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Climate Change and Cross Border Crime in Nigeria

Abstract

Climate change has become a front burner issue globally in recent time. There are now scientific and physical proofs that the climate of the World is changing, evidence include rise in sea levels, desertification, drought, drying up of water resources, increase in temperature, unpredictability and erratic climate conditions. The effects of climate change are already felt in Nigeria in particular and the African continent in general. It has become a threat to all sectors of the nation's socio-economic development, including the natural ecosystems and security of life and property. The aim of this paper is to examine the impact of climate change on the nation's security. This study establishes a nexus between climate change and cross border crime. Functional prerequisite, a theory propounded by Talcott Parsons, was employed to explain the reason why Nigeria's neighbours could not be sustained by their environment as a result of climate change and had to engage in cross border crimes to survive the hardship imposed on them by climate change. This study was carried out in three of Nigeria's borders – Lagos/Benin Republic border, Maiduguri/Chad Republic border and Kano/Niger Republic border. The research method employed in this study is largely that of primary data. In-depth interviews were conducted among sixty-two respondents: Police (23), Customs (18) and Immigration (21). This study found out that climate change has led to an increase in cross border crimes in Africa. It was also ascertained that climate change could lead to an international security breach. This paper, therefore, recommended a low carbon emission economy and the provision of socio-economic sustainability programmes to accelerate the development of the nation.

Key words: border, climate change, security, Nigeria

Introduction

Climate change has brought new perspectives into the security issue in the world today because of its potential danger to the security of the countries that those affected by the aftermaths of the consequences of climate change migrated to. Globally, climate change has become a front burner phenomenon. The pointers to this became obvious in the recently concluded G8 meeting where climate change was the foremost issue over and above the global economic meltdown and other global issues (Department for International Development 2009).

There is now physical and scientific evidence that the climate of the world is changing. Evidence include global rise in sea levels, drought and increasing deser-

tification, drying up of water resources (rivers and lakes), increasing ambient temperature and changing climate seasons. It remains unclear, however, what the character of the new climates would be when fully established. The climate change phenomenon in Africa can be seen in persistent drought, desert encroachment and water scarcity in the north, rising sea level and inundation of coastal lands by sea water in the south, while above average daily minimum and maximum temperature, increasing floods and erosion are being experienced all over the continent. Changing rainfall patterns have the potential to devastate the agriculture on which most of the population of Africa depends to survive and an increased occurrence of drought will eventually lead to a decline in agricultural yields and diminished food availability.

Climate change has unprecedented effects on nation's security. The influx of cattle herdsman to the country from the Niger Republic and the Chad Republic points to the effect of climate change in the West Africa sub-region.

Studies have revealed that most of the high way robberies were committed by the herdsman who were forced to migrate to Nigeria as a result of the effects of climate change in their country (Folami 2010). The incessant religious crisis in the country has also been traced back to these illegal immigrants – The Fulani herdsman in particular (Bala-Gbogbo 2010).

The impacts of climate change are already taking their toll on Nigeria; it is a clear threat to all sectors of socio-economic development, including the natural ecosystems; the impacts of climate change possess palpable threat to the security of the nation, especially those related to cross-border crime. Climate change carries therefore a potential danger capable of leading to unprecedented local/regional disruptions in social systems with the resultant adverse impacts on a fragile nation's security (Federal Ministry of Environment 2009).

In the Southern borders of Nigeria, especially near the Seme and Idiroko borders, foreigners from Togo, Mali and Benin Republic capitalise on the lax border security to "invade" the country to engage in nefarious activities such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, smuggling, car theft, etc. The security of the nation is threatened by the activities of these foreigners whose socio-economic means of survival have been disrupted by climate change with resultant adverse impacts on food security, sustainable life, fresh water resources, human health and settlement (Taiwo 2010). Little or no research has been carried out on climate change and security in Nigeria. Most of the studies on climate change focused largely on the ecosystem and food security. This study is unique in its kind to examine critically the effects of climate change on the nation's security. This study also expects to shed more light on the social impacts of climate change among other things. It will also contribute to the existing literature in the field of environmental sociology and security studies.

There is no more contestation that climate change is a serious threat to the national security and sustainable development of Nigeria because of its serious security breaches in the Northern axis of the nation, especially in Jos and Maiduguri where invaders from the neighbouring countries have killed innocent people with impunity. "These killings are senseless and outrageous. Direct attacks on civilians are prohibited under international law and show a complete disregard for the right to live", said Tawanda Hondora, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for Africa.

“Boko Haram must stop its reign of terror in the country. No cause can justify the deliberate targeting of civilians” (Hondora 2011).

However, there is a lack of clear knowledge, awareness and baseline information for the security sectors head, policy makers, academia and the Nigerian populace in general about the security threats posed to the nation by the climate change enforced migration into the country. Most of the killings, bombings, kidnappings and armed robberies in the country are attributed to “Boko Haram” who are based in the North of the country without looking at the willingness of climate change affected forced migrants from neighbouring countries who volunteer themselves as suicide bombers and willing tools in the hands of terrorist organizations in the country. Boko Haram has said that some of its members received training in Somalia, indicating some ties with Al-Qaeda-linked groups such as Al Shebab. Some of the sect’s members are also believed to have been trained in Algeria and Afghanistan. Initially made up of university graduates and dropouts from wealthy and middle-class families, Boko Haram, which initially went by the name of the “Nigerian Taliban”, made its debut in January 2004 (Aminu 2011).

The general objective of this study therefore is to provide the knowledge, awareness and guidance for sector reforms, academia and the general public. This study is also designed to examine the impact of climate change on the socio-economic life of the nation and to identify the areas of vulnerability to the national security resulting from climate change. This paper also intends to examine the forms of social relations (religious/ethnic crises) that have developed as a result of climate change.

Theoretical Standpoints

Social Conflict Theory provides theoretical explanation for this study. Social Conflict Theory is a Marxist-based Social Theory which argues that individuals and groups within society have differing amounts of material and nonmaterial resources and that the most powerful groups use their power in order to exploit groups with less power. The theory provides an explanation for how migrants are trained and financed to cause a security threat in Nigeria. According to Fisher (2011), in relation to Boko Haram, after having long regarded the Islamist sect as a localised problem, security sources have told the BBC that they now believe the radical Islamist group receives training and expertise from outside of Nigeria.

Functional prerequisite, a theory propounded by Talcot Parson, was also employed to explain the reason why Nigeria’s neighbours could not be sustained by their environment as a result of climate change and had to engage in cross border crimes to survive hardship impinged on them by the variability of climate.

According to Ritzer (2006), functional prerequisite provides an explanation for environmental adaptation, societal goals attainment, integration and the maintenance of patterns. Though it was propounded in the 19th century, the theory is still relevant to the explanation of the survival of a social system in the modern day world. The AGIL schema was discussed by Talcot Parson (1969) to imply: Adaptation, Goal, Integration and Latent.

Adaptation: A system must be able to cope with external exigencies, i.e. a system cannot be an island to itself because of the external forces around which it is propelled to cope with. The system must be able to adapt to its environment and adapt to the needs of its environment.

Goal Attainment: A system must be of necessity define and achieve its goals, aims and objectives.

Integration: A system must regulate the inter-relationship of its component parts. It must also manage the relationship among the other three functional prerequisites.

Latency/Pattern maintenance: A system must furnish, maintain and renew both motivation of individuals and its cultural pattern that create and sustain the motivation.

In the meantime, vulnerable countries are rapidly dealing with an increasingly warmer world. Until the rich world speeds up its journey to the inevitable low carbon future, many poorer countries are forced to focus on adaptation. There is no silver bullet to deal with climate change. It demands unprecedented creativity and commitment both to adapt to the present and future changes and to shift radically to a smart development founded on low carbon thinking. That alteration will be most urgent when individuals, business and governments begin to sense the connection between their choice, the prospects of the poorest people and the fate of the single planet we share (Klaus 2007).

Method

Climate change has always been so severe in Africa, therefore this study was carried out in Nigeria. Three notorious borders that are well known as the beehives of cross border crimes were selected: two borders from the north and one border from the south-west. The southern borders were not chosen because they are waterways borders. The selected borders were purposely chosen because of their unique characteristics. The Maiduguri border is close to the Chad Republic. Maiduguri is predominantly inhabited with the Fulani people. These people are mostly of Islamic faith. The Chad Republic shares the same socio-religious characteristics with the Maiduguri people. It has become difficult to differentiate the Maiduguri and Chad people based on religion, colour, language and culture.

Kano borders provide an avenue for Nigerians to enter Nigeria at will. The Nigerians, like the Kano people, are predominantly Muslims and nomads.

Differentiation in terms of colour, dress, language and culture is also difficult. The border selected in the south-west is close to the Benin Republic. These people have a lot in common in terms of language, culture, customs and physical appearance. It was revealed that the scramble and partition of Africa which took place at the Berlin Conference (Germany) in 1878 led to the balkanization of the people with the same affinity and historical tradition with the Yoruba in south-west Nigeria, such as the people in the south of the Benin Republic, Ghana and Togo. These people speak the same language, share the same names, have intermarried and keep the Yoruba tradition and culture.

The Benin Republic was colonized by France while Nigeria was colonized by the British. The Benin Republic depends economically on Nigeria. Nigeria is richer in mineral deposits such as oil, gas, iron ore, bitumen and it has the largest internal market in Africa. Benin is a good market for second hand cars and other consumable goods like lace, provisions, jewellery, groceries, electronics, frozen food and other food items.

The sample of the respondents chosen for this research was taken from duty rosters of the Police, Immigration and Customs. The duty rosters helped the researcher to determine the population and sample of security officers sent on routine duties to the borders. The secondary source forms the basis for the selection of security officers. The following distributions of samples were obtained based on the systematic random technique adopted:

Table 1. Population and sample

Border	Police		Custom		Immigration		Total	
	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
Maiduguri/Chad	81	23	41	18	63	21	185	62
Kano/Niger	79	23	52	18	60	21	200	62
Lagos/Benin	84	23	56	18	60	21	200	62
Total	244	69	149	54	174	63	567	186

Source: Duty Rosters (Police, Customs and Immigration) 2009

Legend:

P = Population

S = Sample

In Table 1, out of the total population of the selected 567 security agents, 186 samples were chosen for the in-depth interviews. The following is the distribution of respondents selected in each of the three locations: Police (23), Customs (18) and Immigration (21).

The in-depth interviews schedule consists of structured questions with 26 items. The researcher ensured that any officer who had spent at least five years in the job participated in the interviews. Also, it was ensured that the interviews were carried out at the duty posts of the selected respondents.

The data collected was analyzed using a thematic analysis method. In each theme, cases were provided to give an in-depth understanding to the variables. Inferences and conclusions were drawn from the data collected to suggest the conclusions and recommendations.

Findings

The respondent's knowledge about climate change and understanding of it in relation with the security issues was looked into. Contrary to the general belief that knowledge and understanding of climate change are not well developed among the people of Africa, the excerpts from the conducted interviews revealed that respondents had a sound understanding and knowledge of the impacts of climate change on security.

How do you come upon information on changes in weather forecasts?

I come about information on weather forecast on TV and radio stations. What will happen to the climate next day or a week later is always announced on the television. This at all time prepares me for any eventuality. Here in Maiduguri, the physical manifestation of climate change is overwhelming. Weather has become unpredictable, drought sets are unexpectable and surprising weather has become so inclement! At times, we sleep outside the house, in the open air because of the unusual heat. The unusual weather has brought about with it various forms of diseases that affect both human beings and animals. We have been experiencing this for a long time now, to be specific, for close to a decade now (Police, Maiduguri)

This issue of climate change is a global phenomenon. I was told that the effects of climate change have brought about natural disasters in most parts of the world. It has led to tsunami in the Asian part of the world in 2001, hurricane and earthquake in countries like Haiti, Chile, New Orleans and other Latin American countries. Here in Nigeria, the effects are more felt in the area of desert encroachment, drought, landslide, thunderstorm, gully erosion, acidic rain – black rain (Customs, Kano)

Climate change is not a new physical, social and environmental problem. Climate changes unexpectedly [...] my major concern is this unpredictability of weather. Rain falls when least expected, harmattan sets in when not yet its period, dry season starts when rains is expected. All these have affected people's sustenance and people's ways of life. I was informed by a security officer from the neighbouring country – Benin Republic, that climate change has affected their people more than expected, as a result of this, their people drift to Nigeria at a slightest opportunity. Climate change is pandemic! It does not affect us alone in this country; it affects our neighbours more than us. The impacts are more felt in the desperation of foreigners attempting to cross the borders to this country. If the effects of climate change are not curtailed or ameliorated, I am afraid, it could lead to population explosion, food insecurity, insecurity of life and property (Police, Lagos)

[...] On the matter of climate, I began to entertain fear when Lagos lagoon started submerging. Though climate change is a natural phenomenon it is caused by human activities on earth. The gas flaring in the Niger Delta is a major problem. The carbon releases into the air affects the ozone layers. Our economy has not gone green in this nation. We depend on motor vehicles as a means of transportation. No functional water transport, our railway system is in comatose. In Lagos, change in climate has led to ocean surge. Excessive rain has become a regular occurrence. In fact, climate change is a major challenge to us, we are in a fix! Illegal immigrants are everywhere. The capacity of security officials has been overstretched. How can we handle the attendant crimes perpetrated by these illegal immigrants? (Immigration, Lagos)

The respondents' knowledge about climate change raised issues about the causes of climate change. From the above, the respondents agreed that climate change has become a phenomenon. Most of the respondents are highly educated, they are knowledgeable on the issues concerning their environment and some are

“scientists” in security uniform while some are social science graduates. When asked about the likely causes of climate change, their responses are more revealing.

What are the factors responsible for climate variability?

We hear of climate change, global warming and other threats to atmosphere. Climate change is caused by factors we are all familiar with human factors. Climate change is a threat to the whole planet! Industrialization is the major cause of climate change. The emissions in the developing countries are generally low, the effects of global warming hit us hardest in Africa, storm and floods are more common and more devastating. Higher temperature gives killer diseases like malaria and skin cancer the chance to spread more quickly. Crops fail as rainy seasons shrink and fertile land is desertified. Rivalry over land, minerals, forage, food and water has led to conflict and unprecedented migration in West Africa (Immigration, Lagos)

Our activities as individual(s) are not green. We have cut down most trees in the forest without replacing them. Deforestation has set in, our economy is not green and we use wood charcoal in traditional cooking stoves. Our level of carbon emissions into the air is too high in volume. All these have bandwagon effects on the climate. Climate change is an international reality that must be tackled by all of us (Police, Lagos)

Nexus between Climate Change and Cross Border Crimes

Climate change affects Nigerian neighbours like Chad and the Niger Republic more that it affects Nigeria itself but Nigeria experiences the aftermath more than they do. Most of the people of the affected countries cross over to Nigeria. The neighbouring countries have experienced floods at high magnitude, acid rain, unprecedented drought, food scarcity and desert encroachment thus forcing them out of their countries and to migrate to Nigeria. Disasters such as mudslides, floods, outbreak of diseases, droughts have claimed thousands of lives, animals and ruined millions of organisms. According to Olukoya (2009), disasters come more slowly but are equally devastating. In parts of Niger, food crisis builds up gradually, occurring about every three years. Thousands of people cross over to Nigeria yearly from Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Guinea because of the adverse effects of climate change.

What are the security implications of climate change to the country?

People cross our national frontiers willingly. Nigeria receives more people than what her economy can sustain. Globalization contributes to these loose borders. The territories that have been affected by climate change brought about increases in crime rate in the country. It is no surprise that most of the armed robbers arrested are from either Niger Republic or Chad or Burkina Fasso. Most of them are involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking and other forms of heinous crimes. We, the security agents, watch these foreigners crossing our borders but we do not have a choice than to give them free passage because you must be your brother's keeper. We are all Africans. The same blood flows in us. Country's territories are artificial barriers used to divide us (Immigration, Kano)

Cross border crimes have increased beyond imagination with problems of climate change. Disasters have made some Fulanis in the Niger Republic and Chad leave their countries and sojourn in Nigeria. These people are religious and stark supporters of Islamic religion. They formed different Islamic movements when migrated into the country. Events in the country in the last two decades are highly disturbing, most religious crises in the country were caused by these illegal migrants. They came as herdsmen but later engaged in robbery and religious activities to disturb the peace of the nation. Maiduguri religious crisis is still fresh in memories! Kano crisis is damning!! terrorism in Jos is condemnable!!! Gombe is not left out. All these could be traced to the foreigners who want to force their religious beliefs on the entire nation. These illegal immigrants are not literate enough to know that Nigeria is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-culture nation (Police, Maiduguri)

Most migrants whose means of livelihood have been affected in their home country cross over to Nigeria to involve in cross border crimes. Can you imagine! Most of the stolen vehicles in Nigeria have been traced to the Republic of Benin. Benin/Nigeria border have become beehives of activities for smugglers, human traffickers and freedom fighters (Customs, Lagos)

Fulani/Hausa herdsmen have abandoned their homestead and moved southward the country as a result of lack of forage for their cattle. They transport cows to Lagos, after selling their cows, they settle permanently here in Lagos, most especially in Lagos suburbs. Conflict and religious crisis have been their trademarks. Imagine those that were arrested at Abule Taylor had no lineage to Nigeria. They are either from Niger Republic, Chad, Togo or Ivory Coast. Most of the attackers in Abule Egba ethno-religious crisis and Katangoa crisis were illegal foreigners from neighbouring countries' (Immigration, Lagos)

I cannot fathom the reason why our borders are so porous. Foreigners migrated into the country without decorum. Most of the pipeline invaders arrested recently along Badagry road are foreigners. The facts were obtained when interrogating them, they said disasters, drought, lack of means of survival forced them out of their country. One of them said that the dry up of Lake Chad affected their livestock. Most of their livestock died in the desert. For them to survive, they had to cross the frontiers to settle down in Nigeria (Police, Lagos)

A notorious armed robber arrested along the Seme/Badagry border said that floods experienced in their country – Guinea – two years ago made them abandon their country and engage in car theft and armed robbery along West Africa coast. They said that their environment can no longer sustain them. They lack coping mechanism to the effects of climate change. Adaptation to new weather has become problematic. Nigeria is bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change on other parts of Africa! (Police, Lagos)

Confession given by a human trafficker arrested by our men along Badagry border revealed that climate change has affected most countries along the West Africa borders. A trafficker said that the young ladies and boys caught with him are those who lost their parents to floods, hunger, drought and diseases which change in climatic condition has

brought about. Cross border crimes in the last two decades continue to be skyrocketed. Only God can save us. This is beyond human comprehension (Immigration, Kano)

Climate Change and Internal Security

The effects of climate change on the nation's security cannot be overemphasized. Climate change has affected the nation's social, economic and political configuration. The security of Nigeria is intermittently breached as a result of a series of religious crises caused by illegal aliens who had been forced to leave their countries as a result of the effects of climate change. The influx of aliens to the country is another area that calls for concern. This has definitely impacted food security, the security of lives and property. It will also have a demographic effect such as over-population, pressure on land, pressure on inadequate social and economic infrastructures. Climate change and its effects are capable of subverting the national security and divide the nation along ethno-religious lines.

Can you provide more insight into the effects of climate change on the nation's internal security?

Yes, Nigeria has been a peaceful nation until recently when foreigners "invaded" this country and made Nigeria a volatile nation. Our government has not been able to tackle the influx of illegal immigrants from Chad and Niger Republic because of identification, language and customs similarity. To combat border security breach, monitoring camera (CCTV) must be mounted at the border posts. Also, I think satellite imagery capturing machine could be used to monitor our borders (Immigration, Kano)

We have not been so keen about internal security in this country. If care is not taken, the entire nation will be consumed with terrorist attacks capable of destroying the basis of our existence. Our borders are porous, our police are demobilized. Lack of logistics continues to be their undoing. No cooperation among the security agents at the border posts to tackle drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling, armed robbery, arms and ammunition smuggling. Corruption among security agents made borders' control more problematic. My suggestion to this problem is to appeal to the international community to help the countries affected by drought, floods, diseases and other forms of climate change aftermath to provide them with coping mechanism and assist them to reduce carbon emission activities (Police, Lagos)

Maintenance of Security

The security of lives and property is central to the survival of any nation. Security operatives along the border must rise to the occasion. Governments in West Africa must work together to provide security along border posts. No security is sustainable if the neighbouring countries are not at peace.

The international community, most especially the developed nations of the world, have roles to play before the effects of climate change lead to the breakdown of law and order in countries that lack the capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change.

How can we ensure internal security taking into account the consequences of climate change?

Our economy depends on carbon, for us to fight climate change, our economy must become green. We must depend less on any form of human activity that could affect the ozone layer. International cooperation among countries with a common international frontier is very important. A joint patrol of security personnel involving the countries in the West Africa sub-region is important. Climate change has also increased inter-communal crises along the border posts. Adaptation is also important in the country affected by climate change (Police, Lagos)

Yes, adaptation is the key answer to the countries affected by climate change. Coping mechanism must be developed among the citizens affected by the climate change to reduce influx of people in the affected regions of the country. It is unfortunate that most neighbouring countries are poor, they are vulnerable. And they do not have coping capacity. Rich countries in the world must come to their assistance. I read in the dailies that the rich countries are responsible for three-quarters of green house gas emissions; the poorest nations bear the consequences of western industrialization (Immigration, Lagos)

Let's give support to our neighbouring countries, let's promote low carbon economy in the world, let's secure the future of this planet together, let's give support to fight global warming, let's reduce black carbon emissions. One way out of this is to encourage people in developing countries to replace their traditional cooking stoves with one that use solar energy or are designed to burn wood more efficiently to reduce the production of soot (Customs, Kano)

CO₂ emission must be cut. In Africa, we depend on activities that promote climate change. Let's work together and give support to poor countries in the world which cannot cope with the effects of climate change – by doing this, national security is guaranteed. But if the countries with low coping capability to survive the adverse affects of climate change are left alone to their challenges, the bandwagon effects will be catastrophic. On the final analysis, I will suggest the formation of Special Regional Police (SRP) to monitor climate change induced crimes along the border posts. And special Disaster Monitoring Unit (SDMU) to monitor and evaluate the climate in the region (Police, Kano)

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study of climate change is relatively new in Nigeria. This study borrowed extensively from the respondents' knowledge and views more than from a literary review. The theoretical standpoints demonstrate the adaptation and mechanism for coping that must be in place for the survival of those who were affected by climate change. The theory looked at the relationship between climate change and security. For a society affected by climate change to survive, an adaptation mechanism must be provided.

Climate change is no longer an absolutely scientific or geographical issue because of its social manifestations and environmental effects on human survival, food security, national security and the future of the universe. Climate change has been so pervasive that people have developed psychological unrest as a result of its consequences. In March 2010, there was a weather forecast on the sudden re-appearance of what looks like harmattan occasioned by the sandy storms from the Sahara desert. Acid rain was predicted as a possible outcome. Nigerians were warned not to allow the acid rain to touch their body because it could lead to body cancer. Panic, social insecurity, speculations, rumours and uncertainty characterized the entire period (Nation 2010).

This study constitutes a unique undertaking in explaining security as a correlate of climate change. The unit of security focused on by this study, that is cross border crime, gives a clearer understanding of the relationship between climate change and security. The epistemological concern is the basis for the security breach which this paper was able to explain. This concern was intuitively explored by deploying an appropriate theoretical framework: Social System Theory propounded by Talcot Parson; AGIL Schema – Adaptation; Goal; Integration; and Latent Maintenance. This was also supported by a robust method of enquiry – a qualitative method of data collection which depends extensively on in-depth interviews among the selected security operatives along Nigeria’s borders. The in-depth interviews provided revealing data on the security situation occasioned by climate change. It was revealed that climate change has led to the preponderance of cross border crimes in recent times. Most of the cross border crimes were perpetrated by the nations of neighbouring countries, whose means of sustenance have been affected by climate change – unpredictable weather.

Respondents’ knowledge was tested relatively to the climate change and its effects on cross border crimes. The respondents in different socio-geographical locations demonstrated a unique experience of climate change. They revealed that their sources of information about climate change were radio, television and news’ daily weather forecasts.

Media globalization has helped in information dissemination among the respondents because most of the respondents referred intuitively to the effects of climate change in other parts of the world such as tsunamis in Asia, hurricanes in Latin America, the earthquake in Haiti, droughts in Africa’s Sahara Desert, floods in West Africa, earthquakes and mudslides in Europe.

Most of the selected respondents were highly educated; they provided useful information on the spill over effects of climate change on other countries.

The nexus between climate change and cross border crimes was also established in this study. It was found out that disasters such as floods, outbreak of diseases, drought and mudslides in neighbouring countries like the Niger Republic, the Chad Republic and the Benin Republic have spill over effects on the security of the nation. Climate change has also led to an influx of foreigners into the country. These foreigners engaged in activities such as smuggling, armed robbery, human trafficking, car theft, kidnapping and hired assassination.

The security implications of a relatively open border, a principle promoted by globalization, and the myth of African brotherhood are inundated. Lax borders have led to a series of security breaches and almost a total collapse of the basis of existence of the Nigerian nation. Also, this has been found to be one of the factors that influence terrorism in Nigeria. If climate change is not well handled and managed it can lead to such an avalanche of humanitarian crises in Africa, as yet unwitnessed in the history of mankind.

The support of the industrialized nations of the world is sought to reduce carbon emissions, cut black carbon emissions in Africa and provide support for the poor nations in Africa so that adaptation, coping and management of the effects of climate change are not a problem.

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Streszczenie

Zmiany klimatyczne stały się ostatnio kluczowym problemem w skali globalnej. Istnieją dowody naukowe i przyrodnicze (podniesienie poziomu mórz, pustynnienie, susze, wysychanie źródeł wody, wzrost temperatury, nieprzewidywalność i nieregularność warunków klimatycznych) wskazujące na to, że klimat na świecie ulega zmianie. Skutki zmian klimatycznych odczuwalne są nie tylko w Nigerii, ale na całym kontynencie afrykańskim. Stwarzają zagrożenie dla wszystkich społeczno-gospodarczych sektorów rozwoju kraju, m.in. dla naturalnych ekosystemów oraz bezpieczeństwa życia i mienia. Celem artykułu jest zbadanie wpływu zmian klimatycznych na bezpieczeństwo narodowe.

W badaniu postulowany jest związek pomiędzy zmianami klimatycznymi i przestępczością transgraniczną. W celu odpowiedzi na pytanie dlaczego w wyniku zmian klimatycznych zasoby środowiskowe w krajach sąsiadujących z Nigerią okazały się niewystarczające, zaś mieszkańcy tych krajów, próbując przetrwać klęskę,

musieli zaangażować się w przestępczość transgraniczną, zastosowano paradygmat funkcjonalistyczny w ujęciu Talcotta Parsonsa. Badanie zrealizowano na trzech granicach Nigerii: Lagos (granica z Beninem), Maiduguri (granica z Czadem) oraz Kano (granica z Nigrem). W analizie użyto głównie danych pierwotnych. Wywiady pogłębione objęły 62 respondentów: policjantów (23), celników (18) i funkcjonariuszy służby imigracyjnej (21). Wyniki badania wskazują na zwiększenie przestępczości transgranicznej w Afryce wskutek zmian klimatycznych. Stwierdzają także stwarzane przez nie zagrożenie dla bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego.