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CURRENT ECOLOGICAL TENDENCIES IN AFRICA

Africa remains the most affected by environmental degradation, thereby exacerbating the negative effect of climate change in the region. Little empirical credence has been leaned to the institution-environmental sustainability relationship in Africa. Africa environment has been changing for years, but the broader concerns of public health deterioration remain unresolved. In Africa, challenges of environmental pollution, rising population growth, and inaccessibility to clean water are some of the impediments recorded in the public health discourse. From the problems of gas flaring in the Niger Delta in Nigeria to malnutrition in Somalia and oil spillage in Angola, the Africa environmental degradation cases go on and on causing nearly one out of four deaths in the region (World Health Organization). Since the development of Africa nations has been linked to industrialisation, the growth trajectory of carbon emission has doubled at the least. While Africa's search for inclusive growth and poverty eradication continues, little attention has been paid to the consequences of these environments degrading growth strategies.

It should be noted that public health ranks most prominent among our priorities as human. As such, our consumption pattern in terms of intake and inhalation plays a significant role in our overall well-being. The stake for a paradigm shift to pollution abatement strategies to growth in Africa cannot be higher if we are conscious about realising the Africa 2063 Agenda. At a time when the world is panicking due to death recorded from COVID-19 and other associated disease outbreaks, Africa relatively less affected is not ready for the consequences of an environment that is continuously degraded. The herbal solution made primarily from the forest is the conventional source of medics for rural Africa. When massive deforestation is encouraged to aid urbanisation, the fortress that Africans relied on for a long time will become illusionary in the face of impending crisis. There is no gainsaying that Africa nations have limited institutional and technical capacities to tackle sustainability and environmental, ethical issues. In recent times, it is becoming apparent that the age-long influence of colonisation, globalisation, and urbanisation negatively impinged on the African environmental ethics, indigenous and local knowledge systems. The eras of state

colonialism, post-independence growth trajectories, urbanisation, and globalisation have redefined the accessibility and usage of natural resources in Africa. The Africa environmental sustainability challenges are not unconnected to collapsed and faded indigenous and local knowledge system. Before the introduction of forest mining in Africa, the forest has been a cohort that epitomises power, origin, wealth, sacredness, and security to the African people. The adoption of democratic dispensation in most African countries against the conventional monarchical system of governance was an apparent beginning of to the paradigm shift in natural resource accessibility and usage which have a clear footprint on the environmental degradation manifestations in Africa. Thus, the type of governance structure and institutional framework in a nation, in turn, becomes the most pervasive factor that determines the depth of environmental quality or degradation that a country can experience. Democratic dispensation, natural resource management options, interactions of states with social actors, quality of laws, and enforcement strategies in place to safeguard the environment are essential elements of institutions and governance for the realisation of desirable environmental sustainability objectives. Since governance at most general level involves collective bargaining for societal gains, there is an urgent need for the state environmental management objectives to be socially just and ecologically equitable. With the goals of African 2063 Agenda (the Africa we want) in sight, leaning empirical credence for inch-perfect policy formulation becomes apt and imperative.

The role of strong institutions in ensuring environmental quality extends to the public sector growth in terms of basic amenities including housing, efficient road networks, functional healthcare facilities, and more. The rising number of middle-class Africans, which has recently exceeded 300 million, is often associated with anti-environmental sustainability consumerism. Higher income is associated with higher demands. In a mixed economic system, as evident in most African nations, the role of governance in coordinating basic amenities in a manner that does not deface the environment is crucial. Some African countries like South Africa, Egypt, and recently Rwanda made a giant stride in resolving environmental issues borne out of the housing deficiencies of their resident; however, majority of other African nation still experiences significant mismatch in the housing provision which has dire ecological implications. It is not entirely out of place to say urbanisation in Africa is enmeshed in flawed logic and failures to comply with decarbonisation strategies amidst rising income of the region will result into equivalence loss in the environment which will eventually match their previously accrued gains from industrialisation. Recently, African urban centres have witnessed significant expansion that threatens their environment. In major cities across Africa, idle and undeveloped lands are becoming scarce. With the growing number of buildings that forms the pillar of urbanisation and globalisation of major cities across Africa, the natural cycles of rainwater are disrupted

since concrete lidding of floors interrupts them from soaking into the grounds, thus making the African natural environment to take a hit.

Increased houses across Africa would lead to higher environmental pollution because their usage is connected to the rising growth trajectory of carbon emission. In resolving the ambiguity of urban sprawl, Africa government ordinances towards environmental degradation are essential and need to be studied. It becomes apt to appropriate data and methodology to be able to lean empirical credence to the institution-environmental sustainability discourse to inform policy direction and research on the subject matter. For low carbon emission strategies and a safe Africa, African government needs to explore innovative environmental problem-solving strategies (Hewitt 2013). Since governments are at the helm of affairs, they can pass laws to protect public health and create regulations to enforce them. The essence of governance is to protect its citizens and to preserve the environment and attendant resources from ecological footprints and hazardous wastes. The quantitative effects of this government environmental ordinances remain a prior unclear and need to be studied. The ecological economics literature in Africa focused on scrutinising the role of industries and businesses with regard to global and local ecosystems. Technological improvement in the region has apparently shown the footprints of big polluters, but little is known about how the government aids or abates environmental degradation in Africa with respect to their institutional capacities. It is not even entirely clear whether the government engage big polluters in litigation processes and what does the quality of existing laws and orders, public sector strength in terms of government effectiveness, and the quality of regulations means for environmental sustainability in Africa. Without these empirical credence, it remains extremely difficult to establish evidence-based patterns of individuals' and households' unsustainable consumption, behaviours, and commitments to sustainability in Africa. Foley et al argued that for environmental solutions to be effective, there is a need to embellish them in moral characters. At the helm of discouraging a national practice of environmental degradation are the government laws and enforcement strategies, particularly when it comes to asking the public to recycle materials, reduce travel, or switch off lights. Estimating the quantitative influence of institutions and governance for transformation to environmental sustainability is essential in policy formulation and development objectives towards the moral reforms.

Going forward, leaders at all levels need to tackle the SDGs head-on with a comprehensive and interconnected approach to optimise resources. Since this approach seeks vertical and horizontal coordination, it needs determined and logically framed action strategies for assuring synergies. The domestication method must go beyond mainstreaming the SDGs into national policies. It must attempt to contextualise both the target and its symbols to local socio-economic certainties.