

Towards A Green Growth and Inclusive Development in Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract: - This paper examines the efforts made so far in the evolution of a sustainable development trail of a green economy in Cross River State and looks at how the drive towards Green Economy can metamorphose to the much preferred inclusive and sustainable growth, the development of Cross River State and the Nigerian economy at large. The paper also attempts to review the key components of a Green Economy. The relevant sectors were analysed in terms of green growth policies to see what economic benefits the state stands to gain on the prospective drive to a green economy. The study revealed that green economy holds ample opportunities especially for those sectors studied. Recommendations to enable the state and Nigeria successfully transit to a green economy were made.

Keywords: - Green economy, sustainable development, environment, economic planning, GDP.

INTRODUCTION

Nature is vital to the pursuit and attainment of a strong and developed economy, the populace and the social order through the endowment of many services of the environment. That notwithstanding, the impact of the flora and the fauna on an economy has often been underrated by many economies. Governments, investors, and individuals do not consider the effect of their decisions on the environment as well as the effect of the environment on their decisions. The role of every government however is to provide basic amenities for the citizens maintain law and order and most importantly, as a source of revenue to provide these 'public services', is maintaining a steady and healthy growth in the economy in terms of its GDP. The way and means of achieving these goals of government without exhausting the resources available for future generation is what many economists have continued to pounder upon. Nigeria as a country before independence and just before the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity, enjoyed a relatively healthy environment, with the cultivation of groundnuts, sugarcane, cassava, palm produce etc. not saying that the methods then were the best, but upon the

discovery of the Black Gold, the country has experienced horrific environmental degradation such as oil spillage, posing of the water(s) with toxic waste which has not been properly dealt with, making the activities of this sector of the economy and many more to contravene the current fight for climate change and push for a 'green economy'. Cross River State like Nigeria with lots of idle hands willing to work is blessed enormously with arable land, with which she can produce from cocoa, rubber, timber, palm produce etc. limestone, tin ore and the rest, with the current drive of government to position the economy on a path of high productivity, it therefore necessary to explore a new development strategy. One which would take into consideration the environment and the current drive for climate change which will bring about an economy that is sustainable, and hence, a balanced level of development across the state through inclusive growth. Noting that sustainable economic development is to identify that environment and economic development are not exclusive of one another but go hand-in-hand and interdependent and in the long run, mutually reinforcing (Osmond, Uwazie, 2015).

So developing a green economy for the state will not only preserve the ecosystem but generate new opportunities for trade and investment, stimulating green growth and consequently, sustainable development, therefore, promoting the green economy framework in Nigeria at large. The general motive/direction of this paper is aimed at examining how a drive for an economy tagged 'GREEN' can result to the much needed inclusive growth of Cross River State and Nigeria at large. This research work bridges the gap left by most researchers who have mostly concentrated on the impact of this proposed economic system on Nigeria, leaving the relevance to the sub-national units blank. A country cannot exist without its units, and the welfare and economic performance of these units (in this context Cross River State) has a major role to play in understanding the possible outcome if the 'Green Economy' concept is adopted.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

A green economy is said to be an economy which is based on decreasing the risks caused to the environment and ecological scarcities, with the aim of sustainable development without destroying the balance of the environment. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) representing global businesses sees a green economy as "one in which economic growth and environmental responsibility work together hand-in-hand while supporting progress on social welfare and development". A UNEP report "Towards a green economy" defined a green economy as "one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities." From the report, a Green economy is hinged on three major pillars

1. A technology base that leaves low-carbon footprints
2. Efficient use of resources
3. Socially inclusive economic growth.

This framework would be of particular importance to Cross River State and Nigeria at large. The severe cases of poverty in the midst of plenty and

the extensive environmental degradation across all regions in Nigeria, which has been associated to the increased dependence on natural resources which are in ways which are inefficient for livelihood activities; which further reinforces the cycle of under-development. The concept of an economy that is environmentally friendly is linked with economics of ecology, but with politically applied provisions. The UNEP report 2011 on Green Economy, argued "that to be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair. Fairness here implies recognizing global and country-level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive." Karl Burkart (2012) is of the opinion that the green economy should be structured on 6 main sectors, which are; Renewable energy, Green buildings, Sustainable transport, Water management, Waste management, Land management. No doubt, that business in Nigeria will do better guided by the principle of sustainable production with overwhelming opportunities for profit, expansion and employment generation. But beyond this, sustainable production will extricate negative externalities. As the demand for a wide range of products continues to rise and environmental issues like climate change which is one of the front burners now amongst government and international agencies and increasingly affect policies and businesses, it therefore becomes more and more pertinent for businesses to take into consideration sustainability issues early on in the development process of their goods and services.

A move towards a green economy framework has the tendencies to provide Cross River State and Nigeria as a whole, with incredible opportunities to benefit from their rich natural resource endowments as the state and country attempt to attain sustainable development. Achieving the potential benefits of a green economy however, will involve the Nigerian government putting in place a framework of institutions for which a functional and vibrant National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD) will be pivotal. For a smooth

and successful transition to a green economy, Nigeria must take full advantage of the report from the Trade policy and Planning Unit of UNEP. The report is a key element of the Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project (GE – TOP), and states the types of opportunities that could arise as a result of the switch. The necessity for green products and processes that are environment complainant is aided by the increasing opportunities with regards to market desirability and added value. Also a sustainable agricultural method can sufficiently increase productivity and result in a growing market for business-to-business trade in the authentication and certification of production methods and goods produced. Moreover, the green energy sector is currently seen as a growing and potentially large industry which is economically viable, and growing market economies are becoming significant players in the trade in environmental goods and services. These five enabling conditions are identified by the report.

- “Strategic investment and spending: economic infrastructure, targeted education programmes technical assistance and access to sustainable energy should be considered crucial.”
- “Market – based instruments: Subsidies to unsustainable products should be reformed and environmental and social costs should be factored into pricing policies”.
- The Improvement of available institutions for regulation on a national level, transparency and accountability of such institutions.
- “International frameworks: These are necessary for technology skills and resource transfer and dissemination.”
- “Enhancing dialogue and capacity building: Facilitate and support trade opportunities that arise, particularly with regard to access to export markets.”

From the final report presented to the commission, the conditions which was put forward as it relates to business/intra-industry and collaborative action for

a shift to a green economy are proffered are Open and competitive markets; Metrics, accounting, and reporting; Finance and investment; Awareness; Life cycle approach; Resource efficiency and decoupling; Employment; Education and skills; Governance and partnership; Integrated policy and decision-making; and Ecological Measurements.

For growth in any economy to be considered as sustainable and effective in decreasing poverty, it has to be inclusive, this is according to Berg et al 2011a; Kraay, 2004. The Commission on Growth and Development in 2008 noted that inclusiveness is an idea that incorporates equity, equality of opportunity, and protection in market and employment transitions is an essential ingredient of any successful growth strategy. Given the need to attain inclusive growth among nations of the world, the understanding of what it means exactly still eludes most development institutions, leaving the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and IPC-IG (International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth), to define it differently given their understanding. Given these disparity, the ADB shares its frustrations, thus; some of these concepts are vague and do not lend themselves to easy quantitative operationalization, whilst others are quite specific but do not capture the essence of the concept. Further complicating matters, the World Bank defines inclusive growth in ways that are at odds with the ADB concept. Moreover the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and academia have all produced a range of policy documents on closely related concepts (e.g. pro-poor growth and equal opportunity). Though a clear definition may not be agreed upon by the major stakeholders in international development, one point is clear, that the wellbeing and human development outcomes has to do with more than just growth. So the ability to transform income growth into social outcomes and wellbeing has become a burning issue in the inclusive growth strategy discussion.

Inclusive Growth is about involvement, it ensures that all parties are involved in the growth route, in terms of policymaking for organizing the growth movement as well as in process of growth itself. On the other-hand, it makes sure that all parties has an equitable stake in the benefits that accrue as a result of the growth. "Involvement without benefiting will make growth unjust and sharing benefits without participation will make it a welfare outcome." (ADB, 2013. Pg. 23). Inclusive growth is seen differently from a "welfarist" line or put simply the (re)distribution of wealth". Inclusive growth comes about by growing opportunities, and improving access to these prospects, either for the majority or most principally for the most ostracized" (IPC-IG and ADB 2013).

This therefore means that this new type of growth will be difficult to achieve merely through the ordinary redistribution of taxes and spending instruments alone (though these are also considered as important parts of the inclusive growth plan process). Opportunities should also be amplified through policies of job opportunities or in making-away with present obstacles which limit the involvement of the people in the growth process, which could arise as a result of policies which discriminates, improved ownership of assets and/or government expenditure on health and education sectors should be encouraged with the view of improving the social welfare of a larger proportion of the populace.

For inclusive growth to achieve its maximum poverty impact, it requires growth that is sustainable in order to achieve its objectives, and an environmental policy that is sustainable is also an essential consideration in this drive. Sustainable growth and sustainable development go side by side. Where sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The challenges faced by sustainable development stemming from climate change and other types of environmental ruins indicate that growth (economic) has

incorporated both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable factors for human development benefits to be achieved in the long-term. Particularly, policy makers are by this asked to consider fitting in social and environmental objectives in order to promote co-benefits.

Inclusive growth is such that:

- Governments are required to work to achieve the objective of sustainable development and inclusiveness, instead of assuming that outcomes will come through growth by default.
- Will metamorphose into gains in the development of human capacity and increased well-being of the citizenry. Benefit all groups, irrespective of their social pecking order.
- The government work proactively to reduce the ever widening gap of poverty and inequality within a sub-national or national.
- Consider the involvement of all parties/sectors, and not only the distribution of national wealth. By this this growth policy is advocating a focus on increasing the involvement of all members and sectors in growing the economy and some level of contribution as to the direction of the economy.
- And finally to advocate and promote the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner and also climate protection, putting in place relevant legislations to back its move.

Requirements for inclusive growth contains some all too familiar essentials required for a conventional economic growth strategy; macro-economic stability and openness. Thus seeing institutions, government and businesses alike pursuing high growth rates as a major precondition for attaining inclusive growth is not a surprise. The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development are recommending that countries and international donors agencies look for solutions outside conventional approaches, which has relatively failed in yielding the much expected result In fact, the

inclusive growth discussion challenges many of these long-standing conventions and approaches and has laid some new urgencies and distinctive methods. Some of the key elements for inclusive growth that are generally agreed which some have been mentioned already above, include:

1. HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Human capital investment is considered a key factor for attaining inclusive growth. Sectors that require investments so as to have improved economic development results are health and education, and the path in which inclusive growth will take when practiced. The health and education sectors are labour intensive sectors which enables the economically disadvantaged to be involved and reap benefits from the national economic growth.

2. JOB CREATION

“Whether they are subsistent farmers, salaried workers or self-employed entrepreneurs, poor people derive most of their income from work. This basic fact means that the level of employment, the quality of jobs and the access which the poor have to decent earnings opportunities will be crucial determinants of poverty reduction.” (UNDP Report 2011)

The report suggested that opportunities for earning wages and self-employment will have a noteworthy impact on how fast inclusive growth is reached. Research has shown that labour intensive economy; a new job or increase in wages, for example, will possibly prompt gradual exit from poverty. On the other hand, the absence of these kind of opportunities can be one of the reasons household’s chances of improving their well-being was or/is currently low. This is evident from the results of the early part of the 2000s, where poverty reduction was predominantly tied to a greater level of labour participation.

In the 2013 World Development Report, jobs was seen as responsible in providing household income, improving economic productivity, and the provision of resources for investment in the health and education sectors, resulting in a new paradigm of

social and power relationships which provides a new found sense of dignity and well-being.

3. STRUCTURAL REVOLUTION AND A WIDE-SPECTRUM GROWTH

In most LDCs, the route to inclusive growth depends on more than just productive economic activities but structural transformations of the economy. If this is done, it will shift the current level of dependence on just a few sectors which will result in increased stability and has the potential to create more and better jobs. Without these suggested economic transformations, the poor will remain in low return activities, and any progress if any will be very unstable World Bank(2012)

Inclusive growth lays emphasis on tangible outcomes instead of achieving desired policies with the assumption that these policies will result to poverty reduction. This position should remind policy makers it should not just pursue reforms, but should be seen as a means to an end. For instance, calls for a realistic and practical approach by governments has repeatedly being coming from the Growth Commission. The commission advocates for an experimental approach to implementing of economic policies in LDCs which will capture the objectives of inclusive growth, given that the impact of preferred policies are at the moment unknown and models do not forecast results reliably under those circumstances.

This leaves the focus on ascertaining direct effects on the poor, and the parts of the economy that directly or indirectly concern them, as it concerns employment or the supply of goods and services; i.e. the agricultural or the informal sector. Therefore it is not just enough to talk about growth, but necessary to be aware of costs and benefits this growth will have on poorest segment of society. Ignoring the equity side of policies is one of the areas that previous moves to liberalize the economies of LDCs have been criticized.

As a final point, it stresses on stability and managing an even transition. The poor are the group prone to suffering from economic uncertainty and in

times of adjustment. As the Growth Commission notes, the process of structural change encompasses “the microeconomics of creation and destruction” and is imperative to protect the group(s) which are vulnerable and undesirably affected by these process.

4. PROGRESSIVE TAX POLICIES

The Catholic agency also proposed a progressive tax system. Using tax is one of the ways in which redistribution can be carried out in an economy, it is also in generating revenue for investments in human capital projects, social transfers from government to the unemployed and infrastructures necessary for pro-poor growth. Though, the relevance of tax policies in inclusive growth extends beyond just this redistribution. The major concern here is that certain tax policies has being known to be less pro-poor and only served to widen the existing gap between the haves and have not’s.

Therefore the inclusive growth plans has to take into consideration the ways that existing tax policy is detrimental to pro-poor groups and as this case points-out, the related sectors of the economy which the poor are more reliant are taxed proportionally, and tax holidays are even advocated for them to allow for catching up in terms of wealth and standard of living.

5. SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection is another area which is prominent when looking through the available inclusive growth literatures. Though it also has a part in redistribution, promoting equality and majorly in reducing poverty, social protection has a more vigorous contribution to make in achieving inclusive growth.

Social protection has within it potentials to encourage higher income levels for the poor business owners, through helping them overcome what UNDP refers to as an “all pervasive economic insecurity at the household level associated with generalized poverty [which] adversely affects entrepreneurship as it leads to short-termism and limits risk-taking.” (UNCTAD, 2006) The absence

social protection has been known to inhibit households when handling with shocks by selling off of their productive assets, reducing the level, which undercuts the economic potentials of households in the long run.

6. SOCIAL INCLUSION WITH UN-BIASED PARTICIPATION

The marginalization of groups within an economy has a direct impact on economic opportunities as well as the chances at poverty eradication and the improvement well-being of the general population. But if unflinching inclusive growth goals do good to all groups are desired, then the relevant policies are needed to address the fact that some groups of society are continually left behind/out in the growth and poverty eradication activities of government.

Marginalization will affect the participation of all members of society in the markets for labour, land and financial credits for business operations. The women over history have been seen to be limited in their aim of owning legal rights to land, which hampers the ability of these women to have access to credits and therefore reduces their prospects as entrepreneurs. There exist still, gabs as a result of race, sex and ethnicity globally.

On the contrary, to deal with the issues of social inclusion and making certain the involvement of side-lined groups, can result in self-motivated and multiple benefits. Take for instance, the education of the girl child or women, which is not only desired for itself but tips to a better educational foundation and livelihood chances for the children, leading to breaking the poverty cycle which evolves from generation to generation.

7. STRONG INSTITUTIONS

An inclusive economic growth policy needs a society that is inclusive (as stated in the above section) and has the institutions, set-up and processes that empowers the citizens to hold their government and elected officials accountable for the actions and in-actions of government. The involvement of all groups in society in the policymaking process is also necessary. This would

entail positive policies and programmes for the involvement of side-lined groups, which would include those heavily reliant on land or natural resources for their daily livelihood and subsistent businesses, who may otherwise unduly incur the costs of an uncertain development decision by government. CAFOD, 2013

For the growth in an economy to be beneficial to all members of its society, government has to be devoted to upholding the privileges and prospects of all her citizens and to stand against any factor that might want to impede the chances of making economies fairer and more inclusive. Government, should strive to be more efficient and capable, for instance in the financing and provision of public/social services to all. They need to tackle deep rooted corruption which has been pointed out as a major barrier to employment creation firm productivity, and even in encouraging investment in the economy.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Using green economy as an economic plan, H. Pavese (2011), puts forth the concept of green economy in her report "Towards a Green Economy: pathway to sustainable development and poverty eradication" which exposes the serious levels of ecosystem services ruin. The work brought to the fore an initiative on Green Economy, which was launched solely with the goal of pointing out the risks and costs in terms of social and economic, brought about by the current level of unsustainable use of natural resources which is being experienced at the moment globally, as well as the chances for moving towards more sustainable method of practice. On the linkage between a green economy and achieving sustainable development within an economy, D. Sawyer (2011) addresses the risk that a green economy could acquire a completely economic shape, "where market tools and pricing of natural resources would prevail in the stead of measures of a different nature". He stated that other magnitudes are also of importance to the green economy concept, these include "social, ethical, cultural, political and judicial". He claims that the

green economy should be applied through policies of government which ensures equal right to all while maintaining the functions of the ecosystem, so that the concept grows into a deep-rooted, popular, and people friendly tool, to compliment and connect with the idea of sustainable development which is more "abstract, diplomatic and governmental".

A UNEP report as reviewed by A. P'Avignon and L. Anthonia (2011) from a dire stand point, and confirmed that the work signalled a a good achievement in the sense of presenting values that goes past ordinarily get the most out of utility. The authors tell of the compulsion of seeing the green economy switch in a systemic way, where man's actions are just a subset of society at large, which then is a subset of the biosphere and the set of living and in-animate matter. As regards the applicability of the concept of green economy, Gaetani, Kuhn and Roseberg, 2011 provide a summary of the situation in Brazil as regards to green economy. The authors are of the opinion that Brazil is on the way to be an environmental energy power, given the available national resources in the country, and policies aimed at environmental preservation in the country. Internationally, the authors hold that "Brazil has one of the highest GHG (Greenhouse gas) emissions in the world, but the country is on a drive to changing this state by taking up voluntary emissions reduction targets. They authors summarize the main action plans that the country has is employing in the drive for a green economy in sectors such as "forestry, solid waste treatment, water resources among others. Finally, changing the current technological model using the all-important environmental innovations, where raw materials and energy from fossil fuels etc, are used in a more ecologically friendly way is analysed by Maria Cecilia J. Lustosa 2011. She presented the historical beginning of the issues which affect environment greatly, and their linkages to economic production. The author further conducted analysis of innovations linked to environmental issues in Brazilian businesses, she identified their main characteristics of these innovations. The author in

conclusion, states that environmental innovations are indispensable in the drive for a green economy and that with incentives promoted by the state the building of business capacity which is fundamental. She also came to the conclusion that in the case of Brazil, low investments in innovations in the productive sector is undoubtedly a reason that is hindering the search for environmental innovation.

STUDY AREA

As a littoral state of the South- South geopolitical zone in Nigeria, Cross River State is located in the oil rich region of the Niger Delta and occupies an area of 20,156 kilometres squared, bordered by Cameroon to the east, Benue State to the north, Abia and Ebonyi states to the west of the state and Akwa-Ibom and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Its capital city is Calabar, and its major towns are Calabar, Ugep, Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu. Named after the Cross River which flows across the state. The state has 18 local government areas split into 3 senatorial districts, all of whom have uniquely placed natural resources. The State has over 20 dialects, the major ones being the Efiks, Ejagham, Lokor and Bekwarra, etc.

The state is endowed with so many human and natural resources which are still untapped. Two-third of the state is covered by rain forest, making it one of the world's top 25 biodiversity hotspots and the largest in West Africa. These resources if properly harnessed can develop the rural communities where they exist and the state at large. We have the Cross River which empties into the Atlantic Ocean and brings about investment opportunities in building seaports, jetties, etc. The state also has solid minerals, natural gas reserves estimated at over 1 trillion ft. (2,800km) cube, and arable land in rural areas throughout the state.

A green economy is perceived to be the way out of global warming and enhances economic volatility. In the midst of the political and economic crises in Nigeria today, where the fallen price of crude oil, the weak exchange rate not in favour of the Naira, the political anti-graft war and other irregularities

exist, global warming is still on the increase. According to a report of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2011, '11 Years of the 21st century rank the warmest 13'. The rising possibility of flooding, high temperatures resulting from concentration of greenhouse gases such as carbon O₂ emissions, etc., therefore an economy that takes the environment into consideration is the only viable solution. The Nigerian economy being green will take the people 'back to land', and help in diversifying the economy so that the reliance on crude oil becomes minimal.

Macroeconomics however explains that, economic growth for any state or country occurs by combining the factors of production: labour, physical capital, human capital and technology, growth then occurs when the combination these factors increase total productivity. This increase in productivity is only expected to occur only when certain proportion of output is reinvested in the economy such as improved technology, increase in wages/salaries of workers and other fringe benefits for the purpose of motivating labour towards improved productivity, better education and healthcare for the workforce. Rate of economic growth then depends on the rate of the (re) investment in these factors of production.

The environment is akin to the other factors of production, and this is at the heart of a green economy. The natural environment is actually a factor of production and all other factors benefit either directly or indirectly from the environment; it acts as capital in three ways: firstly it provides resources, it assimilates waste, and thirdly it performs various self-regulatory services which sustain life, including climatic regulation and ecosystem health. Thus for this total neglect, the natural resources are over-used; soil eroded, fisheries stock dwindling, water over- abstracted and forests are depleted which come about because of the unregulated activities of firms in the state. These occur because the right prices (if any at all), are not put on our natural resource consumption, the case of market failure. Thus, the adoption of the

green growth framework would aim to correct the current patterns of economic growth which so far have proven to be inefficient and unsustainable.

With a population of 3 million and an growth rate of 4.03% per year and a GDP of US\$ 4 billion as stated by the state government during a presentation in Maryland United States, in a bid to woo investors to the State. Cross river state has the 15th largest economy in Nigeria and has the largest estimated reserve of Limestone across West Africa of over 2 million metric tons. This and other economic resources abound in the state, therefore making it pertinent for it to position itself in the right direction to harness her endowments both human and natural. In the context of Green Economy, the state needs to adopt strategies within its current development plan or even fashion a new one after the provisions of Green Economy.

The adoption of the Green Economy framework as the basis for a new development plan would mean for Cross River State and Nigeria at large, is a brand new development strategy that takes cognizance of the environment in the activities of the various sectors of the economy. A system where everyone is responsible for the environment, from waste management, deforestation, water management etc. The product would be a sustainable economic base ranging from increased and sustained productivity, renewable energy, and more jobs resulting from the incorporation of the 'green job' provisions of the green economy plan. Plans and policies should obviously be put in place to curb against activities (across all the sectors of the economy) that contribute to the high incidences of environmental degradation. CR-SEEDS Report, 2007

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The weakening and washing away of soil nutrients with floods and land-slides, scarcity of freshwater, increased water pollution, as a result of hazardous chemicals released from various processing plants in the state, disposal, emissions and waste. Trade conducted on a care-free attitude has largely made worse these trends. A sustainable method of

production is likely to maintain or promote an increase of agricultural output in the medium and long-term while reducing the pressure on natural resource use, and also contribute in preserving the environment and promote food safety with the state's 18,000km² of arable land. With sustainable farming techniques, is likely to increase economic productivity, facilitate access to national and the supply chains of other countries in response to the wider demand from nations for more sustainable and organic produce. Farming in cocoa, rubber, rice, cassava, groundnut, etc. will not only witness increase yield, but increase in well-being, guaranteed and prosperous future for the local farmers and increased employment in this sector of the state's economy as the revenue of the farmers would be attractive to investors and the unemployed who once considered agriculture as a sector beneath them. The end result being increasing access to income, increase in output, and general well-being of more than half the nation's population living in the rural areas.

AQUATIC LIFE / WATER MANAGEMENT

The aquatic-culture of the state is in a slow state, as fisher men sometimes return with little or no catch at all, not because of overfishing, but as a result of flawed exploitation of fuel in the region surrounding the state. Yet Nigeria spends millions of dollars importing fish and other fish products yearly. The water level is increasingly receding as a result of climate change, thereby forcing most of these fishes farther into the Atlantic making fishing more difficult and expensive. It could also be said that while environmental degradation resulting from other unsustainable activities in coastal regions have greatly impaired aquatic life in and around the state, the growing rate of unsustainable fishing techniques which suddenly became fashionable for young men in the country include the use of gamaline 20 and under water explosive (dynamite). In either case, deadly blow is melted out on aquatic life, as both premature eggs and fingerlings and other aquatic plants and animals are destroyed or displaced and their habitat becomes inhabitable. Though, this

situation could be reversed,, it can only succeed through the committed and genuine efforts of all stakeholders, especially the government which must raise the stake on regulations. This situation can be reversed by engaging in sustainable exploitation, and subsequently by certifying fishing activities in the state for sustainability. This can further improve the overall fishery management systems in Cross River State and Nigeria at large

FORESTRY

Currently, Cross River State is among the states in Nigeria that holds a forest reserve, other states like Edo, Delta and Ondo States are under severe threat with increasing illegal logging. Exacerbating this trend is the actions of government officials in these areas, who have been integrated into illegal trade. However, sustainable trade in timber and non-timber forest products can significantly increase clarity and ensure traceability in the forestry sector, in particular through certificate schemes, which has been known to work for example in Brazil.

MANUFACTURING

With the different extracting industries in the state, it is possible to have a case of poisoning as a result of industrial and agricultural chemicals which are believed to be among the top five leading causes of death worldwide and this sector CO₂ emissions in Nigeria keep increasing by the day as a result of heavy machines used in production and processing. However, products with environmentally friendly designs and firms that are made to comply with sustainability standards for products and processes have advantages in international markets. Many suppliers are rendering their practices more sustainable in order to secure their position within international supply chains. This is illustrated for example by the 1500 percent increase in global ISO 14001 certifications on environmental management award between 1999 and 2009, which Nigerian manufacturers must key into for increased earnings, profitability, output growth and subsequently employment generation. ISO, 2009

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy resources can address many of the state's energy sector challenges today. The Nigerian power sector in the country is in state crisis, not even the reforms in this sector over the years which have handed over public investments to politicians and allies have brought any form of succour to the sector, rather the citizens continue to pay high tariff for energy not consumed through estimated billing that be paid every month even when there is no power. By June 2014 the power generation in Nigeria had nose-dived to 2,887.8 megawatts, but there is hope to increase production to 13,000 megawatts by the end of 2016 as announced by the current Minister of Power and Steel. This trend can also be reversed with the appropriate legislation for low-carbon emissions and energy efficient technologies found in renewable energy. Cross River State is endowed with huge wind and solar resources given the fact that the state is the only one with 3 climate belts which if taken advantage of will see the state and Nigeria become a hub of sustainable energy sufficiency, sustainable output growth and employment.

Discussion of Findings

- 1. The existing development plans still leaves much to be desired as there still is a wide gap between the rich and poor in the state and country.**
- 2. There has been continuous degradation of the environment with the current drive to increase production for the teeming population.**
- 3. The rate at which the environment is going, the current production pattern is not sustainable.**
- 4. The entire population is not carried along in the development drive of the State and Nation.**
- 5. Cross River State has the basic prerequisites to kick start an inclusive growth plan with consideration for the environment, interms of the required human capital, available natural**

resources which when used in a sustainable manner could yield the aforementioned benefits to the State.

6. **Growing an economy, generating quality employment can still be carried out without further destroying the environment in the process, as it has been seen to work in Brazil.**

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A green economy through green growth is very much possible and applicable in Cross River State, as it can align increased income and employment with poverty reduction and natural capital conservation. Thus, a green economy can produce an increase in the stock of natural capital over a period of time, if when implemented in the context of inclusive growth in the state, it will properly position the state to achieve its full potential given the resources available.

Table 1: Policy Recommendations

Advocating	Motivations	Foundations
Increase Duties, levies, tolls dues, and assessments on unhealthy or dangerous activities that are harmful to both the economy and the environment	Grant loans with minimal interest rate, tax holidays or exemptions, create a more business -friendly environment. Also make public goods cheaper through subsidies,	Set Principles, ban, proscription, punish offenders, set goals, CSRs, management of resources, invest in human capital, natural agriculture etc.

Source: Authors 2016

The table above shows some policy recommendations for the government in her bid to attain sustainable growth and development by going ‘Green’

For Cross River and Nigeria to successfully transit into green economy and take full advantage and also achieve sustained economic growth through inclusive growth, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. Institutional capacity must be created in order to integrate environmental policies with economic plans and policies. This means that environmental matters should no longer be treated in isolation from economic matters.
2. Institutional capacity to create a system that can measure and monitoring the benefits of natural capital investments should be encouraged.
3. The State and Nigeria at large must see green economy as a strategy to pursue economic development. Therefore, adopting

some green growth policies could be easier for Nigeria, as her economy is still at an early stage of development and do not have the ‘lock-in effect’ of the more advanced economies. Hence, the decision of the Cross River state government to theme the last carnival ‘climate change’ is commendable.

4. It is often said that to be ‘GREEN’, one needs to ‘think green’. If the culture of protecting the environment is imbibed by the people, if the attitude of people engaging themselves in activities such as; de-forestation, emptying of waste into streams and rivers, polluting the environment with carbon and other harmful elements, as well as other hazardous activities, etc., then the environment will yield all the benefits required for sustainable growth and development of the state and the nation as a whole.
5. Finally, environmental regulations should be seen as having a set of well-coordinated outcome, it should represent a source of

economic and social benefits for Nigeria in general. Although the sitting government of Cross River State has made known its intentions towards turning the state economy green and has tried to integrate the environment with economic and political decision-making, and has even established the 'GREEN POLICE' to check the activities of the 'offenders of nature', there is much to be done in key areas like Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, etc., which are quintessential to the natural asset base of every economy. This calls for greater attention to those areas.

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