has propelled it to one of the widely known environmental INGOs. Greenpeace periodically tries out new campaigns; terminates nonperforming campaigns; or repurposes and rejuvenates diminishing campaigns.<sup>33</sup>

In 2015, the then Greenpeace International's executive director Kumi Naidoo emphasised the need to participate in peaceful and creative civil disobedience in order to get the attention of political and business leaders who seem to be disconnected from the realities facing the environment.<sup>34</sup> Some of this engagement takes the form of direct action. Direct action is a form of activism in which participants ignore the existing political structures and it may take the form of strikes, confrontation, painting graffiti, among other actions. Direct action for the environment can be traced back to the 1970s when organisations such as Greenpeace International and Friends of the Earth (FoE) set out to confront activities that endangered marine life. Greenpeace sailed boats into the Amchitka Island, off Alaska, in an attempt to stop the US from carrying out nuclear tests, which would put at risk the island ecosystem. The dramatic action brought the environmental issues to the attention of the public globally. Such confrontation is

---

<sup>32</sup> Winston M, NGO strategies for promoting corporate social responsibility. in *Ethics & International affairs*, Vol 16 No 1: 11-23, 2002

<sup>33</sup> Connolly M, et al. Analysis of Greenpeace's business model & philosophy: Greenpeace wants a piece of your green, (unpublished) December 2018

<sup>34</sup> Amanda Tattersall, A billion acts of courage on 3.6 planets: a conversation with Greenpeace's Kumi Naidoo, <http://sydneydemocracynetwork.org/podcast-peace-people-and-power-social-change-from-anti-apartheid-to-the-climate-movement-kuminaidoo/>, 28 August 2015

presented as a way of bringing to the fore, the severity of issues and it attracts desirable media and public attention.<sup>35</sup>

NGOs with an international backing came in to try and deal with the aftermath of the destruction that has taken place in Niger Delta, including Ogoniland where oil spills and gas flaring had and continue to take a toll on the water, air and land resources. The Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth together with other civil society organisations in Nigeria formed a coalition to act as environmental vanguards and oversee the clean-up of oil leakages in Ogoni.<sup>36</sup> There was however a back and forth on the release of the funds towards the initiative, thus delaying the process.

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) is another environmental NGO that has been holding governments accountable and confronting the state over destruction of green spaces in Nairobi. It is acclaimed majorly for the protection of Uhuru Park in Nairobi's city centre and Karura Forest, also in Nairobi. Through civic and environmental education, GBM has also been responding to the needs of rural women in Kenya whose food supply and source of income is getting less secure. It has sensitised these women on importance of planting trees to generate income and restore the sources of fuel for cooking. GBM has also extended its international reach to include campaigning on preservation of the Congo rainforests as well as a campaign against littering the natural environment.<sup>37</sup>

In his proposed measures to deal with environmental degradation, Stremlau asserts that African countries can carry out public diplomacy campaigns alongside groups like civil

---

<sup>35</sup> Eilstrup-Sangiovanni. M, and Teale N. Phelps Bondaroff. "From Advocacy to Confrontation: Direct Enforcement by Environmental NGOs." *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 58, no. 2, 2014, pp. 348–361

<sup>36</sup> Uwaegbulam C. (Aug 2016) Environmental vanguards to monitor Ogoni clean-up <https://guardian.ng/property/environmental-vanguards-to-monitor-ogoni-clean-up/>

<sup>37</sup> Oyugi, Walter O. "The Role of NGOs in Fostering Development and Good Governance at the Local Level in Africa with a Focus on Kenya." *Africa Development*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2004, pp. 19–55

society organisations and environmental activists thus adding weight to the role environmental NGOs can play in protecting the environment.<sup>38</sup> Recently, Kenya imposed a ban on the slaughter of donkeys and ordered closure of donkey abattoirs in the country following a concerted campaign by animal welfare groups among them the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and the Brooke Action for Working Horses and Donkeys. Such organisations have entered into partnership with the UN Environment (UNEP), which is the main global body that facilitates environmental diplomacy among member countries. Others are simply recognised by the UN's environmental arm through accreditation, and this boosts their credibility and advocacy work.

### **1.5 Gaps in the Literature**

From the literature review above, it is evident that a significant amount of study has been done in the area of environmental protection in Africa. There is also proof of widespread activity by environmental groups to tackle the ills that are carried out especially by governments, developers and individuals. There's however limited research on how NGOs have made use of diplomatic engagement to prompt and enhance environmental protection in Africa, and particularly in Kenya and Nigeria where a lot of environmental degradation continues to take place in full sight of the regions' leadership.

### **1.6 Justification to the Study**

A study on the role of INGOs in environmental diplomacy and promotion of environmental protection is beneficial to a number of stakeholders:

---

<sup>38</sup> Stremlau J, Trump vs Africa: how the continent can counter destructive policies, <https://theconversation.com/trump-vs-africa-how-the-continent-can-counter-destructive-policies-71569>, January 19, 2017



### **1.6.1 Academic Justification**

Academic research has contributed to finding solutions to many problems facing the society. There have been multiple instances throughout the world when industries have turned to academics to find solutions to vital issues.

The results obtained from this study can serve to improve on the available literature on how INGOs can constructively employ diplomacy to enhance their advocacy work on environmental protection. It will provide a better overview of the work of INGOs in environmental protection. Other researchers can also use the results as points of reference and the areas of further studies suggested at the end of this study will also provide them with an opportunity to expand on what was not covered.

### **1.6.2 Policy Justification**

The findings from this study will act as a guide to policy makers focusing on environmental diplomacy and environmental protection.

Research can change the world, and producing tangible results to the circumstances surrounding the performance of environmental INGOs will give policy makers an edge in picking the right measures for improvement. An understanding of what exactly drives positive change would help inform policy makers on the level of attention to give to environmental INGOs.

### **1.6.3 Justification to the Public**

The public have a key responsibility engaging with policy makers and institutions, and ultimately driving desirable change. They therefore need to be well informed on the matters of the environment and the decisions being made. A well-informed public is key to sustainable development and change, and is better placed to hold informed discussions that shape their future and welfare.

There is a direct relationship between the public and the environment they live in and interact with every moment. A study on the role of INGOs in environmental diplomacy therefore will be of interest to the public keen to understand how INGOs play a part in their daily lives.

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

This study will use the liberal school of thought which is premised on safeguarding a person's right to life, freedom and property. Liberalism is concerned with constructing institutions that protect individual freedom and checking or limiting political power.<sup>39</sup>

Liberalism in international relations theory emphasises that state-society relations have a foundational impact in the behaviour of the state and that institutions, interests and ideas influence the state by shaping its preferences.<sup>40</sup>

Liberals believe in international institutions' role in the cooperation of states and increased interdependence as these create an opportunity to reduce conflict. They argue that international diplomacy can be very effective in getting states and other actors to support nonviolent solutions to issues, and believe in achieving democracy through cooperation. Liberalists oppose any kind of state intervention on individuals' economic activities and believe in self-regulated economic behaviour to resolve environmental problems. Any regulations would therefore curtail economic progress.<sup>41</sup>

Some liberalists have shown their great support and sympathy towards environmental protection and preservation. Utilitarianism asserts that the most ethical choice is the one that will lead to the greatest good for the majority. John Stuart Mill, in his book 'Principles of Political Economy' supports environmental management through his

---

<sup>39</sup> Meiser J W, Liberalism, in International Relations Theory, E-IR publishing, 2017

<sup>40</sup> Moravcsik, A. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. in International Organization 51, no. 4 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2703498>. (1997)

<sup>41</sup> de-Shalit A, The Environment Between Theory and Practice, Oxford University Press, 2000

ideas of tolerance, deliberation and civil society.<sup>42</sup> Liberalism is contradictory to ethics of environmental management. It promotes individualistic and materialistic ideas such as individual liberty, pursuit of private property, and unrestricted market economy among others. Liberalism theory is therefore relevant to this study because it brings out the reasons and vices that are at the background of the ever-growing problem of environmental destruction.

## **1.8 Hypotheses**

The following will be the main hypothesis for this study:

1. Environmental degradation is a major problem in Africa
2. Not enough tools have been devoted to promoting environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria
3. INGOs play a significant part in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria

## **1.9 Research methodology**

### **1.9.1 Research design**

Research design is the strategy chosen by a researcher to assimilate all the components of the study in a coherent and logical way, to ensure the research problem is effectively addressed.<sup>43</sup> This study will use a mixed methods research design, which entails using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. A qualitative approach will enable the researcher to describe issues based on perception and opinions, while quantitative approach allows for the collection of data in numerical values.

---

<sup>42</sup> Carter N, *The Politics of the Environment*. Cambridge University Press, 2007

<sup>43</sup> Lewis, Sarah. "Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches." *Health Promotion Practice*, Vol 16, No. 4 (2015) pp 473-475.

### **1.9.2 Target Population**

This study has a target population of people living in Kenya and Nigeria, including members of the general public who are involved in environmental protection activities. The study will also target leaders of international non-governmental organisations in the two countries which are the focus of the study.

### **1.9.3 Data Collection**

For purposes of data gathering, the study will use primary as well as secondary sources of data. Primary data will be collected using questionnaires. This includes questions which will be used to gather feedback from respondents across various disciplines. It will also be obtained from official documents of the institutions in focus. Secondary data will be obtained from secondary sources which will include the internet, library research, as well interview with some of the civil society leaders and leaders in the environment sector to establish their level of engagement in negotiation and environmental protection. The researcher will target professionals in leadership positions in various non-governmental organizations and civil society organisations.

### **1.9.4 Data Analysis and Presentation**

The study will make use of qualitative data analysis because most of the data collected will be qualitative in nature. Where applicable, quantitative data analysis will be used to analyse statistical data.

### **1.9.5 Ethical Considerations**

Information gathered in adherence to ethics of research, and data collected will not be used for purposes other than this research study. Citation of sources has also been done to avoid cases of plagiarism. Permission to carry out research was also granted by University of Nairobi and the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

### **1.9.6 Scope and Limitations of the Research**

The extent of data collection for this study will be done to the level of the available resources and is subject to constraints including time, money and available respondents.

### **1.10 Chapter Outline**

#### **Chapter one: Introduction**

It introduces the research topic and lays out the broad context of what the study will cover. It comprises background of the study, problem statement, objectives, research justification, literature review, theoretical framework, hypotheses, methodology, and scope and limitation of the study.

#### **Chapter two: Africa's widespread environmental degradation**

This chapter will explore the dire consequences of environmental degradation and what makes it such a big problem in Africa.

#### **Chapter three: Environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria; tools and actors**

This chapter will examine the tools and actors that have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria, and to what effect.

#### **Chapter four: INGOs involvement in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria**

This chapter will assess the extent to which INGOs have taken part in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria.

#### **Chapter five: Data presentation and analysis**

#### **Chapter six: Conclusions and Recommendations**

This chapter will provide conclusions to the study, including recommendations and suggestions on areas of further study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **AFRICA'S WIDESPREAD ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter examines the rampant tragedy of environmental degradation in Kenya and Nigeria, some of the major economies on the African continent. Some of the aspects tackled include the impacts on human health, survival, agricultural output, security and those that are economic and social in nature. In Africa, it is estimated close to two thirds of land that is productive has undergone a form of degradation. Environmental degradation, whether it is created by human activities, biophysical situations, or otherwise leads to damage in natural capital and social welfare. Degradation also diminishes the quality of ecosystems and biodiversity.<sup>44</sup> The level of degradation has had a wide range of impacts, some of them so grave that they have led to insecurity, diseases, loss of livelihood, and even loss of life. Several resultant phenomena that demonstrate the Magnitude of the Degradation Are Explained Below:

#### **2.1 Poor Policy Formulation and Regulation**

Inadequate policy formulation and regulation has been blamed for the high level of environmental degradation in many parts of Africa. Examples of undesirable after math includes desertification, which has been a common phenomenon in many countries across Africa. In Kenya for instance, there was a tree planting policy in the 1990s which required that for every tree cut, two should be planted to compensate for the loss. This was at the height of a campaign to deal with deforestation. Over the years, campaigns to ensure the implementation of this policy are non-existent even with the high rate of deforestation and logging that has been experienced in the last decade.

---

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, The Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought: Methodologies and Analysis for Decision-Making

In 2018, Kenya imposed a country-wide ban on logging to help improve tree cover and reduce deforestation. Even with the ban, several cases of illegal tree felling and timber selling were reported in the country. Lack of strong institutions, and weak laws have led to failure to implement set regulations, creating room for individuals to take advantage of loop-holes.<sup>45</sup>

Failure to conduct proper Environmental Impact Assessment has on many occasions led to otherwise avoidable environmental mistakes like was the case for a lead smelting factory at Owino Uhuru slum in Mombasa, Kenya. The country's National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) was found guilty of aiding the factory breach the law when it set up the lead smelter in an area where people lived, thereby exposing them to pollution and health complications arising from lead poisoning. Although the court awarded compensation to the affected residents and workers, they remain with life-threatening conditions. The compensation amount was also contested at the court of appeal, and this means that it would take much longer for justice to be served for hundreds of the affected people.<sup>46</sup> In the absence of this claim settlement claim, the compensation amount is a substantial amount of money that would possibly have been diverted to other government-led processes or activities.

Sand harvesting for use in construction is a common activity in Kenya. River beds and ocean shores are the most popular sites for harvesting of sand. Mega infrastructure projects like the standard gauge railway and container terminal in Mombasa saw a huge amount of sand scooped from Diani, one of Kenya's most picturesque and popular beaches. This had the impact of negatively affecting the existence of coral reefs which

---

<sup>45</sup> Koech G, 07 May 2019 Precious wood seized, illegal logging widespread <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2019-05-07-precious-wood-seized-illegal-logging-widespread/>

<sup>46</sup> Ocharo B, Sept 15 2020, Owino Uhuru dwellers suffer blow in pursuit of Sh1.3bn poison pay <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/news/counties/owino-uhuru-dwellers-suffer-blow-in-pursuit-of-sh1-3bn-poison-pay-2301336>

are critical for survival of marine life. The harvesting was suspended after NEMA found that the environmental impact assessment did not factor in the potential impact of the sand harvesting on the reefs.<sup>47</sup>

## **2.2 Overpopulation/Urbanisation**

Urbanisation is a leading cause of overpopulation in many African cities, putting immense pressure on the available resources. The downside of this is seen in informal and low income settlements where dumping of waste is rampant and little or no vegetation has contributed to concrete jungles. Between 1976 and 2000, Nairobi's green spaces and forested areas dropped from 14% to 3%, mostly driven by growing population. The city's population now stands at over 4 million, up from 2 million a decade ago. Construction of residential houses to accommodate the growing population means that the available trees and vegetation are cut down, exposing the city to heat. High density neighbourhoods are also putting immense pressure on available land and resources.

Expansion of transport networks to accommodate the growing demand also means that there are cases of trees being cut to allow for wider roads and rail networks. Combined all these factors are contributing to environmental degradation in the city and its surroundings. In a study published in 2016, researchers found that a situation referred to as a heat island is being evident in Nairobi. This is a situation whereby areas covered by tarmac, metal or even concrete absorb radiation from the sun therefore they have a higher temperature compared to those covered by vegetation cover. This has been found

---

<sup>47</sup> Obura D, March 22, 2019, Why Kenya must take control of sand harvesting off its coast <https://theconversation.com/why-kenya-must-take-control-of-sand-harvesting-off-its-coast-113952>



to contribute to the high temperatures experienced in the city and its surrounding areas.<sup>48</sup>

The loss of vegetation has also been found likely to expose humans and wildlife to diseases. Researchers have found that the city of Nairobi has all the ingredients for a potential transfer of zoonotic diseases between people and animals, and especially in the highly populated areas due to the sharing of space and resources. This is mainly due to the shrinking of green spaces in the city. As the ecological landscape becomes less diverse, wildlife such as rodents and birds begin to co-exist with people, and this breeds an environment where diseases can jump from either species to the other.<sup>49</sup>

Lagos, Africa's largest city has a population that grows at a rate of 50 square kilometre annually. In the 1970's the population stood at 1.5 million, and this has grown tremendously over the years to over 20 million in 2020. Due to the increase in population over the years, Lagos city - which was initially neat and tree-lined, became popular with pollution, congestion and worn out infrastructure. The city is now home to so many slums and informal settlements, and it lacks efficient waste disposal system, water supply system and sanitation. Flooding is also a common phenomenon in the city every time the rain pours.<sup>50</sup>

Due to constant growth in the populations migrating to Lagos, there has been a lot of pressure on available resources in the city, which do not expand proportionally. Compounded with low levels of income, many people are forced to live in informal

---

<sup>48</sup> Ongoma V, et al, Potential Effects of Urbanization on Urban Thermal Comfort, a case study of Nairobi City, Kenya: A Review *Geographica Pannonica*, Volume 20, Issue 1, 19-31, 2016

<sup>49</sup> Hassell J, et al, Socio-ecological drivers of vertebrate biodiversity and human-animal interfaces across an urban landscape <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15412>, December 2020

<sup>50</sup> Gramont. D, *Governing Lagos: Unlocking the Politics of Reform* <https://carnegieendowment.org/2015/01/12/governing-lagos-unlocking-politics-of-reform>

settlements. One such establishment is the Makoko slum, a floating settlement which is perched along the Lagos Lagoon off the Gulf of Guinea.

### **2.3 Substandard Infrastructure and Physical Destruction**

Poor infrastructural developments have on occasions caused massive destruction in various parts of Africa. In Kenya, a dam broke its banks in 2018 and washed away homesteads, farmlands and crops leaving neighbourhoods devastated from the resulting flood waters. Solai dam in Kenya's Nakuru County collapsed, sending about 70 million litres of water downslope to the farms below, leaving behind deep gulleys and destroying vegetation.<sup>51</sup> A report by the National Environmental Complaints committee (NECC) found four possible reasons for the collapse of the dam. It cited unusually high levels of water following high rainfall that was experienced in the region, high moisture saturation may have caused the hillside to become unstable thereby causing a landslide, outdated designs and lack of maintenance as well as change of land use practices in the region from forest land to farm lands.<sup>52</sup> The massive soil erosion occasioned by this flood waters left the place dry and unproductive. Crops and homes were also washed away, depriving the residents of their livelihoods.

### **2.4 Oil spills**

In 2015, an underground oil spill on Kenya Pipeline Company's Mombasa-Nairobi pipeline affected many residents of the Thange River basin in Makueni County. An environmental site assessment at the area of the spill showed presence of high levels of petroleum product in the soil, ground water and surface water. Water sample analysis showed presence of high levels of oil and grease for ground and surface water. The spill

---

<sup>51</sup> BBC, May 11, 2018. Kenya's burst Patel dam was 'built illegally' <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-44082423>

<sup>52</sup> NECC, 2018. Solai Dam Report <https://www.necc.go.ke/2018/11/12/solai-dam-report/>

contaminated the residents' main water source, causing plants and animals to die and left residents ailing.<sup>53</sup> In November 2019, traces of oil were found in the ground water, an indication that the clean-up exercise by Kenya Pipeline Company was not entirely successful. Farmers too, said that their fruit trees were drying up as a result. A family whose land lies in the affected area discovered traces of oil as they dug a well in their farm, a sign that, five years later, the land was not yet fully restored.<sup>54</sup>

Nigeria's Niger delta is a perfect example of a place where oil spills have left farmlands completely unproductive. For decades, oil corporations have extracted oil from Niger Delta and the impacts have been devastating, the region has in fact been ranked among the most polluted places on the planet. Oil production in Nigeria started in the 1950s, carried out mainly by three oil corporations – Shell, Eni and Chevron. Since then, approximately 21 million litres of oil have been spilled into the country's waters and soil. Niger Delta is the region highly affected by these spills.<sup>55</sup> According to a report by Bloomberg Green, pollution has ravaged the delta's marine ecosystem, leading to drastic decline in fish and other aquatic life. Data from Shell show that a lot of spillage is caused by theft and deliberate destruction than by equipment breakdown and corrosion as compared to previous years. This claim is however contested by activists.<sup>56</sup>

In July 2020, a Japanese-owned ship MV Wakashio ran aground on the shores of Mauritius and oil started leaking into the nearby lagoons. It is estimated that 1000 tonnes of fuel leaked into two protected marine ecologies and the internationally

---

<sup>53</sup> Ross A, Nov 6, 2015. Thousands suffer in Kenya Pipeline oil spill aftermath <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/thousands-suffer-in-kenya-pipeline-oil-spill-aftermath/468405>

<sup>54</sup> Kameti M, Nov 2018, Thange River environs 'still tainted by oil spill' <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/eastern/2019-11-29-thange-river-environs-still-tainted-by-oil-spill/>

<sup>55</sup> Kadafa A, Oil Exploration and Spillage in the Niger Delta of Nigeria in Civil and Environmental Research Vol 2, No.3, 2012

<sup>56</sup> Mbachu D, et al, July 2020. The Toxic Legacy of 60 Years of Abundant Oil <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-niger-delta-oil-pollution/>

recognised Blue Bay reserve. Mauritius is home to a wide range of marine biological diversity with over 1,700 species and these were exposed to high risk from the oil spill. Effort to clean up the oil spill have been ongoing, but the damage caused by the oil is devastating to marine life and coastal communities.<sup>57</sup>

## **2.5 Solid Waste and Dumping**

Projections show that by 2060, 8 out of top ten plastic waste generating countries will be in Africa and Nigeria falls into this category.<sup>58</sup> Dumpsites and indiscriminate solid waste littering are an eyesore in many countries, and especially those with a high demand for plastic products. Large amounts of waste are ending up in uncontrolled dumpsites and open spaces and study shows that 18 out the 50 largest dumpsites in the world are located in Africa; including Awotan, Eneka, Epe, Lapite, Olushosun, and Solous 2 in Nigeria, and Dandora and Kibarani in Kenya. Some of these are located next to water ways where the trash ends up in the water bodies, next to low income settlements where the residents are exposed to water and air pollution as well as diseases. These dumpsites are also an obstruction to infrastructure, roads and other amenities.<sup>59</sup>

## **2.6 Natural Disasters**

The Indian Ocean has been producing dangerous storms within the last decade, the most recent among them being cyclone Kenneth, cyclone Idai and cyclone Eloise, all of which left behind a trail of destruction particularly in Mozambique's Beira province, parts of Tanzania and parts of South Africa. The flood waters sweep through the earth

---

<sup>57</sup> Khadka N, August 2020, Why the Mauritius oil spill is so serious <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53754751>

<sup>58</sup> Lebreton, L. et al, Future scenarios of global plastic waste generation and disposal. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-018-0212-7> Palgrave Commun 5, 6 (2019)

<sup>59</sup> Waste Atlas, The World's 50 biggest dumpsites 2014 Report, <https://nswai.com/docs/World's%20Fifty%20biggest%20dumpsites,Waste%20Atlas%202014.pdf>

carrying away infrastructure, homesteads, crops as well as rich top soil that is vital for farming. Cyclone Idai, for instance, which is one of the strongest cyclones that made a landfall in March 2019 caused catastrophic damage in humanitarian crisis in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.<sup>60</sup> The largescale destruction left behind by such disasters has historically slowed down activity in affected areas, necessitating repairs on roads, bridges and farmland. In the case of Beira, one of the main port cities in Mozambique, a lot of reconstruction and rebuilding has had to take place each time a cyclone strikes, putting a strain to the economic development of the area as well as affecting the wellbeing of the dwellers.

Along Kenya's coastline, the wearing off of coral reefs, reduction in the coverage of seagrasses and mangroves is another form of environmental destruction that affects the existence of marine life. These unique ecosystems are a source of food and shelter for a variety of fish and many aquatic organisms which offer a form of livelihood to coastal communities. In some places, mangroves, corals and seagrasses have been destroyed, leaving a lot of livelihoods exposed and at great risk. About 21 percent of sea grasses has been lost between 1986 and 2016.<sup>61</sup> Small scale fishing, commercial fishing and the increased use of ring nets are some of the contributing factors to declining coral reefs. In addition, the decline in coral reefs and mangroves has been aggravated by climate change. Residents also harvest mangroves for charcoal burning. In 2017, a study carried out around Tudor Creek showed that approximately 80 per cent of mangroves along the Indian Ocean coast had been depleted.<sup>62</sup> Research by the Kenya

---

<sup>60</sup> Rodgers L, et al. March 22, 2019. Cyclone Idai: How the storm tore into southern Africa <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47638696>

<sup>61</sup> Harcourt W, et al, 2018. The thin(ning) green line? Investigating changes in Kenya's seagrass coverage doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2018.0227

<sup>62</sup> Atieno W, July 03 2017. Alarm as mangrove forests at the Kenyan Coast rapidly disappear <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Mombasa-getting-hotter-as-mangrove-forests-disappear/539546-3997708-casykfz/index.html>

Marine and Fisheries Research Institute shows that depletion of these resources may in the long run affect the food supply chain for marine ecosystems.

Volcanic eruptions, though not as highly pronounced in Africa as in other continents, have left a trail of pollution and massive destruction in some regions. Mount Nyamuragira and Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are known to be active volcanoes in Africa and have shown activity in the recent years.

In May 2021, Mt Nyiragongo erupted and spewed lava into the nearby areas including the city of Goma which has a population of about 1.5 million people. Thousands of people were forced to leave the homes to give way for the flowing lava. Farmlands were destroyed too, leaving a lot of people without a form of livelihood. Previous seismic studies had shown signs of future eruption in the mountain, although not enough precautionary measures were taken to protect property and as well as people and animals.<sup>63</sup> Prior to this most recent eruption, the mountain had erupted in 2002, sending ash and lava flowing up to the city of Goma, including Goma airport where jet fuel exploded from the impact of the lava. About 12,500 homes in the nearby villages were destroyed and approximately 400,000 were displaced. Gases emitted from the eruption, including sulphur dioxide caused acid rain, which consequently affected farmland and animals.<sup>64</sup>

One of the other recent eruptions was on the nearby Nyamuragira volcano in Virunga mountains of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The plume from the 2016 volcanic eruption was dispersed all the way through central Africa, northeast Africa and into Saudi Arabia; it degraded the air quality and affected the climate due to the high

---

<sup>63</sup> Andrews R, MAY 24, 2021, Mount Nyiragongo just erupted <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/mount-nyiragongo-just-erupted-why-its-one-of-africas-most-dangerous-volcanoes>

<sup>64</sup> BBC, Volcanoes and volcanic eruptions <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpf9mnb/revision/7#>

concentration of carbon dioxide, methane and sulphur dioxide. The impact on ground and surface water is also quite notable especially in the nearby Lake Kivu and its environs. Traces of gases and other elements from the eruption were deposited on the soil and plants, thus impacting human health.<sup>65</sup>

## **2.7 Insufficient International Cooperation**

The African continent suffers from a lack of essential cooperation between countries, a step that would otherwise easily allow for the effective flow of information about various issues including environmental protection. Even in the existing regional blocs, a lot of mistrust between parties has seen many projects and ideas fall back on track either because of nationalism or other self-interests. In the West Coast of Africa, illegal fishing and trawling have created a lifelong problem of overfishing on the region. Dealing with the runaway illegal fishing in countries including Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, The Gambia, as well as Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire has been hampered by inadequacies in governance and communication. When governments don't talk to each other, enforcing any existent regulations falls short.

In The Gambia for instance, the production of fishmeal has created a problem of ocean pollution for the country's coast and that of its neighbours. A report in early 2021 showed that dumping of waste from a fishmeal factory in the ocean led to the death of fish, crabs and water plants in the surrounding area and threatening the lives of the communities that feed on the fish and those that depend on it for a living. In addition to this, illegal fishing is rampant and it is leading to the depletion of the marine resources which the west African countries would have used to boost the economic status. Gambia does not have the capacity to police all of its water resources. Cooperation with

---

<sup>65</sup> Balagizi, C et al. (2019). Environmental and health impacts of Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira Volcanoes, East Africa.

neighbouring countries would help solve this problem and protect the lives of the larger regional community.

On wildlife protection for example, some national parks lie at the border of countries and managing them requires the cooperation of the involved parties. Kenya's Maasai Mara national reserve and Tanzania's Serengeti national reserve, for example, wildlife migrates between the two countries depending on the season. On several occasions, there have been cases of entrepreneurs setting up camps and farms along the wildlife corridor, thereby affecting the free movement of animals between the feeding and breeding zones. Lack of and the failure to adhere to guidelines on wildlife protection is known to have adverse effects on the survival of wildlife and to cause human-wildlife conflict.<sup>66</sup>

## **2.8 Unfair International Trade Agreements**

In 2018, Ghana signed a bauxite for infrastructure deal with Sinohydro, a state-owned Chinese company. Under the deal, China would finance USD2 billion worth of infrastructure projects including, roads, rails and bridges in exchange for 5 per cent of Ghana's bauxite deposits. The bauxite resources are found in Ghana's forests of Awaso and Atewa. The deal raised a lot of concern from environmental conservationists who are in a race to protect this unique biodiverse ecosystem, which is also a water source for many people in Ghana. Conservationist believe that the forest of Atewa should not be exposed to mining and should be conserved for research and historical purposes.<sup>67</sup>

Three major rivers in Ghana - Ayensu, Densu and Birim - originate from the Atewa

---

<sup>66</sup> The Citizen, September 09 2020, Tourist camp blocks wildebeest from crossing Mara River <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/tourist-camp-blocks-wildebeest-from-crossing-mara-river-2715988>

<sup>67</sup> Oteng-Yeboah A, August 18, 2019. Ghana's pact with China to explore bauxite threatens a unique forest. <https://theconversation.com/ghanas-pact-with-china-to-explore-bauxite-threatens-a-unique-forest-120815>



forest and any mining exercise would drastically affect the water catchment area that provides drinking water to several regions in Ghana including the capital Accra. These rivers would also be exposed to pollution from the metals and mining by-products. An assessment by United States Forest Service expressed concern over potential large scale and permanent impact on the forest.<sup>68</sup>

In 2017, China cancelled a USD 14 million Gambian debt in exchange for a USD 33 million investment to develop agricultural and fisheries projects along the coast of Gambia. The investment includes the Golden Lead, a factory producing fishmeal for export to Asia, US and Europe to feed the expanding aquaculture and fish farming industry. These factories consume a lot of fish per year and fishing is done using large vessels, which means that overfishing is rampant in order to meet the huge demand. Effluent from the Golden Lead factory was emptied into the ocean off the Gambian coast, polluting the ecosystem for marine life including fish and plants. In 2019, the company was fined for causing water pollution and it stopped emptying toxic waste into the Gambian lagoon. The locals are however wary of the consequences of having large scale industry fishing in their backyard, with which they compete for the available fish resources.<sup>69</sup>

## **2.9 Industrialisation**

Recent study shows that there has been an upward growth in industrialisation in Several African countries including Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Mauritius since the 2000s.<sup>70</sup> Industries that have recorded increased

---

<sup>68</sup> United States Forest Service, May 01, 2019. Technical Consultation on Proposed Bauxite Mining in the Atewa Forest Reserve: 25-29 March 2019

<sup>69</sup> Urbina I, 23rd March 2021, The factories turning West Africa's fish into powder <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210323-the-factories-turning-west-africas-fish-into-powder>

<sup>70</sup> Kruse H, et al. UNU-WIDER Working Paper 2021/28: A manufacturing renaissance? Industrialization trends in the developing world. <https://doi.org/10.35188/UNU-WIDER/2021/966-2>

industrialisation include car assembling, food manufacturing, textile processing. The increased demand for more resources in the industrialising countries has on occasion led to exploitation of the available resources. Manufacturing has on occasion led to undesirable effects like air, soil, and water pollution and these directly affect the lives and livelihoods of the nearby populations.

The growing demand for electric cars, mobile phones and laptops has further sparked the demand for cobalt, which is the main mineral used in lithium-ion batteries. Over 70 per cent cobalt production in the world takes place in DRC and the country has borne a huge share of the impacts of mining, both industrial and artisanal. The country's Katanga region, for instance, has large deposits of cobalt and copper. Soil metal distribution in the area is therefore high, as evident in a study carried out in 2016. Particles from the waste product of this mining have had an impact on the affected landscape and environment, resulting in stunted and sparse vegetation, bare soils, and occasionally tropical forests are replaced by herbaceous vegetation especially in areas around copper smelting plants.<sup>71</sup> Additionally, the waste from mining causes pollution to rivers and drinking water and the dust is known to cause breathing problems. The ripple effects of this water and air pollution is evident in the resulting environmental health risks including the birth of babies with deformities.<sup>72</sup>

The Lagos Lagoon, and other lagoons along the Gulf of Guinea receive numerous amounts of waste including industrial, agricultural and domestic. These pose a great risk to aquatic life and people that rely on the water and its resources for a living. Some of these pollutants come from the rivers that drain into the lagoon such as Osun, Ona,

---

<sup>71</sup> Pourret, Olivier et al. Assessment of soil metal distribution and environmental impact of mining in Katanga (Democratic Republic of Congo). *Applied Geochemistry*. Vol 64. pg 43-55. 10.1016/j.apgeochem.2015.07.012. 2016

<sup>72</sup> Mucha L, et al. Feb. 28, 2018. The hidden costs of cobalt mining <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/wp/2018/02/28/the-cost-of-cobalt/>

Ogun and Yewa rivers which carry effluents from cities and towns that host various industrial and agricultural activities. From a recent study, researchers found that the effluents that empty into the lagoons are harmful to both marine life and humans. Apart from soluble products, other pollutants that have been found in the waters are plastics, used tyres and car parts which end up in the bottom of the lagoon. Combined, all these pollutants end up interfering with the lifecycle of organisms that live in the water system, and eventually affect people that depend on the water ecosystem.<sup>73</sup>

## **2.10 Conclusion**

This chapter set out to examine the widespread environmental degradation in Africa, guided by the research question "Why is environmental degradation such a big problem in Africa?" From the study it is evident that environmental degradation has resulted in several issues of economic and social concern. Desertification and loss of vegetation cover has come out as a huge impact of various human activities over the years. Air, soil, and water pollution, flooding, over exploitation of resources, physical destruction of ecosystems, exposure to and spread of diseases, poverty due to low produce and depletion of resources are also impacts of grave concern. Due to overexploitation and competition for limited resources, insecurity has in some areas been a worrying phenomenon. These effects point to the need for different actors to lay out strategies and actions to correct the destruction and prevent further degradation from taking place. The next chapter looks at the instruments of diplomacy that have been deployed to address cases on environmental degradation.

---

<sup>73</sup> Mennillo E, et al, 'Quality screening of the Lagos lagoon sediment by assessing the cytotoxicity and toxicological responses of rat hepatoma H4IIE and fish PLHC-1 cell-lines using different extraction approaches', *Environmental Research*, Volume 182, (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2019.108986>

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IN KENYA AND NIGERIA; TOOLS AND ACTORS**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter will examine the tools and actors that have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria, and to what effect. Being an issue of both national and international concern, it is imperative that there are a number of entities that have made it an important undertaking to try and correct the ills being meted on the environment, and possibly prevent potential ones. Due to the growing awareness of the need to take care of the environment and reverse the trend of destruction, individuals, corporates, and other forms of organisations are making effort to influence personal, national and international decisions that are meant to take care of the environment.

#### **3.1 Environmental Laws**

Environmental laws have proven to be instrumental in the protection of the environment and in reversing damage already caused by laxity by industry players. Laws promoting certain kind of practices or banning the use of some products, as well as access to some areas among others are some of the steps that governments, organisations and individuals are taking. Kenya's ministry of environment, in 2017, imposed a ban on single use plastic bags. The move, followed by active implementation has seen a widespread adoption of other forms of carrier bags that are not discarded after the first use or that are easily biodegradable. A study showed that large quantities of plastic bags were being removed from livestock at slaughter houses in Nairobi, signalling the extent to which the plastic pollution menace had grown out of control. With the ban on plastic

bags, cases of such trash in dumpsites and grazing fields near urban areas would be drastically reduced.<sup>74</sup>

The country, in 2020, also imposed a ban on single use plastics, including water bottles and disposable utensils, in protected areas like nature reserves, beaches, parks and forests to curb the littering of these areas and protect the natural set ups. The United Nations estimates that, by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean unless states, non-state actors, institutions and individuals promote the production and use of resource efficient products and ensure proper management throughout their life cycle.<sup>75</sup>

Several other countries in Africa have in the past attempted to regulate the manufacture, importation and use of single use plastics with little success. Nigeria, for instance, passed a bill prohibiting the use of single use plastics in 2019 driven by the menace created by the extensive use of water sachets and water bottles most of which end up in the country's water bodies. The law is yet to take effect.<sup>76</sup>

Kenya's 2010 Constitution prescribes the need to grow the country's tree cover to a minimum of 10 per cent. The country's 2012 Agriculture Bill also requires owners of farmlands to maintain a minimum of 10 per cent tree cover for the purposes of biodiversity conservation.

Vision 2030 too caters for conservation and protection of biodiversity. It also provides for the rehabilitation and protection of water towers and catchment areas as well as the strengthening of environmental governance. The environmental management and

---

<sup>74</sup> BBC, Kenya plastic bag ban comes into force after years of delays <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41069853>, August 2017

<sup>75</sup> UNEP, June 2020, Kenya bans single-use plastics in protected areas <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/kenya-bans-single-use-plastics-protected-areas>

<sup>76</sup> Nwafor. N, et al, Plastic Bags Prohibition Bill: A developing story of crass legalism aiming to reduce plastic marine pollution in Nigeria: Marine Policy, Volume 120, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104160>

coordination act (EMCA), adopted way back in 1999, establishes institutions that are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the environment, among them: National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Environment Tribunal, National Environment Action Plan Committees, Public Complaints Committee as well as County Environment Committees. NEMA also takes the role of the national authority over several multilateral environmental agreements.<sup>77</sup>

### **3.2 Community Activism and Courts**

A lot of effort from activists and community advocacy groups has been a driving force towards the numerous actions taken to conserve the environment. Prior to the ban on plastics bags in Kenya, several advocacy groups had for years run campaigns and urged the government to take action. One of such activists is James Wakibia, based in Nakuru, Kenya. Since 2013, James has been doing campaigns sensitising people on the dangers of environmental destruction and particularly plastic pollution. He has delivered several petitions to the county assembly of Nakuru, one of them urging for action to relocate the Gioto dumpsite, which resulted to so much plastic litter along the road in the area. This however was not successful.

In 2015, Wakibia with a group that identified itself as In The Streets Of Nakuru, petitioned Nakuru county government, asking the assembly to discuss ways of controlling plastic pollution. This too was not a success, but with his continued activism through various media platforms, people started talking and realising the extent to which plastic pollution and dumping was harming the environment. Wakibia uses

---

<sup>77</sup> NEMA, Environmental Act (EMCA)  
[https://www.nema.go.ke/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=163](https://www.nema.go.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=163)

photography to tell his stories and to campaign. His activism is credited as a major inspiration and force leading up to Kenya's plastic bags ban.<sup>78</sup>

In cases where mere activism, advocacy and protests do not seem to bear fruit, these groups have sought the reprieve from the courts in a bid to stop activities and projects that are harmful to the environment. One such case is the closure of a lead smelting plant in Mombasa Kenya. Metal Refinery EPZ Ltd opened its doors in 2007 at Owino Uhuru slum in Mombasa, Kenya. Months later, workers and slum dwellers started falling sick. Phyllis Omido, who was working at the factory, realised what impact the facility was having on the community. Her son was also poisoned by the lead from the factory. She started a campaign, through her non-governmental organisation Centre for Justice Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA), to have the plant closed after thousands of lead poisoning cases were reported. In 2014, the factory was closed permanently. Six years later, in 2020, the court awarded compensation to the those affected by the lead poisoning. Kenya's government, through various departments that were found culpable, was tasked with paying out the compensation. It was found that proper environmental impact assessment of the plant was not conducted, leading to several deaths and serious health complications on the settlement's dwellers.<sup>79</sup>

In Nigeria, years of oil spills and leakages have caused contamination in water bodies, and robbed people of their livelihoods. One of the affected communities, the Bodo community took legal action with the help of Amnesty International, seeking compensation for the damage the oil leaks had caused. An out of court settlement of

---

<sup>78</sup> UNEP, Meet James Wakibia, the campaigner behind Kenya's plastic bag ban <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/meet-james-wakibia-campaigner-behind-kenyas-plastic-bag-ban>, May 2018

<sup>79</sup> Krippahl, C, Kenya lead victims denied their day in Mombasa court, <https://www.dw.com/en/kenya-lead-victims-denied-their-day-in-mombasa-court/a-43039075>, 2018

USD 77 million was made after Shell admitted that it had under-reported the size of oil spills.

To establish the real extent of the damage caused by oil spills, a team of over 3,500 activists signed up for Amnesty International's call for volunteers to help decode numerous records and data. These volunteers, referred as decoders by Amnesty International, helped uncover evidence of gross negligence by oil companies, particularly Shell and Eni. The information was then presented to the oil companies and the government as a call for better regulation.<sup>80</sup>

In January 2021, the Nigerian branch of Shell oil company was ordered by a Dutch court to pay compensation for oil spills that happened between 2004 and 2007 in Niger Delta's Bayelsa state, and whose impact continues to be felt to date. The parent company, Anglo-Dutch, was asked to set up mechanisms to avoid any future damage. The farmers, who presented the case in 2008, said that the leakages had caused them a lot of damage and that the court verdict was a case of justice served. The compensation amount was, however, not immediately determined.<sup>81</sup>

A case brought before the European Court of Justice in 2018 sought to have the European Union compelled to enforce more strict measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect people's livelihoods. The case by 10 families drawn from Kenya, Europe and Fiji living in areas affected by drought, heat waves and forest fires argued that emissions from the EU region violated their rights even beyond Europe. The People's Climate Case was however dismissed by the court saying that it could not rule on the case and that the families were not individually affected by climate policies of

---

<sup>80</sup> Amnesty International, How 3500 activists are taking on two oil giants, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/niger-delta-oil-spills-decoders>, 2018

<sup>81</sup> BBC, Shell Nigeria ordered to pay compensation for oil spills, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55853024>, Jan 2021



the EU bloc.<sup>82</sup> Ruling on such a case would also set a precedence for other similar cases to be brought before the court.

Climate litigation cases are now common around the world as individuals and activists seek reprieve from the courts to protect their livelihoods or to reverse existing and potential impacts of environmental misuse. According to the UNEP Global Litigation report, in 2017 884 cases were recorded in 24 countries and by 2020 more than 1,550 cases were brought forward in 39 countries. UNEP estimates that climate litigation cases will increase in the coming years due to presence of an enabling environment for such processes to take effect.<sup>83</sup> In May 2021 the court ordered Royal Dutch Shell - parent company of Shell Nigeria - to reduce its emissions by 45%, in comparison to 2019 emissions, before 2030 arguing that Shell's climate plan was not strong enough to meet the Paris Agreement goals.<sup>84</sup>

A company that had set out to establish an avocado plantation in the Amboseli area had its licence revoked by Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) after protests by the local community, backed by conservationists. The conservation groups that had taken issue with the development project include Big Life Foundation and Wildlife Direct. Upon scrutiny, it was discovered that the company had not consider environmental impact assessment of how the farm would affect the ecosystem of the region which is a major wildlife migration corridor. The farm, which was going to have

---

<sup>82</sup> DW, EU top court drops families' climate action case <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-top-court-drops-families-climate-action-case/a-56990547>, March 2021

<sup>83</sup> UN, Climate litigation spikes, giving courts an 'essential role' in addressing climate crisis <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083032>, Jan 2021

<sup>84</sup> UNEP, In battle against climate change, courts become a new frontier <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/battle-against-climate-change-courts-become-new-frontier>, May 2021

intensive water usage was going to exert immense pressure on the region which is largely dry and popular with pastoralists.<sup>85</sup>

### **3.3 Corporate Social Responsibility**

Corporate social responsibility are the ways, formal or informal, in which organisations take part in improving the conditions of the communities or countries where they are based. Institutions and corporate organisations have for years taken up certain aspects of environmental protection as part of their social responsibility and giving back to the communities in which they operate. Such initiatives include tree planting, clean ups, providing water to their immediate communities as well as offering training and educative workshops. Individually or combined, these activities may have a positive impact towards protecting the environment.

Financial services organisations like Bloomberg philanthropies and Citi group, and initiatives like Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) RLC East Africa, have in the past organised tree planting drives in various cities around the world. In one such initiative the organisations teamed up with local groups like Kenyan based Miti Alliance to replant trees at Kereita Forest which has in the past suffered serious deforestation. The participants in this tree planting drive were drawn from the organisations' staff as well as people who had benefitted from their formal training programmes.<sup>86</sup> In 2018 for instance, these groups brought together volunteers to plant a target of 5,000 trees on the slopes of Kereita Forest. Such acts of corporate social responsibility play a part in drawing the community's attention to preserve their immediate environment, a task that the community would otherwise not have done. A

---

<sup>85</sup> Pflanz M, Community stops avocado farm in the Amboseli region <https://africageographic.com/stories/community-stops-avocado-farm-in-the-amboseli-region/> (May 2021)

<sup>86</sup> CYNESA, October 2018, Tree Planting in Kereita Forest, Kenya, <http://cynesa.org/cynesablog/tree-planting-in-kereita-forest-kenya/#sthash.xCnZ0x3p.dpbs>

similar drive was carried out by Citi Group at Ngong Forest in 2013 with an aim of planting 1,200 trees. Citi Kenya in partnership with Green Belt Movement took part in the initiative.<sup>87</sup>

Such initiatives, however, are not without setbacks. A regrown forest may need a lot of maintenance to ensure it grows to desirable levels. The community and/or the local forest service has to devote resources to take care of the trees and prevent recurring cases of deforestation.

In Nigeria, some of the Transnational corporations that carry out oil extraction in Niger Delta have tried to set up projects with an aim of reducing the negative impact of their activities in the region. Shell and Agip, for instance, have in the past set up intervening projects in Olugboboro, Olugbobiri, Ikebiri 1, Oporoma, An-giama, and Peremabiri. The oil corporations have set up water projects, health centres, schools and road infrastructure aiming to improve living conditions of the people.

Kabiru Isa Dandago and Love Obiani Arugu argue in their research, published in 2014, that corporate social responsibility activities of the oil companies are motivated by short term goals as compared to setting up developmental projects that answer to the long term environmental needs of the communities. The outcome is provision of social amenities that are poor in quality and which don't stand the test of time.<sup>88</sup>

### **3.4 Volunteerism**

Volunteering is the practice of providing time, resources and skills for the benefit of another entity - whether individual, community, institution or nations without expecting

---

<sup>87</sup> Citi Kenya Plants Trees to Commemorate Kenya Jubilee Celebrations <https://www.citigroup.com/citi/news/2013/131223a.htm>, December 2013

<sup>88</sup> Dandago K S, et al, 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Concerns in Nigeria: A Critical Focus on Oil Producing Communities', *Issues in Social and Environmental Accounting*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (2014) Pp. 104-115

financial gain. Sometimes it might involve reimbursement of certain expenses for the volunteers.

Volunteerism can result in changes in attitude, behaviour and knowledge, improved self-esteem and community bonds. The benefits have also shown to result in the willingness of communities and recipients to participate in efforts that are likely to improve their own livelihoods.<sup>89</sup>

A number of organisations and individuals do voluntary tasks geared towards protecting the environment, or even reversing environmental destruction. ATO-Climate Educate, a youth-led organisation has been educating young people on the benefits of protecting the environment. With volunteers from several countries in the global south, the organisation carries out advocacy through community drives like tree planting, clean ups. It also does educational activities like blog writing as well as physical meet ups to teach their peers about the benefits of taking care of the environment. Though it is based in Philippines, the organisation has active membership in Kenya and Nigeria, and has done several physical and online initiatives to educate the youth.<sup>90</sup>

Let's do it is another such organisation with localised presence in several countries around the world. In Kenya, and other countries where it is established, Let's do it carries out an annual clean up exercise with the help of communities and volunteers. The exercise is carried out on September of each year, and it is usually done in collaboration with local authorities. For the case of Kenya, authorities that have collaborated for the clean-up initiative include the Nairobi County government and

---

<sup>89</sup> Snyder. M, et al, Volunteerism, Psychology of: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition), 2015

<sup>90</sup> Our project in Africa [http://climateducate.weebly.com/ceproject\\_africa.html](http://climateducate.weebly.com/ceproject_africa.html)

NEMA. In the past, numerous amounts of trash have been collected and even trees planted.<sup>91</sup>

### **3.5 Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)**

Harvard Law School refers to an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) as an organisation formed through a treaty, and involving two or more states working in good faith, on matters of mutual concern. IGOs are organised by their membership or by purpose and they take up huge responsibilities in the international political system and governance. Some IGOs consists of governments from every region of the world, others are organised by region and therefore limit their membership to certain geographical regions, while others are organised by purpose. Examples of IGOs globally include the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), among others. In the African context, these organisations include the African Union (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB), Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), World Agroforestry Centre (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, ICRAF), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), among others.

#### **3.5.1 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

UNEP is the global authority that sets agenda about the environment. A programme of the United Nations, UNEP provides leadership and encourages partnerships in order to care for the environment. With a membership of 193 states, it is a major decision making body on the environment and has overseen adoption and execution of numerous

---

<sup>91</sup> Kamunde, M. Estonia President to visit Karura, engage in clean up exercise <https://www.kbc.co.ke/estonia-president-to-visit-karura-engage-in-clean-up-exercise/> (Sept 2021)

multilateral agreements. It is through it that many environmental conventions have come into existence.<sup>92</sup>

### **3.5.1.1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a body of the United Nations which provides scientific information to help understand the extent of climate change, its effects and likely mitigation responses. IPCC was formed in 1988 through the collaboration of World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme, and since then it has produced a report on the state of the climate every five or six years. Currently, IPCC comprises 195 countries, all members of the United Nations. The IPCC, however, neither carries out original research nor monitors climate change. Its role is to conduct a review of all relevant published literature, and provide an update which is compiled into what is popularly known as assessment report. These reports play a big part in informing governments and the public. The panel is supported by special working groups and task forces which periodically release special reports on the state of the climate. Reports created by the IPCC are approved both by researchers who collaborated in it and by the governments of the member countries.

The sixth assessment cycle started in 2015 and it will be complete in 2022. The Physical Science working group, in August 2021, released its report which has been described by many as a red alert on climate crisis.<sup>93</sup>

---

<sup>92</sup> UNEP, <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment>

<sup>93</sup> Sullivan H, 'Code red for humanity': what the papers say about the IPCC report on the climate crisis <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/code-red-for-humanity-what-the-papers-say-about-the-ipcc-report-on-the-climate-crisis> (Aug 2021)

## **Implication for African countries**

As the world continues to warm up, more severe climate scenarios are estimated to occur and with more intensity and frequency. Across the African continent, an increase in temperatures and drier conditions are expected. The report shows that the rate of temperature increase across Africa will be higher than the global average. This is likely to have catastrophic impact on the economies of countries that rely largely on rain-fed agriculture.

The climatic projections in East Africa, where Kenya lies, show an increase in average precipitation and this is likely to favour agriculture. However, an increase in frequency and intensity may lead to flooding and this will have a negative impact on life, including farming, health and disease prevalence.<sup>94</sup>

Historically, however, there has been an observed decline in the duration of rains in the East Africa region, with the March to May long rains starting much later and ending too soon a phenomenon has led to decreased crop production and prolonged dry seasons. The climate projections from the fifth assessment report do not capture this phenomenon. On the contrary, they forecast more precipitation than has been the trend. This scenario has been termed by scientists as the Eastern African Paradox.<sup>95</sup>

For West Africa, which includes Nigeria, the assessment report forecasts a decline in average precipitation leading to a stress in agricultural production and water

---

<sup>94</sup> Ongoma Victor, Insights for African countries from the latest climate change projections <https://theconversation.com/insights-for-african-countries-from-the-latest-climate-change-projections-165944> (Aug 2021)

<sup>95</sup> Wainwright, C.M., et al. 'Eastern African Paradox' rainfall decline due to shorter not less intense Long Rains. *npj Clim Atmos Sci* 2, 34 (2019)

availability. However, due to rising sea level, coastal cities such as Lagos are likely to experience more flooding like has been witnessed in the recent past.<sup>96</sup>

Climate projections between 2010 and 2099 show that rainfall amount in Lagos will experience a decline and temperatures will be on the rise. The decreased rainfall is projected to be accompanied by intense storms whose impact will include destruction of property and infrastructure. These projections give the human population a chance to adapt their lifestyles for the future, either to prevent or mitigate possible effects.<sup>97</sup>

Despite the periodic review and warning on the state of the climate, the global temperature is swiftly approaching unprecedented levels. Since the first assessment report in 1990, the annual global emissions - the major contributor to global warming - have nearly doubled.<sup>98</sup>

### **3.5.1.2 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

The UNFCCC is one of the three conventions adopted during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It was adopted alongside the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The main role of this convention is to ensure the regulation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and keep them at a level that prevents destabilisation of the climate system. It is under UNFCCC that the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015.

Reports by the IPCC have a significant role in the function of UNFCCC, which is the major global treaty aimed at addressing climate change. UNFCCC's Paris Agreement

---

<sup>96</sup> Princewill N, Africa's most populous city is battling floods and rising seas. It may soon be unlivable, experts warn <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/01/africa/lagos-sinking-floods-climate-change-intl-cmd/index.html> (Aug 2021)

<sup>97</sup> Shiru M.S, et al. Challenges in water resources of Lagos mega city of Nigeria in the context of climate change. *Journal of Water and Climate Change* 11 (4): 1067–1083 (2020)

<sup>98</sup> Kolbert E, The U.N.'s Terrifying Climate Report <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/23/the-uns-terrifying-climate-report> (Aug 2021)



of 2015 relied significantly on IPCC's fifth assessment report, whose conclusion was that growing levels of global warming were increasing the likelihood of severe and irreversible impacts.

The 2015 Paris Agreement had a goal to limit the global average temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius.

### **Kyoto Protocol**

The Kyoto Protocol is a set of international rules aimed at implementing the UNFCCC and it entered into force in 2005. It set emissions reduction targets for 37 developed countries. It however did not set reduction targets for developing countries on the basis that the developed countries that are contributing to the problem should take measures to clean it up.

Under the protocol, the carbon trade market was established. Through carbon trading, countries are able to purchase the permit to emit more while those with fewer emissions can sell their emission allocations to other countries. This allows countries and other entities to operate within the set carbon emission limits.

Critics of the protocol argue that the failure to set targets and commitments for developing countries will soon put the emissions off balance, because some developing countries have been recording an increased level of industrialisation. The US, which emits a large amount of greenhouse gases, has not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol and this has a huge impact in the success or failure of the effort to cut down carbon emissions.<sup>99</sup>

---

<sup>99</sup> Hannah. L, "Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Sinks, and Solutions", in *Climate Change Biology*, Pages 339-356, Academic Press (2011)

### 3.5.2 AfDB

The African Development Bank is a multilateral finance institution, with its headquarters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and it provides funding to African countries and private companies to invest within the continent. Due to its international nature, the bank is in a position of influence to the decisions of member states especially by setting standards on the nature of development projects it can fund. The bank is an implementing partner of the Green Environment Facility (GEF), which provides funding and grants aimed at transforming national projects into initiatives offering global environmental benefits. AfDB is also an accredited financial entity by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), through which it disburses funding to member countries. GCF is the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC which aims to limit greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>100</sup>

These partnerships make the bank a key institution in the furthering of environmental protection agenda in African countries. Richard Munang and Robert Mgendei argue that the financial sector can play a major part in influencing climate action in African countries and that financial institutions should have mechanisms that give priority to solutions and actions that are climate resilient especially in agriculture and other developmental sectors.<sup>101</sup> In Kenya, for instance, AfDB is financing the 2021 Africa Green Revolution Forum which will be addressing mechanisms for establishing resilient food systems. The forum attracts African heads of State, and delegates from governments, private sector, civil society, researchers, among others.<sup>102</sup>

---

<sup>100</sup> AfDB, <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships>

<sup>101</sup> Munang, R. et al, How the Financial Sector can Implement Climate Action in Africa <https://intpolicydigest.org/how-the-financial-sector-can-implement-climate-action-in-africa/> (June 2021)

<sup>102</sup> AfDB partners with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa as sponsor of virtual AGRF <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-partners-alliance-green-revolution-africa-sponsor-virtual-african-green-revolution-forum-agrf-45467>

In Nigeria AfDB, together with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), UNEP, International Institute for Sustainable Development and other organisations, has launched an initiative aimed at integrating natural capital into finance. Natural capital includes land, water resources, fisheries and they form an integral part of the wealth of African countries and this initiative is projected to play part in supporting inclusive and green growth. Government representatives from Nigeria, Madagascar, Tanzania and Mozambique will take part in the project.<sup>103</sup>

### **3.5.3 African Union/ EAC/ ECOWAS**

Regional blocs including African Union (AU), East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have, in their charters and constitution, clauses that support multilateral agreements about the environment. Multilateral agreements are governed by international law and most African countries are signatories to several of such treaties including those that tackle trade in endangered species, wetlands destruction, desertification, biological diversity, ozone layer depletion, marine pollution, movement of hazardous waste between nations, among others. One of the roles of the African Union's multilateral environmental agreements unit is to engage with diplomatic missions of member states to include the treaties as part of their strategic responsibilities in order to boost the continent's interest in environmental protection.<sup>104</sup>

East African Community (EAC) member countries are by extension, signatories to these treaties. The EAC secretariat was in 2012, admitted as an observer organisation to the UNFCCC forums and therefore takes active role in the preparation meetings that

---

<sup>103</sup> African Development Bank to launch new initiative to integrate natural capital into finance in Africa <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-launch-new-initiative-integrate-natural-capital-finance-africa-45406> (Sept 2021)

<sup>104</sup> MEAs, African Union <https://au.int/meas>

help to identify climate change problems that need to be addressed.<sup>105</sup> The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in its 2014-2018 environmental policy, details a number of issues that it was going to tackle, among them ensuring good governance of environmental resources, orientation of institutions to better optimise partnerships, provision of information and communication, protection against pollution and other nuisances as well as good management of resources.<sup>106</sup>

### **3.6 Media**

Media spotlight on the activities that lead to environmental destruction is a key aspect of keeping the society in check. Bayelsa state in Niger delta accounts for almost 40 per cent of Nigeria's oil production. Each year, the state experiences oil spills that have over time rendered the region unproductive for growing crops and fishing. A media campaign dubbed "Rise For Bayelsa" was launched in March 2019 to raise awareness about the damage caused by the oil spills and to call on international oil companies that carry out oil extraction in the region to clean up immediately after a spill and to swiftly compensate the affected communities.<sup>107</sup>

Photography by activist James Wakibia created awareness of the extent to which dumping of plastic waste was destroying an earlier clean environment, and it got people talking about the need to stop the irresponsible disposal of solid waste.

The media highlighting stories of environmental concern has driven public awareness on existing or looming disaster on numerous occasions. Through media coverage, the

---

<sup>105</sup> EAC, Multilateral Environmental Agreements <https://www.eac.int/environment/multilateral-environmental-agreements>

<sup>106</sup> IUCN, West Africa Environmental Policy [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy\\_brief\\_wa\\_environmental\\_policy.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy_brief_wa_environmental_policy.pdf)

<sup>107</sup> Ratcliffe. R, 'This place used to be green': the brutal impact of oil in the Niger Delta, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/dec/06/this-place-used-to-be-green-the-brutal-impact-of-oil-in-the-niger-delta>, Dec 2019

society is now more aware of the effects that human activities have on the environment. The global media for example, reaches more than 1.5 billion people. The impact this has is that people are increasingly more aware of activities that put pressure on the environment and others are taking measures to protect their immediate environment.<sup>108</sup> In Kenya, for example, when plans to construct a railway through Nairobi National Park were made public, both local and international media highlighted stories of protests by activists. Some activists held demonstrations while others published commentaries and opinion pieces explaining why they were rejecting the move.<sup>109</sup> The media coverage around this project, however, did not bear fruit as the government of Kenya went ahead and constructed the railway traversing through the park.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

This chapter set out to outline the tools and actors that have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria, guided by the research question "What tools and actors have been used as a framework for environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria?" There is clearly several instruments and actors of environmental diplomacy in existence, each carrying out their roles either individually or in collaboration with the others. The government has had its share of responsibilities especially in relation to creation of relevant laws, while activists and courts have over time relied on these laws and regulations to act on cases of environmental degradation. Corporate organisations through acts of social responsibility have had their level of influence on communities and institutions. Local NGOs, community-based organisations who often work together with volunteers do create initiatives that leave a positive impact on the environment. Intergovernmental organisations too have been

---

<sup>108</sup> Jharotia A, Role of Media in Enhancement of Environmental Awareness, 2018

<sup>109</sup> Ombur R, Environmentalists in Kenya Protest China-Backed Railway Construction, <https://www.voanews.com/africa/environmentalists-kenya-protest-china-backed-railway-construction>, 2018

agents of environmental diplomacy. Through the United Nations, UN Environment was created to serve as the major global leader of environmental diplomacy. The media too, has been able to amplify the voices of many of these actors. But with all these, cases of environmental degradation are on the rise and this points to insufficiency of the measures being taken by the different entities. This leads us to the next chapter, which looks at the role that international NGOs play in the quest to promote environmental diplomacy.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **INGOS INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IN KENYA AND NIGERIA**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter will assess the extent to which INGOs have taken part in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria. To solve the numerous problems that continue to trouble the environment, there is dire need for cooperation by involved parties in order to effect necessary changes and reforms. INGOs have been co-opted into the negotiation processes that seek to improve the welfare of the environment. The ways in which INGOs play a part in these processes include; lobbying government delegates, representing city authorities, tabling policy briefs and position papers to various climate conventions, making media statements on issues of concern, providing scientific and technical advice to delegations, governments and institutions as well as economic analysis of mitigation options. These efforts are highly recognised by global institutions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has a major responsibility towards ensuring reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>110</sup>

INGOs are often seen as advocates and brokers of activities including introduction of environmental policies and providing information relating to environmental matters. They do not do their work in isolation. Cooperation with various entities, including governments, is a key characteristic of their mode of operation. The United Nations' Economic and Social Council maintains a record of NGOs that are approved to take part in conferences and who have been granted consultative status. It also accredits and recognises organisations in the private sector such as INGOs. Some of these INGOs

---

<sup>110</sup> Biagini, B. et al, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Energy, in Encyclopedia of Energy, 2004 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B012176480X004484>

include; Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature, African Conservation Centre, The Nature Conservancy, Green Belt Movement, Wetlands International, among others.

Members of INGOs have roles that span from advocates, to experts, to diplomats for specific groups. They often have extensive knowledge in certain fields such as environment and climate change, and therefore provide assistance to sectors and actors that are in need. Such NGOs usually work actively behind the scenes in establishing rules and norms for diplomatic engagement. One such organisation is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which took part in the crafting of international standards for sustainable forest management.<sup>111</sup> Across Africa, several INGOs have played important roles in the preservation and restoration of the natural environment in a number of ways:

#### **4.1 Participation and Contribution in International Conventions**

The Paris Agreement will be on its sixth anniversary in December 2021. It will be six years since countries around the world came together and committed to tackle global warming. The agreement came into force after years of planning and lobbying, both by states and non-state actors – including nongovernmental organisations. The conference of the parties (COP), which is on its 26<sup>th</sup> edition, created the avenue for deliberations that brought forth the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 during COP21 session. Under this agreement, countries agreed to come up with and implement national plans - commonly referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) setting out how they intend to reduce emissions. To raise and realise their Nationally Determined Contributions, developing countries are supported by the Green Climate Fund, a fund

---

<sup>111</sup> Dany, C. et al, International NGOs: Experts, advocates and activists <https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/international-ngos-play-various-roles-global-politics-their-scope-influence-varies-do-their> (Sept 2015)



established within the framework of the UNFCCC. Each country is expected to present its Nationally Determined Contributions, and to achieve this, countries often utilise the knowledge of environmental NGOs, both local and international.

Often, NGOs are called upon to draft the necessary documentation and preparation for climate conferences. The UNFCCC has admitted over 1,758 NGOs into international climate negotiations and environmental NGOs (ENGOs) form over 40 per cent of the total number. ENGOs are perceived as influential in the negotiation processes especially in regard to raising awareness, and in representing concerned and marginalised voices. Some advisory NGOs that have influenced UNFCCC negotiations include WWF, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) as well as Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL).<sup>112</sup> Barbara Unmüßig argues that the role of environmental NGOs as watchdogs in climate negotiations is very valuable and that it plays a part in keeping governments accountable.<sup>113</sup>

Conferences and conventions linked to the United Nations have over the years recognised the expertise and capacity of NGOs and therefore are highly involved in their operations. Such conventions include UNFCCC, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Convention on Biological Diversity, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Montreal Protocol on Ozone Layer protection, Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution,

---

<sup>112</sup> Climate Policy Info Hub, Observer NGOs and the International Climate Negotiations [https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/observer-ngos-and-international-climate-negotiations.html#footnote11\\_j0n8yh6](https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/observer-ngos-and-international-climate-negotiations.html#footnote11_j0n8yh6)

<sup>113</sup> Unmüßig, B. NGOs and Climate Crisis: Fragmentation, Lines of Conflict and Strategic Approaches <https://www.boell.de/de/ecology/ecology-society-ngos-climate-crisis-12261.html> (June 2011)

African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, among others. Kenya and Nigeria are signatory states to these conventions.<sup>114</sup>

#### **4.2 Enjoined in Court Cases**

The environmental group, Friends of the Earth, was significantly involved in the case where Nigerian farmers sued Shell Nigeria and its parent company Royal Dutch Shell for the damage caused by leaking oil pipelines in Niger Delta between 2004 and 2007. The case was brought to the court in 2008 and has been through a number of hurdles, including Shell's resistance to have the case heard in the Netherlands. In January 2021, a Dutch court found Shell liable for the damages caused by the company's operations and ordered that the four farmers be compensated, a ruling which many environmentalists termed as historic.<sup>115</sup>

#### **4.3 Staging protests**

Extinction Rebellion is a global environmental movement that is determined to compel governments, through non-violent civil disobedience, to act against global warming. For instance, in the COP26 gathering held in Glasgow, Scotland the group planned to hold protests demanding for an end to the use of fossil fuels. The group carries out its advocacy by targeting large gatherings that are likely to attract attention of the media and the public.<sup>116</sup> It is common practice for organisers of major environmental conferences to set aside space for demonstrators who might want to hold protests, as protests are acknowledged as a way of registering displeasure and for passing messages to decision

---

<sup>114</sup> UNEP, List of accredited organizations <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/accreditation/list-accredited-organizations>

<sup>115</sup> BBC, Shell Nigeria ordered to pay compensation for oil spills <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55853024> (Jan 2021)

<sup>116</sup> BBC, COP26: What is the Glasgow climate conference and why is it important? <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56901261> (Sept 2021)

makers attending such meetings. CITES, for instance, in its code of responsibilities at conferences, directs NGOs intending to picket to do so in the designated spaces.<sup>117</sup>

In 2018 and 2019, there were several campaigns and protests to reject the proposed coal plant in Lamu and Kitui - a mega project that opponents said would lead to destruction of the ecosystems. Greenpeace was part of the groups that were campaigning against that project, and their research revealed that the project would have led to increased air pollution, respiratory problems and even cause acid rain which would eventually affect water sources and agricultural activities.<sup>118</sup>

#### **4.4 Ecosystem Restoration**

With large tracks of land having been degraded over the years, several organisations have severally launched initiatives to try and restore forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund alongside several regional initiatives embarked on a journey to plant millions of trees in areas that were facing deforestation. One such regional initiative is the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), an effort by countries to restore forests in 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030. Kenya and Nigeria have made commitments to the initiative, which was launched in 2011. The initiative saw countries and NGOs come together to collaborate on an issue of international concern by making pledges to restore land and in turn improve livelihoods.

In 2016, Kenya made a commitment to reinstate 5.1 million hectares of degraded forests, with the Green Environment Facility (GEF) and Germany's Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as the major

---

<sup>117</sup> CITES, Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017 <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/E-SC69-11-03.pdf>

<sup>118</sup> AFP, Big win for activists as Kenyan court blocks coal plant <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/big-win-for-activists-as-kenyan-court-blocks-coal-plant-1421082> (June 2019)

donors and with the support of World Resources Institute (WRI), Green Belt Movement, FAO, and UN Environment. In 2017, Nigeria made a commitment to restore 4 million hectares of land which would help improve the livelihoods of households in drylands where land productivity has been threatened by the effects of climate change.<sup>119</sup>

The Great Green Wall initiative is another demonstration of environmental diplomacy on the African continent. It was formed in 2007 by the African Union as a continent-wide effort to slow down desertification in the Sahara and Sahel regions. It spans across 20 countries, including Nigeria, and aims to plant 100 million hectares of forest land before 2030. The project has over the years attracted interest from the international community and the public, due to its ambitious nature and it continues to attract new partners.<sup>120</sup> The main donor of the initiative is the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank is also a funding partner. Other organisations that are involved include FAO, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Permanent inter-state committee for drought control in the Sahel, European Union, Royal Botanical gardens, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, and with the backing in United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).<sup>121</sup> The success of this initiative will depend on the cooperation of all involved parties.

The Nature Conservancy is another INGO with a huge resource base in terms of expertise and funding which carries out activities in several countries around the world. In Kenya, it has been involved with various communities with the aim of boosting their livelihoods. Some of these include fisheries management at the coast of Kenya, and

---

<sup>119</sup> AFR100, <https://afr100.org/content/countries>

<sup>120</sup> Watts, J. Africa's Great Green Wall just 4% complete halfway through schedule <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/07/africa-great-green-wall-just-4-complete-over-halfway-through-schedule> (Sept 2020)

<sup>121</sup> Great Green Wall <https://www.greatgreenwall.org/partners>

tackling human-wildlife conflict in Maasai Mara and Laikipia. The Nature Conservancy does its work through partnering with local organisations, for instance it has previously collaborated with Kenya Fisheries Service, Pate Marine Community Conservancy, Fauna and Flora International, Northern Rangelands Trust, among others to establish an octopus fishery in Lamu County and train the local community on best practices for octopus farming to boost sustainability.<sup>122</sup>

Since 2018 CARE International's environmental arm, CARE Climate Change, partnered with several NGOs in an effort to reverse and prevent further land degradation. The initiative, Regreening Africa was launched in seven African countries including Kenya and targeted thousands of households to aid in the restoration of agricultural land. The other NGOs involved in the project include The Economics of Land Degradation, Catholic relief services, World Vision, Oxfam international, Sahel Eco and Evergreening Global Alliance. The project, which is still ongoing, is financed by European Union and spearheaded by World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).<sup>123</sup>

#### **4.5 Education and Capacity Building**

Part of effective negotiations on climate and the environment are driven by teams that are well versed with the topics of discussion. African Group of Negotiators-Expert Support (AGNES) is an organisation that has been in the forefront of training diplomats and climate negotiators ahead of major conferences such as the UNFCCC. AGNES supports African institutions and governments to have an influence in national, regional and international climate discussions and decision making. The group has, for instance,

---

<sup>122</sup> TNC, Octopus Fisherwomen in Kenya Benefit from the Science of Recovery Times <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/africa/stories-in-africa/octopus-fishing-in-lamu-kenya/> (Feb 2020)

<sup>123</sup> Hughes, K. Key insights into land degradation from seven African countries <https://theconversation.com/key-insights-into-land-degradation-from-seven-african-countries-146449> (Oct 2020)

supported negotiators in preparing technical submissions to the UNFCCC on topics such as risk assessment of agricultural systems to changing climate and establishment of early warning systems for extreme weather conditions.

During COP23 which was held in 2017 in Bonn, Germany, AGNES was instrumental in the process that enabled the adoption of the Gender Action Plan. The plan, acknowledges the unique effects of climate change on women and proposes a gender responsive approach to the adaptation and mitigation efforts. Its input is also notable in the COP23 discussions that established the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, a landmark decision that recognizes the role of agriculture in tackling climate change. Closely linked to the function of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the decision helps to mainstream agriculture into the UNFCCC processes and addresses interactions and trade-offs between agricultural productivity and adaptation and mitigation measures.<sup>124</sup>

Producing policy briefs as part of informing policy and decision makers is a major undertaking of organisations that aim to drive narratives about certain topics. Over the years AGNES has published several policy briefs such as; Desertification and Climate Change in Africa, Land Degradation and Climate Change in Africa, Building Climate resilience in the Agricultural sector in Kenya, Indicators for tracking the global goal on adaptation; insights from 50+ African countries, among other briefs. The Indicators for tracking the global goal on adaptation policy brief, for instance, which was released in October 2021 states that the new and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are inadequate in meeting the Paris Agreement goals. The areas of

---

<sup>124</sup> IDRC, Experiences from the developing world: voices to enhance Global Climate discourse, <https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/10625/57378/IDL-57378.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

improvement in this regard lie in the use of indicators that serve several functions, establish clear and quantifiable targets and clearly define how institutions and sectors will be involved in the tracking and reporting process.<sup>125</sup>

### **Climate Reality Project**

Founded in 2006 by Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is an organisation that conducts education and advocacy on climate related issues globally. Every year, the organisation hosts an event aimed at training climate leaders and inducting more people into climate leadership so that they can take charge of activities and initiatives in the localities. Through the 24 Hours of Reality annual event and the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, the organisation has so far engaged as many as 31,000 climate leaders. It is active in 170 countries around the world. In Africa, the organisation has representatives in countries in East Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa region. The project, alongside climate leaders from around the continent have been looking at the progress that individual countries have made towards meeting the Nationally Determined Contributions as well as other obligations related to the Paris climate agreement.<sup>126</sup>

The project has worked on campaigns that directly involve many communities, and also in collaboration with African institutions. It is engaged in providing guidance on climate policy and lobbying governments to take action on specific matters. Some of these campaigns include the Beat Plastic Pollution campaign, Zero emissions campaign, Sink our CO<sub>2</sub> campaign, among others. The Zero emissions campaign, for instance, was carried out in coalition with 48 partners, and aimed at publishing a fossil fuel finance exclusion policy, and engaging the AfDB to stop financing projects that

---

<sup>125</sup> AGNES, Policy briefs <https://agnes-africa.org/publications/policy-briefs/>

<sup>126</sup> The African Climate Reality Project (ACRP) <https://climatereality.co.za/the-african-climate-reality-project-acrp/>

involve use of fossil fuels. The AfDB, is an Africa-wide development-oriented bank and which has cross-border influence on matters of environment.

#### **4.6 Raising Awareness on Pressing Environmental Issues**

Greenpeace Africa has, since 2015, carried out campaigns and protests that are mostly aimed at raising awareness on the issues affecting the fishing communities in West Africa as well as food security in East Africa. The parent company, Greenpeace International has been involved in climate diplomatic circles for a long time, and is often consulted on major issues affecting the environment. It has been a common figure in UN climate conferences, Conference of the Parties. Its consisted issuance of statements to the media is a way of maintaining and improving its influence in the international sphere and thus furthering its role in environmental diplomacy.<sup>127</sup>

In October 2021, Greenpeace intercepted a fish oil tanker that was exporting fishmeal and fish oil from the west Africa coast to France. Although it was not originating from Nigeria, overfishing and depletion of ocean resources is a major issue affecting the coastal countries in West Africa. According to Greenpeace Africa, fish oil exports are robbing life from the oceans and denying the coastal communities a source of livelihood. The organisation is campaigning for a prohibition on the use of fish that is consumed by human population from being used for making fish meal and fish oil, and for 50 per cent reduction of industrial fishing to allow stocks time to recover.<sup>128</sup>

Kenya has faced a perennial problem of food insecurity and to add a voice to the growing challenge, Greenpeace launched a petition to raise awareness of the need for

---

<sup>127</sup> Champion, C. et al, Superpower Rivalry and Vaccine Envy Set Stage for Climate Talks <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-10-08/cop26-preview-inside-the-key-divisions-and-geopolitics> (Oct 2021)

<sup>128</sup> McVeigh K, Greenpeace stops fish oil tanker in Channel in protest over African food insecurity <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/07/greenpeace-stops-fish-oil-tanker-in-channel-in-protest-over-african-food-insecurity> (Oct 2021)



the government to tackle the problem. The food scarcity problem has been brought about by situations like floods, locust invasion, climate change as well as insufficient food governance systems. Greenpeace has, since 2020, called on the ministry of agriculture to prioritise purchasing maize from smallholder farmers instead of importing in order to boost resilience of the food system.<sup>129</sup>

#### **4.7 Conclusion**

This chapter set out to assess the extent of INGOs involvement in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria, guided by the research question "To what extent have INGOs taken part in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria?" From the study, it is notable that international non-governmental organisations have been carrying out environmental diplomacy mainly through actions such as lobbying authorities; advising decision makers; providing training and education to negotiators, institutions and the public; organising events geared towards restoring and preserving ecosystems; organising and taking part in protests; joining court processes as well as taking up observer roles in international conferences and conventions. These roles, in cases where they have been accompanied by robust media coverage have put INGOs in the spotlight as champions of the environment. In other cases, they work behind the scenes to make submissions and contributions by countries and institutions successful. It is also noteworthy that most influential international non-governmental organisations that are working within the African continent are founded elsewhere and eventually expanding their reach to Africa. There is therefore a gap and potential for organisations founded in African countries to grow and take up similar responsibilities and positions of influence across the continent.

---

<sup>129</sup> Greenpeace, Kenyans are facing a crisis within a crisis; we demand action on food security [https://act.greenpeace.org/page/60310/petition/1?\\_ga=2.40795298.1058127246.1634129827-804423998.1634129827](https://act.greenpeace.org/page/60310/petition/1?_ga=2.40795298.1058127246.1634129827-804423998.1634129827)

## CHAPTER FIVE

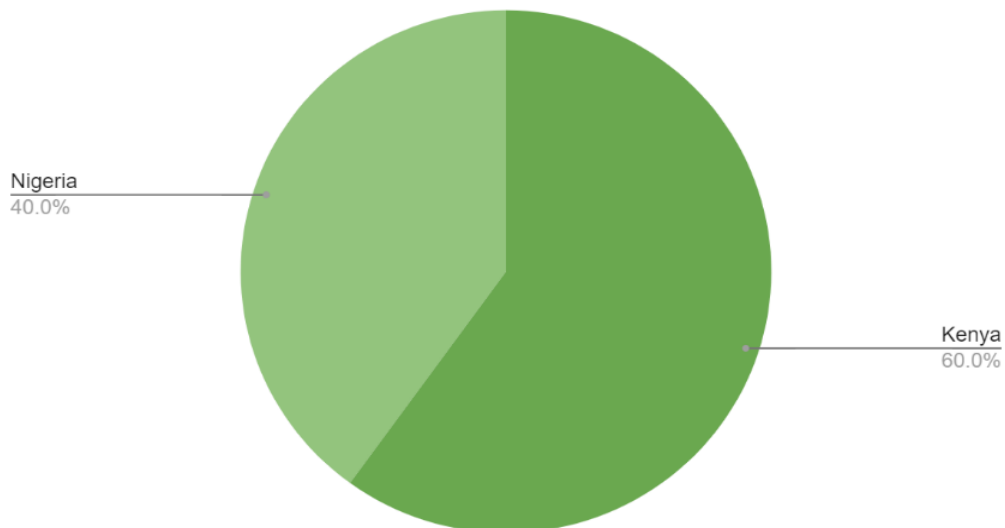
### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a presentation of the data gathered throughout the study as well as an analysis of what the data illustrates. The data was collected from the public, from people who are participating in different capacities in the environment sector as well as from experts and leaders of international non-governmental organisations. Charts and tables have been used to present the data, while responses to open ended questions are presented in prose.

#### 5.2 Geographical Location of Respondents

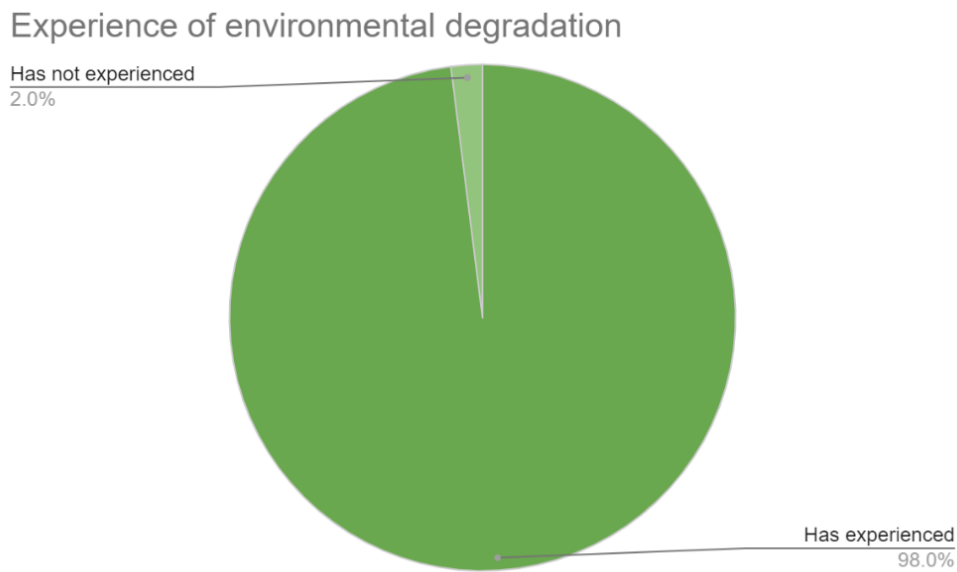
Location of respondents



**Figure 5.2** Location of respondents

The study focussed on two countries in Africa; Kenya and Nigeria. From the targeted groups, 60 per cent of the respondents were from Kenya while 40 per cent were from Nigeria out of a sample size of 200.

### 5.3 Experience of environmental degradation in current locality



**Figure 5.3 Experience of environmental degradation**

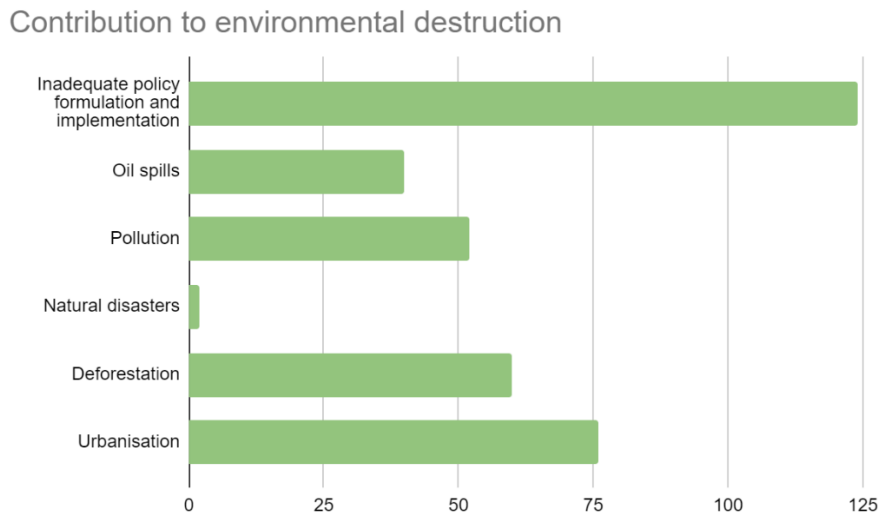
The respondents were asked if they had experienced a case of environmental degradation either in their lifetime or in their locality. Of the total responses, 98 per cent had encountered environmental degradation while 2 per cent said that they had not. An illustration of the percentage of the population that had experienced any form of degradation was important in order to show the magnitude of environmental issues.

#### 5.3.1 Common Forms of Environmental Degradation Encountered

The various forms of environmental degradation which respondents have encountered varied with the location, although some forms of degradation were common across regions for the responses received. Some of these include soil erosion, deforestation, destruction of wetlands, diverting sewage water and untreated waste into rivers and water bodies, burning of forests and arson attacks, poor solid waste disposal, fuel combustion from motor vehicles and release of oil and other chemicals to the ground, littering with plastic bags and containers, illegal logging, indiscriminate charcoal burning, oil spills, open garbage dumps, reduction of public green spaces, sand

harvesting, encroachment into protected areas and riparian land, reclaiming wetlands for construction, use of inorganic fertilisers, landslides, over-stocking of livestock, and open pit mining, among others.

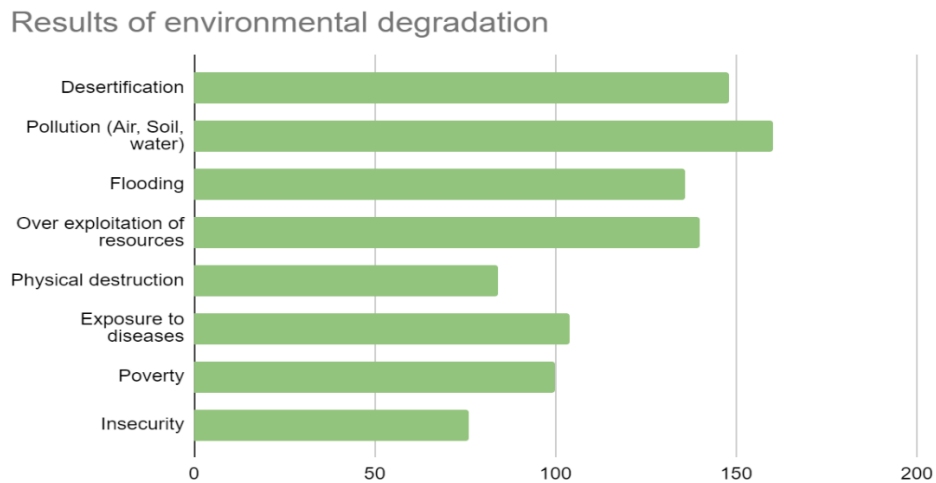
### 5.3.2 Highest contribution to environmental degradation



**Figure 5.3.2: Highest contributors to environmental degradation**

An analysis of the causes or major contributors to environmental degradation placed inadequate policy formulation and implementation at the top; urbanisation was also listed as a major contributor followed by deforestation, pollution, oil spills and natural disasters. Respondents felt that there were other contributing factors including multinational oil companies, rapid population expansion, inadequate provision of waste matter disposal areas, laxity and lack of proper planning by local governments, ignorance by the people on the effects of their actions on the environment, overexploitation of resources either by corporations or local communities, and climate change among others.

### 5.3.3 Major results of Environmental Degradation

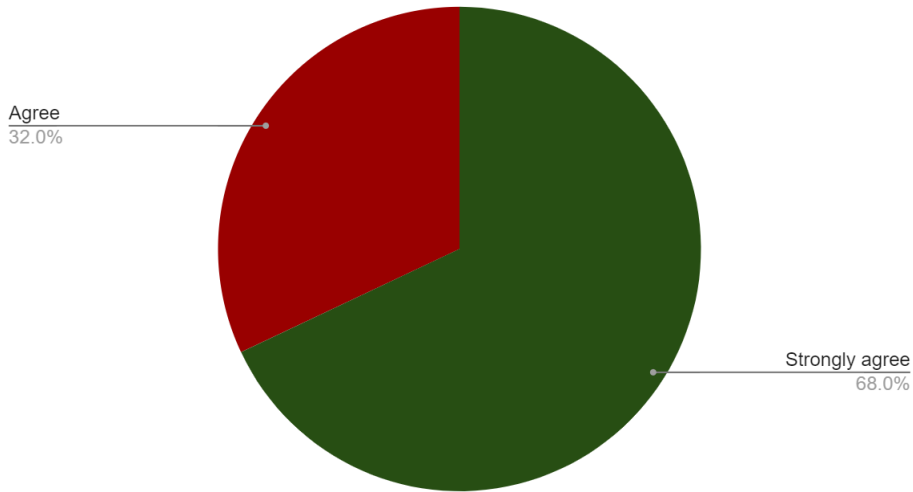


**Figure 5.3.3 Results/impact of the various forms of environmental degradation**

Figure 5.3.3 shows some of the most common aftermaths of environmental degradation as witnessed by respondents. Air, soil and water pollution came out as the most common effects witnessed, followed by desertification, overexploitation of resources, flooding, physical destruction of ecosystems, poverty, while other respondents felt that environmental degradation had resulted to insecurity and competition for resources. Other specific effects that were mentioned by the respondents include frequent droughts and unpredictable weather seasons, poor sewerage disposal has in some places made land infertile, construction of dams leading to dropping water levels downstream and impacting negatively on agriculture, and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

### 5.3.4 Evaluation of the degree to which environmental degradation is a major problem

Environmental degradation is a major problem

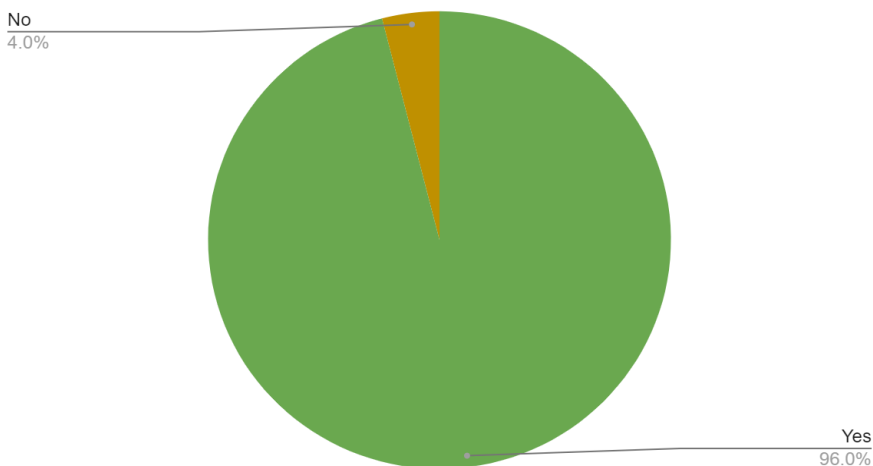


### 5.3.4 Environmental degradation is a major problem

Asked about to what degree they felt that environmental degradation was a major problem, 68 per cent of the respondents said that they strongly agreed, while 32 per cent of them agreed. No respondent denied that it was an issue of great concern.

### 5.4 Assessment of respondents' participation in activities meant to protect the environment

Participation in an activity to protect the environment



### Figure 5.4 Respondents' participation in environmental protection

Of the total respondents, 96 per cent of them said that they had participated in an activity meant to protect the environment, while 4 per cent said that they had not. This places individuals high on the rank of agents of environmental diplomacy. Some of the activities that the respondents had participated in include tree planting and clean ups – which were mentioned on numerous occasions, community education and awareness, providing garbage bins to families in informal settlements, signing petitions urging for favourable environmental policies, review of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and participation in environmental documentaries.

#### 5.4.1 Assessment of organisers of the activities meant to protect the environment

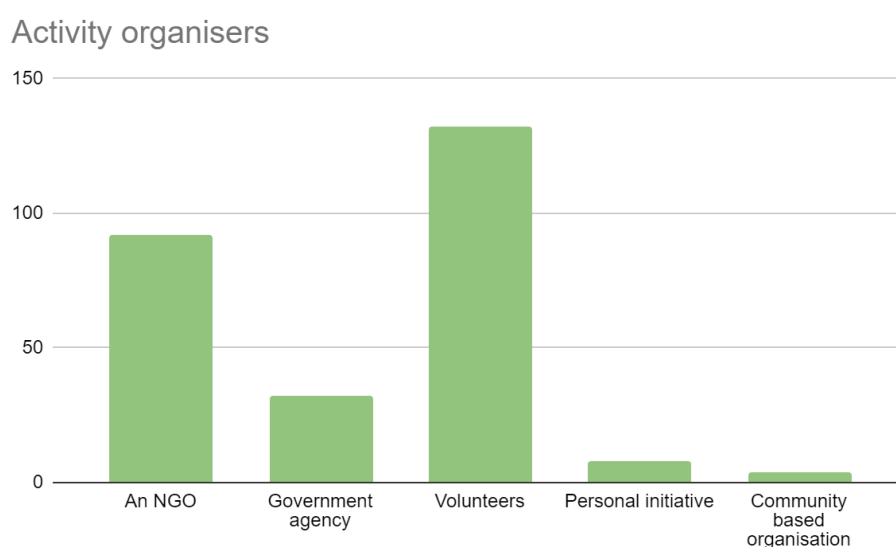
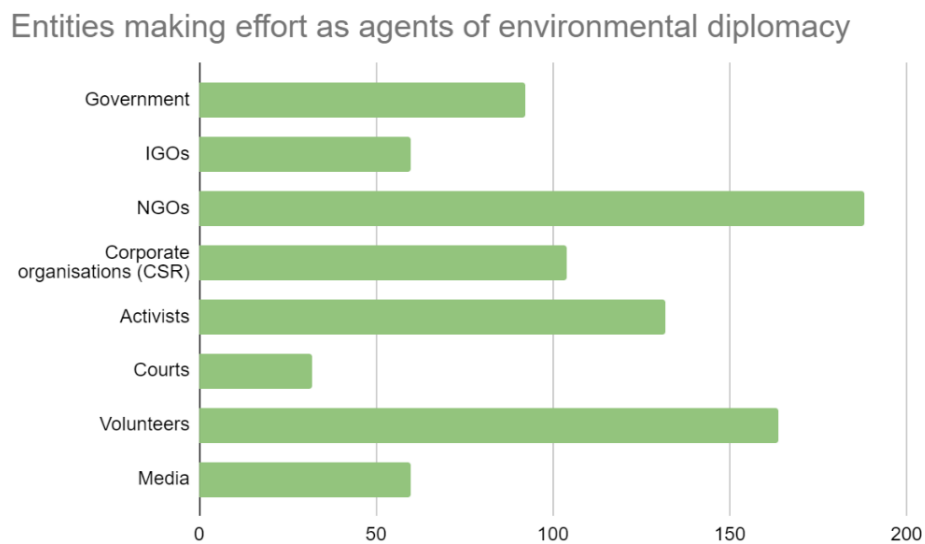


Figure 5.4.1 Activity organisers

The respondents mentioned a few entities as being the organisers of the activities in which they participated. This was important in order to give an assessment of the various known agents of environmental diplomacy. Volunteers were the most common organisers, followed by NGOs, government agencies, while personal initiatives and community-based organisations came out as also playing part in the quest to influence and promote conservation. In terms of what the government is doing as an agent of

environmental diplomacy, respondents were aware of a few laws and regulations that have been put in place to address environmental issues. The most known regulation was Kenya's plastic bags ban which prohibits the manufacture and use of single use plastics. In Nigeria, several respondents mentioned the Petroleum Industry Act which, among other things, aims to define the relationship between investors and the society and create policy and regulatory institutions.

#### 5.4.2 Assessment of respondents' perception of entities making effort to promote environmental diplomacy



**Figure 5.4.2 Entities making effort as agents of environmental diplomacy**

Asked to select, from a list, the entities that were notably making effort to conserve the environment and influence environmental decisions, the respondents picked NGOs and volunteers among the top of the pack. These were followed by activists, corporate organisations, government agencies, intergovernmental organisations and courts.



## **5.5 Assessment of whether respondents' think INGOs are doing their part to promote environmental diplomacy**

From the analysis above, it is notable that NGOs have been recognised as active instruments of environmental protection. To understand the range of these organisations, the researcher sought to know if the respondents knew of international NGOs that were playing a significant role in their environments. Several names of INGOs came up including Greenpeace, Wild Aid, WWF, Greenbelt movement, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Let's do it - Kenya, Africa Conservation Centre, Eastern Africa Environmental Network, The Green Institute, African Wildlife Foundation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Green Africa, Birdlife International, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), ClimateAid International, Citizen Climate International, African Youth Initiatives on Climate Change, Environmental Rights Action by Friends of the Earth, Nigeria (ERA/FOEN), African Clean up Initiative, Northern Rangelands Trust, and clubs including Rotary.

Some of the success stories coming from the input of INGOs that the respondents mentioned include; The closure of donkey slaughterhouses in Kenya was one such successful initiative that had received the backing of INGOs including African Network for Animal Welfare. In the rural areas, community-based organisations have received the support of INGOS to restore degraded ecosystems, including through planting trees, controlling soil erosion by building gabions, weirs and dams, as well as capacity building by equipping communities with knowledge on alternative means of earning a livelihood instead of depleting of natural resources. Greenbelt movement, for instance, has been teaching women and rural communities to plant trees, both to preserve the environment as a source of fuel wood.

Clean up activities organised or supported by INGOs such Let's do it Kenya, Let's do it Nigeria, African Clean up Initiative have been instrumental in influencing local communities, institutions and individuals to keep their immediate environments clean. The protection of Nairobi National Park, and other game parks in Kenya has benefitted from the advocacy and campaigns by INGOs, among them Wildlife Direct and African Sustainability Network.

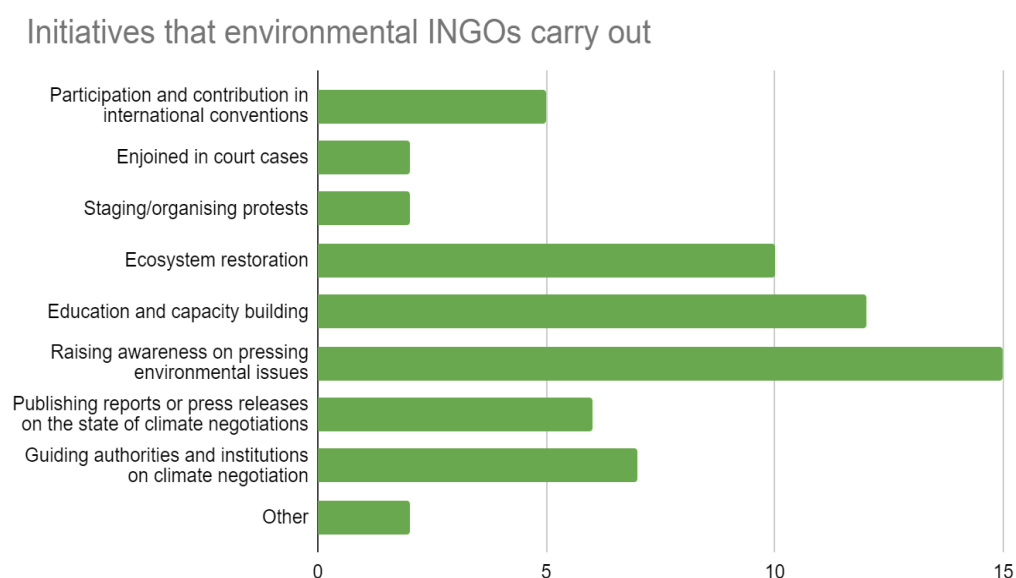
In Nigeria, Ellen MacArthur Foundation has been rolling out funding aimed at mainstreaming of circular economy, which promotes recycling of waste products as well as the reduction in production of materials that end up as waste. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been impactful in saving wildlife in Cross River and Bauchi states of Nigeria. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) has been advocating for sustainable pathways to gas flaring in the oil producing regions on Nigeria. Northern Rangelands Trust, which operates in the dry and arid areas of Kenya has been instrumental in leading conservation agenda among pastoralists whose land is largely communal. By partnering with local conservation groups and pastoral communities, incidences of poaching have drastically reduced.

Yet others felt that INGOs were facing certain challenges, that if dealt with would improve their level of involvement in activities that have a profound benefit to the environment. Some respondents felt that the nature of some INGOs makes them untrustworthy, especially in the absence of tangible impacts. Other NGOs didn't follow up on their activities to ensure that they bore fruit especially initiatives that comprise sensitization and raising awareness and others were unable to implement some initiatives due to government interference. Failure to understand the local conditions of the target areas was mentioned as set back to INGOs success, alongside not receiving full support of the local authorities.

Another setback in the quest by INGOs to tackle environmental degradation. In many cases the root cause in the degradation is never addressed, and that means that entities only manage to deal with the consequences. For instance, tree planting is not a complete solution to deforestation, if the factors enabling the cutting down of trees are not dealt with.

Overall, respondents felt that a combination of the effort from INGOs working closely with local NGOs and community-based organisations had been instrumental in the success of environmental protection activities.

### 5.5.1 Assessment of activities and initiatives that environmental INGOs carry out



**Figure 5.5.1 Initiatives that INGOs carry out**

Figure 5.5.1 shows the range of activities and initiatives that environmental INGOs carry out in the quest to promote environmental diplomacy. Respondents were asked which activities their organisations were mostly involved in. Education and capacity building, raising awareness on pressing environmental issues and ecosystem restoration were the top initiatives that most INGOs were taking part in. Some organisations were involved in lobbying for policies that are environmentally conscious, guiding

authorities and institutions on climate action, publishing reports, briefs and press releases on the state of climate, contributions to international conventions, joining court cases and organising protests. In terms of contributions to international conventions, INGOs do not have decision making or voting powers, but they do voice their concerns on various issues affecting the environment, which may in turn influence the decision of policy makers.

Climate Reality Project has participated in recent sessions of climate change COP by voicing concerns about issues that Kenya's environment is exposed to. In line with COP25, in January 2020, Kenya presented its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining what commitments the country was undertaking in the quest to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Climate Reality and partnering local NGOs offered their contributions in the drafting of these goals. Greenpeace has carried out a number of campaigns discouraging the import of plastic waste into African countries, including the revelation in 2020 that Kenya and US were holding trade talks that would see waste from the US imported into Kenya. Waste is already being imported in African countries from the highly industrialised countries, and this undermines the efforts to control dumping on the continent. The organisation is currently working on treaty on global plastics to standardise the approach and policies governing plastics use and manufacture across Africa.

Let's Do It Kenya and Let's Do It Nigeria, for instance, have been carrying out annual campaigns to raise awareness of environmental issues and sensitise individuals and institutions to keep their immediate environment clean and collectively keep the world free from trash. All these tasks, individually or combined play a part in influencing the choices of decision makers either in an active or passive manner. In Nigeria, Amnesty International, Connected Development, among other local and international NGOs

were influential in the drafting of the Petroleum Industry Bill which was passed into law in July 2021.

## **5.6 Conclusion**

This chapter set out to present data and analysis from the study and assess the role that INGOs play in promoting environmental diplomacy. Environmental diplomacy can be realised in a variety of ways. From this chapter, it is notable that there are various instruments of environmental diplomacy that are taking active role to preserve the habitats and ecosystems. Most of the instruments do not work in isolation, and therefore rely on the strengths of each other to achieve their motives. INGOs as carriers of diplomacy have been performing their role largely through education and capacity building. By equipping agencies, authorities, institutions, community-based organisations, local NGOs and individuals with knowledge of what it takes to revive and preserve the environment, they have been able to influence key decisions around the African continent. Other roles that INGOs have taken active role in are lobbying for policies and raising awareness on pressing environmental issues and ecosystem restoration.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.0 Introduction**

This chapter is a summary of the entire study and will also provide an evaluation of whether the hypotheses stated at the beginning of the research have been upheld or not. It also provides conclusions on the various objectives that the study set out to interrogate. Further, the study makes recommendations to policy community, academia and the public as a way of enhancing progress and innovation in the role of diplomacy in environmental protection.

#### **6.1 Summary of the Study**

This study has a total of six chapters, all of which attempt to interrogate and evaluate the role of diplomacy in environmental protection. Chapter one is the introduction to the study, giving a focus on the problem statement, research questions and objectives, literature review, gaps in literature review, research methodology, as well as chapter outline. In this chapter, the researcher has been able to provide justification for the study. Chapter two consists of an in-depth look at the aspects that make environmental degradation such a big problem in Africa. It highlights the various consequences of the many forms of environmental degradation, depicting how they have affected populations, habitats and livelihoods. Chapter three comprises an interrogation of the various actors and tools of environmental protection that have been utilised across Kenya and Nigeria, which are the two countries that the study is focusing on. It gives an evaluation of the contribution of various actors to environmental diplomacy. Chapter four is an assessment of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) as instruments of environmental diplomacy. It details the avenues in which these organisations have been able to exploit to influence decisions about the environment. Chapter five delves into presentation and analysis of data from the study, guided by the

three objectives that the study set out at the beginning. Finally, this chapter, chapter six provides the summary, conclusions and recommendations from the study. The conclusions, and recommendations to policy makers, academia and the public are provided below.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

From this study, it is clear that environmental degradation is a severe problem on the African continent. There have been many undesirable effects among them loss of life, loss of livelihood, conflict, diseases, desertification, flooding, which have depicted just how grave the problem is. This therefore upholds the first hypothesis of this study, that environmental degradation is a major problem in Africa. Diplomacy has been used to address diverse issues affecting the society. The use of diplomacy to address environmental issues is thus not new, as there have been various actors and tools deployed to try to either reverse the damage or preserve the environment. Actors that have been able to influence change of behaviour, and promote a positive outlook at how the populations treat and interact with their immediate environment fit into the category of agents of environmental diplomacy. Government, courts, activists, acts of corporate social responsibility, volunteers, local NGOs, community-based organisations, have all been agents of environmental diplomacy on various occasions. These actors, however, face diverse challenges in exercise of their duties. In courts, for instance, from the several environmental cases presented a trend is revealed of failure to either conduct proper environmental impact assessment or implementation of the recommendations. The fact that environmental degradation still continues to be an issue of concern means that more needs to be done to support the existing mechanisms, as they are clearly not enough.

Lastly the study looks at the input of INGOs into the agenda of environmental protection. INGOs have participated in some of the big environmental conferences, such as UNFCCC conference of the parties, most of which are usually hosted in the developed countries. Many NGOs, national and international, have been admitted to take part in these conferences. The availability of expertise and in-depth understanding of how the environmental sphere operates gives INGOs credibility and upper hand in participating in these conferences and conventions. The most vocal and popular INGOs, however, are founded in countries outside of the African continent, and therefore create branches within the continent for promote their activities and presence. Of all the various tasks that INGOs take part in, they are not decision makers. Their role, especially when it comes to negotiation and signing of international treaties and conventions, is largely advisory. As the theoretical framework used in this study explains, liberalism promotes individualistic and materialistic ideas such as individual liberty, pursuit of private property, and unrestricted market economy among others. This means that the recommendations of these INGOs could easily be ignored if the decision being made has negative implications on success of the institutions involved. Liberals believe in the role of international institutions in the cooperation of different actors, and increased interdependence as these create an opportunity to reduce conflict and create solutions. As such, INGOs have different avenues through which they can assert their influence, including and not limited to creating avenues for networking and engagement by other organisations, raising awareness, organising protests, lobbying for favourable environmental policies, creating policy briefs, raising funds for various initiatives, supporting affected communities to seek for justice, among others. The findings of the study therefore uphold the hypotheses that were outlined at the beginning.



### **6.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are therefore derived from the study:

#### **6.3.1 Academic Recommendation**

A study is recommended by the academia and researchers on the missing link between conduct of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and implementation of its recommendations, as there is clearly a disconnect in how the assessment is done. There are numerous cases of courts halting projects because of insufficient environmental impact assessment.

Research is also recommended on what can be done, including intervention measures, to support the existing actors and mechanisms towards effective environmental diplomacy so that their efforts can create huge impacts.

#### **6.3.2. Policy Recommendation**

It is recommended that the relevant ministries and licensing agencies should create an enabling environment for INGOs founded in Africa to grow and establish themselves as thought leaders in the area of environmental diplomacy. If well established and well grounded, these INGOs have the potential to focus majorly on the environmental challenges facing the African countries. At the moment, INGOs founded outside the continent seem to be the ones driving the environmental agenda and thereby crowding out the voices of those based in African countries, mostly due to their wide funding base, speciality, and support from partners.

Kenya and Nigeria should make efforts to host some of the major environmental conferences as this creates an opportunity to address some of the major issues driving environmental degradation on the continent. It would also be a great opportunity for INGOs and other actors to bring to the attention of the world the environmental

challenges that the continent is facing and therefore play a huge role in promoting environmental diplomacy and ultimately change in attitude and behaviour.

It is also recommended that relevant authorities should put together sensitisation processes and exercises to make environmental awareness a matter of individual concern. From the study, it is clear that most of the cases of environmental degradation in Africa are caused by human actions and therefore the people themselves can play a role in solving them if they are made aware of their responsibility.

### **6.3.3 Public Recommendation**

The public plays a big role in relation to the status of the environment. It is therefore recommended that every person should seek information on best practices to preserve the environment and avoid putting unnecessary pressure on the available resources. The action of every individual, institution, investor, exerts a certain amount of impact on the environment and that means everyone should ensure their actions are not leading to environmental degradation.

From the findings of this study, volunteers formed a big percentage of the entities that are taking part in environmental protection activities. INGOs should therefore find a way of recognising the efforts of these volunteers and individuals taking place in their activities, campaigns and protests as they play a big part in influencing how the rest of the public behave towards the environment.

### **6.4 Area of Further Study**

This study did not address the aspect of how financing of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) can make or break their role in promoting environmental diplomacy in Africa. It is therefore recommended as an area of further study.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AfDB partners with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa as sponsor of virtual AGRF <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-partners-alliance-green-revolution-africa-sponsor-virtual-african-green-revolution-forum-agrf-45467>
- AfDB, <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships>
- AFP, Big win for activists as Kenyan court blocks coal plant <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/big-win-for-activists-as-kenyan-court-blocks-coal-plant-1421082> (June 2019)
- AFR100, <https://afr100.org/content/countries>
- African Development Bank to launch new initiative to integrate natural capital into finance in Africa <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-launch-new-initiative-integrate-natural-capital-finance-africa-45406> (Sept 2021)
- AGNES, Policy briefs <https://agnes-africa.org/publications/policy-briefs/>
- Alozie, M., *The political ecology of oil in the Niger Delta: understanding youth violence from the perspectives of youths*, PhD Thesis, University College London, 2020
- Alter, C. et al. Greta Thunberg <https://time.com/person-of-the-year-2019-greta-thunberg/>
- Amanda Tattersall, *A billion acts of courage on 3.6 planets: a conversation with Greenpeace's Kumi Naidoo*, <http://sydneydemocracynetwork.org/podcast-peace-people-and-power-social-change-from-anti-apartheid-to-the-climate-movement-kuminaidoo/>, 28 August 2015
- Amnesty International, How 3500 activists are taking on two oil giants, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/niger-delta-oil-spills-decoders>, 2018
- Andrews R, Mount Nyiragongo just erupted <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/mount-nyiragongo-just-erupted-why-its-one-of-africas-most-dangerous-volcanoes>, May 24, 2021,
- Atieno W, Alarm as mangrove forests at the Kenyan Coast rapidly disappear <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Mombasa-getting-hotter-as-mangrove-forests-disappear/539546-3997708-casykfz/index.html>, July 03 2017
- Balagizi, C et al. Environmental and health impacts of Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira Volcanoes, East Africa. (unpublished), 2019
- Barbosa L, Guardians of the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest: Environmental Organizations and development, Routledge 2015
- BBC, COP26: What is the Glasgow climate conference and why is it important? <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56901261> (Sept 2021)

- BBC, Kenya plastic bag ban comes into force after years of delays  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41069853>, August 2017
- BBC, May 11, 2018. Kenya's burst Patel dam was 'built illegally'  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-44082423>
- BBC, Shell Nigeria ordered to pay compensation for oil spills,  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55853024>, (Jan 2021)
- Biagini, B. et al, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Energy, in Encyclopedia of Energy, 2004  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B012176480X004484>
- Carter N, The Politics of the Environment. Cambridge University Press, 2007
- CE, Our project in Africa [http://climateducate.weebly.com/ceproject\\_africa.html](http://climateducate.weebly.com/ceproject_africa.html)
- Champion, C. et al, Superpower Rivalry and Vaccine Envy Set Stage for Climate Talks  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-10-08/cop26-preview-inside-the-key-divisions-and-geopolitics> (Oct 2021)
- Chipango, E. Reinterpreting energy poverty in Zimbabwe: A scalar perspective. Journal of Political Ecology. Vol 25 No. 205, 2018
- CITES, Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017  
<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/E-SC69-11-03.pdf>
- Citi Kenya Plants Trees to Commemorate Kenya Jubilee Celebrations  
<https://www.citigroup.com/citi/news/2013/131223a.htm>, December 2013
- Climate Policy Info Hub, Observer NGOs and the International Climate Negotiations  
[https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/observer-ngos-and-international-climate-negotiations.html#footnote11\\_j0n8yh6](https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/observer-ngos-and-international-climate-negotiations.html#footnote11_j0n8yh6)
- Connolly M, et al. Analysis of Greenpeace's business model & philosophy: Greenpeace wants a piece of your green, (unpublished) December 2018
- CYNESA, October 2018, Tree Planting in Kereita Forest, Kenya,  
<http://cynesa.org/cynesablog/tree-planting-in-kereita-forest-kenya/#sthash.xCnZ0x3p.dpbs>
- Dahlan, M.A, Expanding the Role of Media in Environmental Protection, Media Asia, 21:3, 157-163, DOI: 10.1080/01296612.1994.11726449, 1994
- Dandago K S, et al, 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Concerns in Nigeria: A Critical Focus on Oil Producing Communities', Issues in Social and Environmental Accounting, Vol. 8, No. 2 (2014) Pp. 104-115
- de-Shalit A, The Environment Between Theory and Practice, Oxford University Press, 2000
- Doumbouya A, Camara OT, Mamie J, et al Assessing the Effectiveness of Monitoring Control and Surveillance of Illegal Fishing: The Case of West Africa. in Frontiers in Marine Science Vol 4 No. 50, 2017

- DW, EU top court drops families' climate action case <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-top-court-drops-families-climate-action-case/a-56990547>, March 2021
- EAC, Multilateral Environmental Agreements  
<https://www.eac.int/environment/multilateral-environmental-agreements>
- Eilstrup-Sangiovanni. M, and Teale N. Phelps Bondaroff. “From Advocacy to Confrontation: Direct Enforcement by Environmental NGOs.” *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 58, no. 2, 2014, pp. 348–361
- Forte, Almerinda. Corporate Social Responsibility In The United States And Europe: How Important Is It? The Future of Corporate Social Responsibility. *International Business & Economics Research Journal (IBER)*. 12. 815. 10.19030/iber.v12i7.7970, 2013
- Fowler. A, “Strengthening civil society in transition economies — from concept to strategy: mapping an exit in a maze of mirrors”, in A Clayton (editor), *NGOs, Civil Society and the State (Intrac NGO Management and Policy Series no 5)* chapter 1, (1996) pp 12–33.
- Gauthier M. et al, (Aug 2026) *Clashing over conservation; saving congo's forest and its pygmies* <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/aug/30/clashing-conservation-saving-democratic-republic-congo-forest-pygmies-drc>
- Gramont. D, *Governing Lagos: Unlocking the Politics of Reform* <https://carnegieendowment.org/2015/01/12/governing-lagos-unlocking-politics-of-reform>
- Great Green Wall <https://www.greatgreenwall.org/partners>
- Haley M, et al. “The Role of NGOs in Environmental Policy Failures in a Developing Country: The Mismanagement of Jamaica's Coral Reefs.” *Environmental Values*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2003, pp. 29–54
- Hannah. L, "Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Sinks, and Solutions", in *Climate Change Biology*, Pages 339-356, Academic Press (2011)
- Harcourt W, et al, 2018. The thin(ning) green line? Investigating changes in Kenya's seagrass coverage doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2018.0227
- Hassell J, et al, Socio-ecological drivers of vertebrate biodiversity and human-animal interfaces across an urban landscape <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15412>, December 2020
- Hochschild, A. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. Pan Macmillan, 1998
- Howes, et al. *Asia's Wicked Environmental* in ADBI Working Paper Series No. 348 February 2012
- <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-launch-new-initiative-integrate-natural-capital-finance-africa-45406> (Sept 2021)

- Hughes, K. Key insights into land degradation from seven African countries <https://theconversation.com/key-insights-into-land-degradation-from-seven-african-countries-146449> (Oct 2020)
- IDRC, Experiences from the developing world: voices to enhance Global Climate discourse, <https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/10625/57378/IDL-57378.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>
- IUCN, West Africa Environmental Policy [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy\\_brief\\_wa\\_environmental\\_policy.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy_brief_wa_environmental_policy.pdf)
- Jennifer N. Brass, *Kenya's clampdown on civil society is against its self-interest*, <https://theconversation.com/kenyas-clampdown-on-civil-society-is-against-its-self-interest-62019>, July 11, 2016
- Jharotia A, Role of Media in Enhancement of Environmental Awareness, 2018
- Kadafa A, Oil Exploration and Spillage in the Niger Delta of Nigeria in Civil and Environmental Research Vol 2, No.3, 2012
- Kameti M, Nov 2018, Thange River environs 'still tainted by oil spill' <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/eastern/2019-11-29-thange-river-environs-still-tainted-by-oil-spill/>
- Kamunde, M. Estonia President to visit Karura, engage in clean up exercise <https://www.kbc.co.ke/estonia-president-to-visit-karura-engage-in-clean-up-exercise/> (Sept 2021)
- Kanowski, P. *Stopping global deforestation will take more than more words*, <https://theconversation.com/stopping-global-deforestation-will-take-more-than-more-words-32265>, September 30, 2014
- Khadka N, August 2020, Why the Mauritius oil spill is so serious <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53754751>
- King E, Meet the woman who took on Canada's tar sand barons <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2016/07/11/meet-the-woman-who-took-on-canadas-tar-sand-barons/>, July 2016
- Klein N. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*, Penguin Random House UK, 2015
- Kolbert E, The U.N.'s Terrifying Climate Report <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/23/the-uns-terrifying-climate-report> (Aug 2021)
- Krippahl. C, Kenya lead victims denied their day in Mombasa court, <https://www.dw.com/en/kenya-lead-victims-denied-their-day-in-mombasa-court/a-43039075>, 2018
- Kruse H, et al. UNU-WIDER Working Paper 2021/28: A manufacturing renaissance? Industrialization trends in the developing world. <https://doi.org/10.35188/UNU-WIDER/2021/966-2>

- LeBaron G, *Green NGOs cannot take big business cash and save planet*, <https://theconversation.com/green-ngos-cannot-take-big-business-cash-and-save-planet-18770>, September 30, 2013
- Lebreton, L. et al, Future scenarios of global plastic waste generation and disposal. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-018-0212-7> *Palgrave Commun* 5, 6 (2019)
- Lescuyer G. et al, *Are community forests a viable model for the Democratic Republic of Congo?* *Ecology and Society* Vol 24 No 1: 6, 2019
- Lewis, Sarah. "Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches." *Health Promotion Practice*, Vol 16, No. 4 (2015) pp 473-475.
- Mbachu D, et al, July 2020. The Toxic Legacy of 60 Years of Abundant Oil <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-niger-delta-oil-pollution/>
- McVeigh K, Greenpeace stops fish oil tanker in Channel in protest over African food insecurity <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/07/greenpeace-stops-fish-oil-tanker-in-channel-in-protest-over-african-food-insecurity> (Oct 2021)
- MEAs, African Union <https://au.int/meas>
- Meiser J W, *Liberalism, in International Relations Theory*, E-IR publishing, 2017
- Mennillo E, et al, 'Quality screening of the Lagos lagoon sediment by assessing the cytotoxicity and toxicological responses of rat hepatoma H4IIE and fish PLHC-1 cell-lines using different extraction approaches', *Environmental Research*, Volume 182, (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2019.108986>
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Kenya, National strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% tree cover by 2022, (unpublished), May 2019
- Moravcsik, A. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. in *International Organization* 51, no. 4 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2703498>. (1997)
- Mucha L, et al. Feb. 28, 2018. The hidden costs of cobalt mining <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/wp/2018/02/28/the-cost-of-cobalt/>
- Munang, R. et al, How the Financial Sector can Implement Climate Action in Africa <https://intpolicydigest.org/how-the-financial-sector-can-implement-climate-action-in-africa/> (June 2021)
- NECC, 2018. Solai Dam Report <https://www.necc.go.ke/2018/11/12/solai-dam-report/>
- Nellemann, C.,et al (Eds). February 2009. The environmental food crisis – The environment's role in averting future food crises. *A UNEP rapid response assessment*, GRID-Arendal, [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)
- NEMA, Environmental Act (EMCA) [https://www.nema.go.ke/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=163](https://www.nema.go.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=163)

- Nwafor. N, et al, Plastic Bags Prohibition Bill: A developing story of crass legalism aiming to reduce plastic marine pollution in Nigeria: *Marine Policy*, Volume 120, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104160>
- Obura D, March 22, 2019, Why Kenya must take control of sand harvesting off its coast <https://theconversation.com/why-kenya-must-take-control-of-sand-harvesting-off-its-coast-113952>
- Ocharo B, SEPTEMBER 15 2020, Owino Uhuru dwellers suffer blow in pursuit of Sh1.3bn poison pay <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/news/counties/owino-uhuru-dwellers-suffer-blow-in-pursuit-of-sh1-3bn-poison-pay-2301336>
- Ogila J, July 16th 2020, State to pay Owino Uhuru residents Sh1.3b for lead poisoning <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/coast/article/2001379058/court-orders-state-to-pay-owino-uhuru-slum-residents-sh13b>
- Ombuor R, Environmentalists in Kenya Protest China-Backed Railway Construction, <https://www.voanews.com/africa/environmentalists-kenya-protest-china-backed-railway-construction>, 2018
- Ongoma V, et al, Potential Effects of Urbanization on Urban Thermal Comfort, a case study of Nairobi City, Kenya: *A Review Geographica Pannonica*, Volume 20, Issue 1, 19-31 (March 2016)
- Ongoma Victor, Insights for African countries from the latest climate change projections <https://theconversation.com/insights-for-african-countries-from-the-latest-climate-change-projections-165944> (Aug 2021)
- Oosthoek, J. et al, *The globalization of Environmental Crisis*, Routledge (2008)
- Oteng-Yeboah A, August 18, 2019. Ghana's pact with China to explore bauxite threatens a unique forest. <https://theconversation.com/ghanas-pact-with-china-to-explore-bauxite-threatens-a-unique-forest-120815>
- Oyugi, Walter O. "The Role of NGOs in Fostering Development and Good Governance at the Local Level in Africa with a Focus on Kenya." *Africa Development*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2004, pp. 19–55.
- Pflanz M, Community stops avocado farm in the Amboseli region <https://africageographic.com/stories/community-stops-avocado-farm-in-the-amboseli-region/> (May 2021)
- Pourret, Olivier et al. Assessment of soil metal distribution and environmental impact of mining in Katanga (Democratic Republic of Congo). *Applied Geochemistry*. Vol 64. pg 43-55. 10.1016/j.apgeochem.2015.07.012. 2016
- Princewill N, Africa's most populous city is battling floods and rising seas. It may soon be unlivable, experts warn <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/01/africa/lagos-sinking-floods-climate-change-intl-cmd/index.html> (Aug 2021)
- Ratcliffe. R, 'This place used to be green': the brutal impact of oil in the Niger Delta, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/dec/06/this-place-used-to-be-green-the-brutal-impact-of-oil-in-the-niger-delta> (Dec 2019)



- Rodgers L, et al. March 22, 2019. Cyclone Idai: How the storm tore into southern Africa  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47638696>
- Ross A, Nov 6, 2015. Thousands suffer in Kenya Pipeline oil spill aftermath  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/thousands-suffer-in-kenya-pipeline-oil-spill-aftermath/468405>
- Sebastian GIL, *Is Nairobi National Park under threat from a new railway?*  
[https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=57938](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item_id=57938),  
 20/04/2017
- Shiru M.S, et al. Challenges in water resources of Lagos mega city of Nigeria in the context of climate change. *Journal of Water and Climate Change* 11 (4): 1067–1083 (2020)
- Snyder. M, et al, *Volunteerism, Psychology of: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition)*, 2015
- Spiegel. S, *World Politics in a New Era*, Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995
- Stremlau J, *Trump vs Africa: how the continent can counter destructive policies*,  
<https://theconversation.com/trump-vs-africa-how-the-continent-can-counter-destructive-policies-71569>, January 19, 2017
- Sullivan H, ‘Code red for humanity’: what the papers say about the IPCC report on the climate crisis  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/10/code-red-for-humanity-what-the-papers-say-about-the-ipcc-report-on-the-climate-crisis>  
 (Aug 2021)
- Sullivan, M., Talbot, J., Lewis, S. et al. Diversity and carbon storage across the tropical forest biome. In *Nature, Scientific Reports* Vol 7, No. 39102, 2017
- Tasmanian Dam Case, <http://envlaw.com.au/tasmanian-dam-case/>
- Tayebi S, et al, 'Environmental Diplomacy: A Framework for Growth of International Interaction and Cooperation for Achievement of Global Peace', *Journal of Politics and Law*; Vol. 9, No. 9; 2016
- The African Climate Reality Project (ACRP) <https://climatereality.co.za/the-african-climate-reality-project-acrp/>
- Theaker, Alison, *The Public Relations Handbook*, (London, Routledge, 2004)
- TNC, Octopus Fisherwomen in Kenya Benefit from the Science of Recovery Times  
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/africa/stories-in-africa/octopus-fishing-in-lamu-kenya/> (Feb 2020)
- UN Charter <http://legal.un.org/repertory/art71.shtml>
- UN, Climate litigation spikes, giving courts an ‘essential role’ in addressing climate crisis  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1083032>, Jan 2021
- UNEP, <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment>
- UNEP, In battle against climate change, courts become a new frontier  
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/battle-against-climate-change-courts-become-new-frontier>, May 2021

- UNEP, June 2020, Kenya bans single-use plastics in protected areas  
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/kenya-bans-single-use-plastics-protected-areas>
- UNEP, List of accredited organizations <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/accreditation/list-accredited-organizations>
- UNEP, Meet James Wakibia, the campaigner behind Kenya's plastic bag ban  
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/meet-james-wakibia-campaigner-behind-kenyas-plastic-bag-ban>, May 2018
- UNEP, Ten impacts of the Australian bushfires <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ten-impacts-australian-bushfires>
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, The Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought: Methodologies and Analysis for Decision-Making. Background document. UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference. Available from <http://2sc.unccd.int> (accessed 8 March 2013)
- United States Forest Service, May 01, 2019. Technical Consultation on Proposed Bauxite Mining in the Atewa Forest Reserve: 25-29 March 2019
- Unmüßig, B. NGOs and Climate Crisis: Fragmentation, Lines of Conflict and Strategic Approaches <https://www.boell.de/de/ecology/ecology-society-ngos-climate-crisis-12261.html> (June 2011)
- Urbina I, 23rd March 2021, The factories turning West Africa's fish into powder  
<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210323-the-factories-turning-west-africas-fish-into-powder>
- Uwaegbulam C. (Aug 2016) *Environmental vanguards to monitor Ogoni clean-up*  
<https://guardian.ng/property/environmental-vanguards-to-monitor-ogoni-clean-up/>
- Wainwright, C.M., et al. 'Eastern African Paradox' rainfall decline due to shorter not less intense Long Rains. *npj Clim Atmos Sci* 2, 34 (2019)
- Warburton M. et al (Jan. 3, 2020) *The looming risk of tailings dams*  
<https://graphics.reuters.com/MINING-TAILINGS1/0100B4S72K1/index.html>
- Waste Atlas, The World's 50 biggest dumpsites 2014 Report,  
<https://nswai.com/docs/World's%20Fifty%20biggest%20dumpsites,Waste%20Atlas%202014.pdf>
- Watts, J. Africa's Great Green Wall just 4% complete halfway through schedule  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/07/africa-great-green-wall-just-4-complete-over-halfway-through-schedule> (Sept 2020)
- Winston M, NGO strategies for promoting corporate social responsibility in Ethics & International affairs, Vol 16 No 1: 11-23, 2002
- Yamamura, T, *Environmental NGO* (Sinzansya, Tokyo) pages 4–7, 1998

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1. Research Questionnaire**

Dear Respondent,

My name is Judith Nguta, a Masters student at University of Nairobi - Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies.

I kindly request your input in my research titled; The role of diplomacy in environmental protection in Africa: the case of environmental INGOs in Kenya and Nigeria.

The study looks at the dire situation that is environmental degradation in African countries and the negative consequences it has created. It then looks at the various diplomatic tools and efforts that have been put in place to mitigate the impacts and prevent further degradation in Kenya and Nigeria. Lastly, it looks at what international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have done, continue to do and what they could potentially do to tackle the problem in both countries and contribute towards environmental diplomacy.

You have been identified to provide information that will be crucial to the success of this study. Your assistance is highly appreciated.

**Section A: Bio**

1. Country

<b>Country</b>	<b>Tick</b>
Kenya	
Nigeria	

**Section B: Africa’s widespread environmental degradation**

1. a. Have you experienced any form of environmental degradation in your locality/lifetime?

A. YES [ ]

B. NO [ ]

b. If you answered Yes above, please explain what kind of environmental degradation it was/is.

.....  
.....  
.....

2. What, in your opinion, has caused environmental degradation in your country/locality?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. What has been the impact of this environmental degradation?

.....  
.....  
.....

4. Among the issues below, which one do you think has a higher contribution to environmental destruction? Select the appropriate answer

- a. Inadequate policy formulation and implementation
- b. Oil spills
- c. Pollution
- d. Natural disasters
- e. Deforestation
- f. Urbanisation

5. Which of the following would you say is as a result of environmental destruction?

Select all that apply

- a) Desertification
- b) Pollution (Air, Soil, water)
- c) Flooding
- d) Over exploitation of resources
- e) Physical destruction
- f) Exposure to diseases
- g) Poverty
- h) Insecurity

6. Environmental degradation is a major problem in my country. Tick the appropriate answer.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree

**Section C: Environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria; tools and actors**

7. Have you ever participated in any activity meant to protect the environment?

- A. Yes [ ]
- B. No [ ]

If yes:

- i. What nature of activity?.....
- ii. Was the activity sponsored/organised by:  
An NGO

- Government
- Volunteers
- Other (Specify)

8. Are you aware of any recent / major laws and regulations that have been formulated to protect the environment? If, Yes, please list them

.....  
 .....

9. Do you think your government has done enough to protect the environment?

a. If yes, what has been done?

.....  
 .....

If No, what needs to be done?

.....  
 .....

10. Of the entities listed below, which ones do you think have made effort to protect the environment. Tick all that apply

- A. Government
- B. Inter-governmental organisations (e.g African Union, EAC, ECOWAS)
- C. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- D. Corporate organisations (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- E. Activists
- F. Courts
- G. Volunteers
- H. Media

**Section D: INGOs involvement in environmental diplomacy in Kenya and Nigeria**

*Examples of INGOs include Greenpeace, African Wildlife Foundation, Green Belt Movement, etc. One major characteristic is that they operate in more than one country.*

11. There are several International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) that deal with diverse issues around the world. Do you know any that are devoted to environmental protection in your country? If yes, please list a few.

.....  
 .....

12. Do you think International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) are effective in protecting the environment?

a. Please mention any success stories

.....  
 .....

b. If you think they are not effective, what is their downside?

.....

.....

13. Between International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and any other entity you have ticked in No. 10 above, which one do you think is doing a better job in protecting the environment?

.....

.....

**Appendix II. Interview Schedule**

Dear Respondent,

My name is Judith Nguta, a Masters student at University of Nairobi - Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies.

I kindly request your input in my research titled; The role of diplomacy in environmental protection in Africa: the case of environmental INGOs in Kenya and Nigeria.

The study looks at the dire situation that is environmental degradation in African countries and the negative consequences it has created. It then looks at the various diplomatic tools and efforts that have been put in place to mitigate the impacts and prevent further degradation in Kenya and Nigeria. Lastly, it looks at what international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have done, continue to do and what they could potentially do to tackle the problem in both countries and contribute towards environmental diplomacy.

You have been identified to provide information that will be crucial to the success of this study. Your assistance is highly appreciated.

Your name: .....

Your organisation's name:  
.....

1. Your organisation has been involved in environment related activities. What are some of the initiatives that your organisation is doing or has done in Kenya/Nigeria?  
.....  
.....

2. What would you say is the most influential activity/initiative that your organisation has done in the quest to conserve the environment in Kenya/Nigeria? And what was the impact?  
.....  
.....

3. Do you think Africa-born environmental initiatives/organisations are creating desirable impact? Kindly explain your answer

.....  
.....

4. Foreign environmental organisations seem to be more vocal than the locally-formed ones. Why do you think that is the case?

.....  
.....

5. Has your organisation been involved in any treaty making process or environmental negotiation? If yes, please explain more about it

.....  
.....

6. Of the following tasks, which ones does your organisation identify with as part of its routine activities? Select all that apply.

- Participation and contribution in international conventions
- Enjoined in court cases
- Staging/organising protests
- Ecosystem restoration
- Education and capacity building
- Raising awareness on pressing environmental issues
- Publishing reports or press releases on the state of climate negotiations
- Guiding authorities and institutions on climate negotiation
- Other (Specify)

.....

7. Does any of the tasks/activities above have a direct impact on Kenya/Nigeria and how?

.....  
.....

8. What other NGOs would you say have had significant impact in environmental conservation in Kenya/Nigeria?





.....  
.....

9. Is there anything else you would like to share about your organisation's work in Kenya/Nigeria?

.....  
.....


**Appendix III: NACOSTI letter**

  
**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Ref No: **876273** Date of Issue: **14/April/2021**


**RESEARCH LICENSE**




**This is to Certify that Ms., Judith Nguta of University of Nairobi, has been licensed to conduct research in Nairobi on the topic: THE ROLE OF DIPLOMACY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA: THE CASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INGOs IN KENYA AND NIGERIA for the period ending : 14/April/2022.**

License No: **NACOSTI/P/21/9895**

**876273**  
Applicant Identification Number

  
Director General  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &  
INNOVATION**

Verification QR Code



**NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document,  
Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.**

THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013

The Grant of Research Licenses is Guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period
2. The License any rights thereunder are non-transferable
3. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Governor before commencement of the research
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies
5. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) within one year of completion of the research
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation  
off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,  
P. O. Box 30623, 00100 Nairobi, KENYA  
Land line: 020 4007000, 020 2241349, 020 3310571, 020 8001077  
Mobile: 0713 788 787 / 0735 404 245  
E-mail: dg@nacosti.go.ke / registry@nacosti.go.ke  
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke

## Appendix IV: Plagiarism report

### THE ROLE OF DIPLOMACY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA: THE CASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INGOs IN KENYA AND NIGERIA

#### ORIGINALITY REPORT

<b>7</b> %	<b>6</b> %	<b>3</b> %	<b>3</b> %
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

#### PRIMARY SOURCES

<b>1</b>	<a href="http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke">erepository.uonbi.ac.ke</a> Internet Source	<1 %
<b>2</b>	Submitted to Mount Kenya University Student Paper	<1 %
<b>3</b>	<a href="http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke:8080">erepository.uonbi.ac.ke:8080</a> Internet Source	<1 %
<b>4</b>	<a href="http://disasterresiliencenews.com">disasterresiliencenews.com</a> Internet Source	<1 %
<b>5</b>	<a href="http://repository.out.ac.tz">repository.out.ac.tz</a> Internet Source	<1 %
<b>6</b>	Submitted to MLA College Student Paper	<1 %
<b>7</b>	<a href="http://www.nature.com">www.nature.com</a> Internet Source	<1 %
<b>8</b>	<a href="http://www.ntnu.edu">www.ntnu.edu</a> Internet Source	<1 %