

# Natural Resources Management in Nigerian Public Sector and Its Impact on National Development

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## Abstract

Natural resources are essential ingredients for the development of any nation. But in many parts of the developing world like Nigeria, huge finances arising from natural resources are stolen by individuals and corporate bodies due to bad public management to the detriment of national development. This brings about the situation where plenty people live in poverty in the midst of plenty natural resources. Soil and climatic conditions favour the development of agriculture in many parts of Nigeria and about 60 million of the population is engaged in agriculture for survival and export. With improvements in farming technology and good natural resources management, Nigeria can feed its population and continue to make progress in national development efforts. The exploratory research design was used for the study. The result showed positive relationship between the variables of interest. The study was limited by lack of current relevant literature; therefore, further study could examine the relationship between poor natural resources management and poverty in Nigeria in attempt to explain the reasons for high rate of poverty in Nigeria. It was recommended that government should give attention to the mining and management of mineral resources such as gold and steel as a major perspective on national development in Nigeria.

## Keywords

Gold, Developing World, Forestry, Good Management, RUGA, Soil and Climatic Conditions, National Livestock Transformation Plan, Environmental Protection and Management

Received: March 5, 2020 / Accepted: April 16, 2020 / Published online: May 26, 2020

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## 1. Introduction

Generally speaking, national development would embrace several dimensions such as political, economic, socio-cultural, technological and other important factors consistent with national objectives. However, natural resources management is more concerned with physical, environmental and economic resources and development that emphasize the need for efficient production and utilization of natural endowment, full employment and mobilization and efficient use of talents. National development also denotes unity, cohesion, national integration and sense of nationhood [1]. The development of any nation has direct relationship with

its natural resources, what they are, and how such resources are managed. Many kinds of natural resources may be identified. They include: Physical, water, energy, manpower, climate, minerals, forests, wildlife, and othersthat can be defined as the sources of wealth of a nation and the collective means of support and defense of the nation. Natural resources are therefore, those products and features of the earth which are used in different ways to satisfy the needs of national development. Examples of these resources are oil, coal, gas, limestone, timber, fibres, gold, grazing lands, and others. According to Fafunwa [2] good management of natural resources can lead to progress while poor management will result in poverty of the nation. He opines that some natural resources are renewable but others are not and will finish

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with time; among these are oil and minerals. According to him, most resources are positive and have good benefits, but there are also negative resources such as pests and tse-tse fly that attack both men and animals. Literature, on development refers to it as the process of building up. In this context, it is the process of making a nation become fuller, more elaborate, more progressive and come to maturity. This process is made possible when there is a means, a source of support for the resources. The extent of national development is greatly influenced by good management of natural resources. According to Todaro [3] development implies improvement in productivity, income, attitudes, customs and beliefs and putting in place better institutional structures. In this conceptualization, development means modernization, and this modernization means transformation of human beings, in which case, development means progress in various dimensions such as: output and income, conditions of production, levels of living as reflected in nutrition, housing, health, education, attitude to work, institutions and policies. Often, the main objective of every nation is development. Development is a multidimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social systems that embrace all aspects of life. Many development scholars argue that national development revolves around political struggle without much emphasis on the potency of natural resources management; which relates to managing and improving the quality and efficiency of resources. It is however, notable that the area today known as Nigeria has close association between natural resources and development even before political independence in 1960. For example, the cocoa belt with Oyo as its centre became the first area to be connected by rail in 1898 to Lagos for the evacuation of products to Britain, before feeder roads were built from 1905 to feed the railways. Even though it is widely discussed that the objective of colonialism was economic exploitation, the colonial government put in place the necessary socio-political institutions and legal and constitutional framework which transformed Nigeria into a modern state [4].

### 1.1. Research Problem

Some negative elements exist that could be referred to as negative resources that hinder national development. These include pests that must be properly managed. Other challenges include the exploitation of natural resources by criminals in a nation. For national development to thrive natural resources management should be seen to be effective and balanced. For example, the mining excavations in Jos and Enugu can lead to soil erosion and the oil explorations in the Niger Delta often lead to spillage on farmlands, drinking and fishing waters which get contaminated and destroyed. In the Niger Delta, illegal activities, such as bribery and

corruption reinforce wasteful logging and inefficient resource allocation that hinder sustainable forest management. In the last several years, the negative activities of oil thieves, herdsmen, and Boko Haram have proved very destructive in terms of natural resources management, productivity and national development. [5-8] The recent idea of Rural Grazing Areas (RUGA) was a bold but unpopular attempt at evolving a kind of good natural resources management. RUGA was suspended because it was felt that the establishment of colonies for the herdsmen throughout the country was not the best idea in natural resources management. According to Lucas [9] the problem of herdsmen needs urgent solution. He posits that the first step in this direction is to make the northern part of the country which is the natural environment of the herdsmen habitable for them and their cows. This is a huge challenge for the government to foster good agricultural resources management in Nigeria. Despite Nigeria's huge natural resources, this author is not aware of many reports focusing on the relationship between them and national development. Today this imperative is urgent because many people now think that the present structure of Nigeria is grossly defective, inadequate and inappropriate for a heterogeneous society. The structure does not sufficiently provide the enabling environment for growth and development among the component states, and makes for unhealthy competition among the different ethnic groups, clans and tribes in the polity. The challenge of political leadership is therefore, to ensure the institutionalization of behavioural and attitudinal changes for commitment to growth and national development [10]. This is a serious gap that needs to be filled, and other researchers are invited to turn their page over to the challenges.

### 1.2. Research Objective

The study was designed to examine the relationship between natural resources management and national development in Nigeria.

### 1.3. Research Significance

The present study will enable students, researchers, and others to appreciate the need of good natural resources management for national development. This work is not expected to close the vacuum in this area, but it would have succeeded if it provokes further interest.

### 1.4. Research Questions

1. Does natural resources provide income for national development?
2. Does forestry resources belong to individuals?
3. Can agricultural resources provide opportunities for MSMEs?

4. Is manpower needed for soil management and national development?

### 1.5. Hypothesis

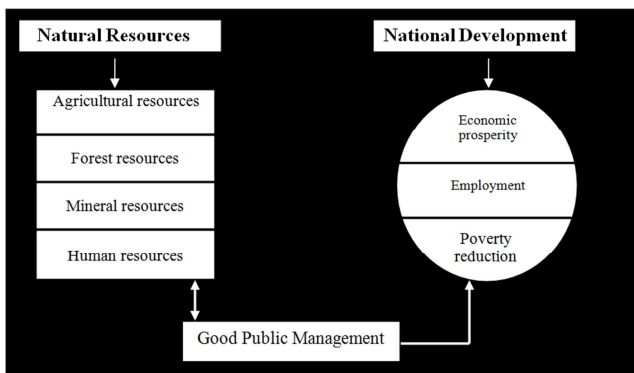
To achieve the objective of the study, the following hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

$H_0$ : There is no relationship between natural resources management and national development.

$H_1$ : There is a relationship between natural resources management and national development.

### 1.6. Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is the structure of the study and the relationship between the major variables in relation to the study problem. It is often stated in a schematic form or a model. Models facilitate theory building and they are used to explain, clarify and identify important issues that would otherwise be buried in an excess of words [11-12] The model for this study is as shown in figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Natural Resources Management and National Development Model.

Source: Author Designed (2020).

While Nigeria is a basket of natural resources, the gap between such resources and national development remains wide because of lack of good public management. For a long time, the chief mining areas like Port Harcourt, and Warri (oil) Ajaokuta (Limestone and Phosphate), Enugu (Coal) Abeokuta (Iron, Ore and Lignite) Jos (Tin and Columbite) Sokoto (Phosphate) and other areas have contracted workers, transport networks, factories and other important industries that foster national development. However, Fafunwa [2] suggests that good management of these resources is needed for superior national development. Also, according to Nwizu [13] the objective of good management is to increase productivity or lower unit cost. Management is an activity common to human enterprise, whether public or private. He emphasizes that public management is a large scale organization carried out by government or its agencies, and a major aim of public

management is national development which cannot be achieved without good natural resources management. Therefore, good public management requires that finances from natural resources must be carefully utilized so as to achieve national objectives [14-15].

## 2. Literature Review

Proper management of natural resources is recognized as a major way for national development. Natural or environmental resources provide a source of comfort for the majority of citizens in a country. Bojo et al [16] state that poor people tend to be highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. For example, livelihood is defined as comprising the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resources base [17]. Klugman [18] emphasizes the need to enhance natural resources management (NRM) because of its great importance in promoting greater prosperity because environmental conditions provide a set of opportunities for national development. For example, nature-based tourism is a mainstream economic activity in many countries that drive the aim of national development. Christie, et al [19] state that in Kenya, foreign tourism constitutes the second largest source of foreign exchange and most of that is based on the attraction of natural resources such as pristine beaches and exotic wildlife [20-21] NRM ensures that environmental activities contribute to the empowerment of more people. Local communities that are empowered to participate in decision-making on environmental resources can help themselves to maintain their livelihood, gain equitable access to resources, and use these resources sustainably. According to Agbogu and Archana [22] since political independence in 1960, Nigeria has witnessed the proposition of over 4 national development plans. Several aspects of these plans include projects for improving rural, community, social and economic institutions. Such programmes help in rural and national development efforts as some organizations that would otherwise refuse to go into some areas see the need to do so and make contributions to national development. They emphasize that the movement of some companies and industries into the rural areas promotes the building of roads and bridges, increase in transportation facilities, which are all important aspects of national development. Also, opening up of the rural communities comes with the establishment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which contribute to national development [23-24].

## 2.1. SMEs and National Development

According to Momoh [25] SMEs are pertinent to national development by making use of raw materials to facilitate the creation of wealth, employment, income generation and development of indigenous technology. He insists that SMEs generate more employment opportunities than large businesses [26-29]. In many African nations, Nigeria inclusive, it is suggested that the empowerment of the rural population, including the youths and women through SMEs given their huge potentials will contribute to national development and sustainable growth. Nigeria has over 41.5m Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that account for about 99percent of registered businesses and through which about 63percent of the labour force earn a living [30-33]. Therefore, effective NRM is critical for national development in a country where about 67 million youths are unemployed, and about 80percent of this figure does not possess university degrees [34]. Also, creation of wealth through forest resources becomes essential to empower the stock of over 70percent of the population lying in poverty as a journey through national development. Forest resources now receive global attention in view of their importance in national development, and forest management is important not only to protect the environment but also to improve governance. According to Kishor and Damania [35] scientists classify the area as a global biodiversity hotspot, and in response, government in the USA, for example, bestows upon the forest the mantle of national park, with equipment, to reduce illegal logging which is big business in the area. From the forests, the logs move into factories where they are turned into elegant pieces of furniture and sold in the retail outlets. However, they posit that major forest producers are among the most corrupt countries in the world. According to them, economies such as Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, and others, that are highly dependent on forest resources for their economic development are also characterized by poor quality of public management and governance. At the same time, countries experiencing either less deforestation or increase in forest cover tend to be characterized by robust governance. It is estimated that as many as 60million people living in and around the forests are heavily dependent on them for their subsistence. [36-39].

## 2.2. Public Management and National Development

Environmental resources composed of agricultural resources, forest resources, mineral resources, remain the catalyst for national development. To this extent, countries like the USA, for example, devote huge financial resources for the protection of the environment to enhance the quality and quantity of natural resources. A country like Nigeria

endowed with good climatic conditions for agriculture and other mineral resources is battling on how best to conserve the environment and enhance the quality of NRM to support the objective of national development (NAD). For example, in the Niger Delta Region, the menace of oil spillage is worrisome, and in the vast Northern parts of the country the problems of herdsmen and farmers, and now compounded by the Boko Haram phenomenon provide a serious threat to effective NRM, and detrimental to the quest for rapid NAD [40]. For years, or precisely in 2014, Nigeria started making efforts about how to reduce the problems between farmers and herdsmen that threaten the realization of natural resources potentials. There was debate on the necessity and desirability of the provision of grazing reserves, ranches, and cattle colonies in the six geopolitical zones so as to foster a system of maximizing the benefits of environmental resources. According to Bayari [41] these attempts failed woefully leaving a nation toying with the future and fate of over 15million citizens and their 27 million heads of cattle. This failure led to the newest cow, herdsmen and farmers settlement arrangement, in the form and canopy of rural grazing areas (RUGA) which became most controversial and died most tragically on arrival on National Television Authority (NTA) network. Even though RUGA had aimed at protecting the environment and natural resources, it was suspended in a very speedy manner maybe because it arrived the NTA before the target audience could appraise its necessity. This could just be a catastrophic public relations failure on the part of government. According to Lucas [9] the failure of Obasanjo's earlier Afforestation Programme contributed to the farmers herdsmen problem and by extension the RUGA saga. He therefore, wants the officials in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to be proactive in advising the government in a patriotic manner, devoid of ethnic interest. Therefore, reviving RUGA in any form or shape may not be a bad idea to enhance NRM and NAD, but he suggests that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should also take necessary steps to solve the erosion problems in Igboland, and the pollution problems in Ijawland which have destroyed agricultural productivity and health, and a blueprint on how to provide free education to the millions of out-of-school children aimlessly wandering about the streets in virtually all the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria. Accordingly, whether it is Afforestation Programme, RUGA, or any other programme to protect lives and enhance NRM and NAD must not be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency or ethnic jingoism, but should be packaged and repackaged for the benefit of the people who need them most, the plenty poor, and not the few rich people. Talking RUGA, Ladepo [42] believes that ideally, a comprehensive ranching policy like this, if properly executed should be a clear improvement on



the archaic, ruinous, unregulated and dangerous nomadic livestock management system in current practice. He contends that a comprehensive programme to protect environmental resources and farmers is essential for NAD. For example, natural resources like cotton contribute highly to the GDP. However according to Fadare [43] the yield of the crop has grossly reduced compared to what was obtained in the past 25 years when seeds could be obtained from cotton boards and other agricultural companies. For example, in the 1970s and early 1980s, Nigeria was home to Africa's largest textile industry. Nigeria had over 180 textile mills in operation. The textile industry then employed about 650,000 workforce and other millions of cotton farmers, traders, and garment workers and tailors throughout the country. According to him, the sector indeed employed more workforce than the FGN. The industry also contributed over 25 percent of the workforce in the manufacturing sector and as much to the national GDP [44]. It is also important to emphasize that good environmental protection and management promote cultural heritage and tourism to enhance national development. For example, according to Runsewe [45] culture and tourism remain the greatest hope for the economic rejuvenation of African countries, stressing that the sector has the capacity to create wealth, generate employment and stimulate rapid socio-economic growth and development. According to him, African countries like Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and the Gambia are already taking the lead in the development of their culture and tourism products and want other nations to take a cue. He posits that arrangements are ahead to use culture, tourism and sports as two pillars of galvanizing sustainable socio-economic growth and development of Nigeria. Also in Nigeria, some states employ, train and equip forest guards with arms and ammunition not only to wipe out miscreants from the states but also to protect important natural resources in the forests, and the environment from unnecessary vandalization and degradation. For very obvious developmental reasons, good public management must become a central agenda in the quest for national development. But a situation where there are unending allegations and counter allegations of corruption and the twin issue of public mismanagement leaves much to be desired. For example, according to Enyia [46] no fewer than 626 contractors collected over ₦61.4 billion from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) without fulfilling their contractual obligations in the nine member-states involved, and that the commission now finds it difficult to retrieve the money from the erring contractors. Also, the related issue of alleged multiple fraud involving Process & Industrial Development Limited (P&ID) over which a former director, Legal Services, of Petroleum Resources was a key actor in the fraudulent Gas Supply and Processing, Agreement

(GSPA) between the FGN and P&ID where she was alleged to have used her position to administer undue favours to P&ID reflects poor public management of natural resources and capable of seriously undermining the process of national development [47].

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. Research Design

The exploratory research design was used in the study. The method is historical in nature and does not often require a large sample or structured questionnaire. The population comprised of all institutions engaged in the management of natural resources in Nigeria. The sample was selected through the judgmental method and sample size determined by the sample ratio concept [48]. Data were collected through secondary and primary sources including: Books, journals, newspaper reports, literature review among others; so as to fulfill the objective of the study. According to Fink [49] a literature review is a systematic, explicit and reproducible design for identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the existing body of recorded documents. It summarizes existing research by identifying patterns, themes and issues, and helps to identify the conceptual context of the field of study, and can contribute to theory development. A combination of the quantitative and qualitative techniques was employed [50]. According to Abebrese and Smith [51] the strength of qualitative research techniques is in its capacity to provide proper insights, rich details and thick descriptions. They emphasize that richness is provided by paying close attention to concept, context and process. Data analysis was done through descriptive and regression statistical methods. The Ordinary Least Square technique was used in the regression analysis. The ordinary least square technique is a method used to estimate the unknown parameter in a linear regression model with the aim of minimizing the differences between observed variances in a dataset. This method was not selected because of its simplicity but also due to its unique properties of linearity, efficiency, least variances, unbiasedness and least mean errors [52].

### 3.2. Model Specification

Model specification is the expression of a relationship into precise mathematical form. According to Koutsoyiannis [53] economic theory does not indicate the fundamental form of any relationship. This means that economic theory does not state whether a relationship will be expressed in linear form, quadratic form or in a cubic form. On the basis of these, it was decided to specify the relationship between National Development (NAD) Natural Resource Management (NRM) and as

$$NAD = b_0 + b_1MIR_t + b_2FOR + b_3AGR_1 + b_4 HUR_1 + U$$

Where

NAD=National Development

MIR=Mineral Resources

FOR=Forestry Resources

AGR=Agricultural Resources

HUR=Human Resources

$b_0$ =Constant term

$b_1, b_3, b_4$ =Coefficient attached to explanatory variable

$E$ =Time Period

$U$ =Stochastic error term

## 4. Presentation of Result

**Table 1.** Profile of Respondents (n=70).

S/N	Description	Category	Total	Percentage
1	Sex	a. Male	52	74.29
		b. Female	18	25.21
2	Education	a. Diplomas	19	27.14
		b. Degrees	31	44.29
		c. Others	20	28.57
3	Age	a. 18–40 years	45	64.29
		b. 41–70 years	25	35.71
4	Experience	a. 5–10 years	40	57.14
		b. 11–35 years	30	42.86
5	Status	a. Low	20	28.57
		b. Middle	35	50.00
		c. High	15	21.43

Source: Fieldwork (2020)

**Table 2.** Frequency and Mean for Response to Research Questions.

S/N	Restatement of Research Questions	Scores					<x	n	y	Decision rule @3 points
		SA5	A4	N3	D2	SD1				
1	Mineral resources provide income for national development	40	21	1	2	7	244	70	4.20	Accepted
2	Forestry resources belong to individuals	2	6	3	4	5	106	70	1.51	Rejected
3	Agricultural resources provide opportunities for SMEs	35	25	2	2	6	291	70	4.16	Accepted
4	Good management of natural resources is used for national development	30	28	3	1	8	281	70	4.01	Accepted

Source: Fieldwork (2020).

**Table 3.** Regression Analysis.

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t. Statistics	Prob.
MIR	0.879884	0.314622	2.796636	0.0143
FOR	1.055656	0.320035	3.298566	0.0053
AGR	1.438813	0.722284	1.992033	0.0662
C	21.30424	11.16832	1.907560	0.0772
R.Squared	0.930148	Mean dep. var.	4.848894	
Adj. R-Squared	0.920281	S.D. dev. var.	47.31709	
S.E. of regression	37.34471	Akaike info criteria	10.27139	
Sum squared resid.	19524.79	Sehwarzi criterion	10.46925	
Log.likelihood	-88.44251	F. statistic	4.430487	
Durbin Watson Stat.	1.556548	Prob. (F.Statistic)	0.021778	

Source: Fieldwork (2020) SPSS.

### 4.1. Discussion

Table 1 was used to present the demographic profile of respondents and the fact that they were qualified to contribute meaningfully to the potency of the study. Table 2 showed the analysis of responses and a confirmation that NRM explains NAD. For example, in table 2 (1) the respondents agreed at 4.20 points that mineral resources provide income for national development. In table 2 (2) they denied at 1.51 points that forestry resources belong to individuals and in table 2 (3) accepted that agricultural resources provide opportunities for MSMEs, and it was also agreed in table 2 (4) at 4.01 points that good management is necessary for national development. Unfortunately, good public management is not in vogue in Nigeria which leads to waste of finances from natural resources while the people

live in poverty, in the midst of plenty. Table 3 showed the coefficient of determination  $R^2 = 0.93$  which is the highest percentage value that the independent variables explain the dependent variable. The goodness-of-fit test of the model is excellent good at the adjusted  $R^2 = 0.92$ . The value of Durbin Watson value is 1.6 that is within the range between 1.5 and 2.5. Therefore, it can be categorically stated that there is no auto-correlation among the independent variables of the study. The possible values of  $R^2$  range from 0 to 1.00. The closer  $R^2$  is to 1.00, the greater the percentage of the explained variation. A high value of about .80 or more would indicate that the independent variable is a good predictor of the values of the dependent variable of interest. A low value of about .25 or less would indicate a poor predictor, and a value between .25 and .80 would indicate a moderate predictor. Therefore, in this study  $H_0$ : was rejected and  $H_1$ :

accepted to confirm that NRM has positive relationship with NAD. This result supports the analysis in table 2. Agricultural resources provide huge finances for national development, and the governments and people in Nigeria think that protecting them is necessary for national growth. For example, the government of Zamfara state is to spend ₦8.6b on RUGA settlement, including the construction livestock markets, among others [54]. Also, the Northern Governors Forum (NGF) has agreed to dump the controversial RUGA for National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLSTP) which includes modernizing pastoral activities as part of the agricultural modernization process [55]. In adopting the NLSTP the NGF opines that *“As a region that holds the comparative advantage in livestock management as an economic and socio-cultural vocation, we need to come up with a common front on how to synergize and draw from the funds available for the programme and ensure that we derive maximum benefits for our people. This is important because of the urgent need to cultivate the buy-in of all stakeholders and provide a conducive environment for nomadic herders and those who rear livestock, using the private/public partnership model to key into the NLSTP of the Federal Government”*. On agriculture, the forum was well-informed about the NLSTP and its disparities with the RUGA Plan. It is expected that the plan would ensure resettling and addressing the dislocated populations in the key conflict zones to enable them become part of the agricultural modernization process. Adesina [56] reports the NGF Chairman and Governor of Plateau State as stating that the NLSTP would also provide a mechanism for peaceful dialogue and reconciliation in the affected communities towards a harmonious mutually beneficial future. The whole and entire idea of RUGA and now NLSTP represents a holistic approach which seeks to support and strengthen the development of market-driven ranches in the livestock ecosystem for improved productivity through breed improvement, pasture production, efficient land and water management and utilization. Environmental features like forest resources, for example, have positive influence on man and national development. This is imperative because these features affect man in his occupation, politics, religion, socio-cultural and economic settlement patterns. For example, according to Igba and Nweke [57] in any society, the type of goods produced and consumed depends on the features of its environment. These features are climatic and include weather, land, vegetation, among others. They posit that the management of forest resources is important to ensure that food and other items like timber and others are available for dependable national development. Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant mineral resources like coal, limestone, salt, crude oil, zinc, columbite, lignite, marble, lead, gold among others. But nation with such natural resources remains

on top of the list of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the world arguably due to poor natural resources management (PNRM). PNRM is the reason why huge volumes of crude oil are siphoned through the high seas by criminals, and their partners, to the detriment of national development and the multiplication of poverty. For example, gold, an important mineral resource is being exploited in Zamfara State through criminal activities, even when it is known that there is more money in the gold minerals business than oil that can grow the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In efforts to end exploitation of gold miners Adebite [58] states that government is trying to ensure that miners begin to benefit from their labour and realize their sweat to promote the industry so that it can generate revenue for government and at the same time provide employment. Equally, to protect natural resources as well as addressing the devastating menace of erosion and other environmental and developmental challenges, in the South-East Zone, there are moves to pass and to sign the South-East Development Commission Bill into Law. According to Oduah [59] *“When passed and signed into law, the bill is expected to provide road-map for development of roads, education, health facilities, industrialization, agriculture, housing and urban development, water supply, electricity and commerce in the five-member states of Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and Abia”*. The South-East and South-South zones that have abundant agricultural and mineral resources are among the least developed zones and riddled with mismanagement of huge natural resources from crude oil and gas. At present, the FGN is trying to get to the root of how an obscure company with no website or track record registered in the British Virgin Islands fraudulently secured a huge Gas Supply and Processing Agreement (GSPA) with it, that is now subject to mega controversial \$9.6b judgment debt [60].

## 4.2. Recommendations

- i. Government should refocus attention on the exploration of mineral reserves such as salt, gold and steel as critical perspectives on national development.
- ii. Efforts must be made to recover the huge sums like ₦13trillion not remitted to the government. This will go a long way to improve the poverty conditions of the masses through early payment of wages.
- iii. Nigeria is known as an agricultural society because of climate conditions. Therefore, agricultural resources must be developed to the extent of encouraging MSMEs.
- iv. Forestry resources do not belong to individuals. For national development, there is need to protect, restore, promote and sustainably manage forests, reduce

deforestation and stop unnecessary environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

- v. Good public management is crucial to conserve public finances needed for national development and economic growth and to promote poverty reduction strategies and the wellbeing for all at all ages by 2030. To achieve this feat requires the involvement of competent managers from the private sector in the governance architecture to blend with the roles of career politicians.

### 4.3. Scope for Further Study

Further study should examine the relationship between environmental degradation and tourism development and management in Nigeria. This is important as an attempt to discover better ways to enhance the contribution of culture and tourism to the GDP.

### 4.4. Conclusion

The exploratory research design was used to evaluate the relationship between natural resources management and national development. Literature provides evidence that Nigeria has huge natural resources begging for good public management for national development. Because of lack of good public management, huge sums of money accruing from natural resources are stolen by individuals and corporate bodies to the detriment of national development. 70 respondents participated in the study and data analyzed through descriptive and regression statistical techniques showed strong positive relationship between natural resources management and national development. This is the interest of the study.

## Research Funding

No funding was received from any resources whatsoever for this original investigation, authorship, and/or publication of this paper.

## Declaration of Conflicting Interests

This author declares no potential conflicts of interest to this research, authorship, and/or publication of this paper.

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