

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NIGERIA'S 9TH
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE**

BY

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BEING

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CERTIFICATION

This dissertation titled “**An Assessment of the effectiveness of Nigerian’s 9th National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change**” presented by **Diemiruwe Loveth EMAREYO (PG/NLS/2215146)** has met the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Masters in Parliamentary Administration (MPD) of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies/University of Benin, Edo State.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is a product of my research efforts, undertaken under the supervision of Dr. Terfa Abraham. It is an original work and no part of it has ever been presented for the award of any degree anywhere. All sources of information have been duly acknowledged through the references.

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APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that this dissertation “*An Assessment of the effectiveness of Nigerian’s 9th National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change*” has been read and approved as having met the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Masters in Legislative Studies of University of Benin (**UNIBEN**)/National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (**NILDS**) is approved for contribution to knowledge.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for giving me the strength, knowledge and grace to go through this academic journey successfully.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
KII	Key Informant Interview
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
NASS	National Assembly
NESREA	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
NILDS	National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
NOSDRA	National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency

PLAC Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre PLAC

WCED World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the effectiveness of Nigeria's 9th National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in responding to the growing environmental and climate challenges facing the country. Since the inauguration of the 9th Senate in 2019, Nigeria has experienced heightened exposure to climate-induced hazards such as flooding, coastal erosion, droughts, desertification, and increased food insecurity. These events, driven by global warming and shifting rainfall patterns, continue to threaten livelihoods, public health, agriculture, and national development. Given the urgency of environmental sustainability, the study was guided by four objectives: to assess the interventions of the committee, evaluate their outcomes, examine the challenges encountered during implementation, and propose actionable strategies to enhance performance.

The study adopted a mixed-methods research design combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The population consisted of members of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, legislative aides, technical staff, and officials from relevant government agencies. Using stratified random sampling, 384 respondents were selected. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and unstructured interviews, supplemented by secondary sources such as policy documents and reports. Descriptive and inferential statistics, including chi-square analysis, were employed to analyze the data and determine relationships between key variables.

Findings revealed that the committee made notable efforts in terms of budgetary oversight, stakeholder consultations, and issue prioritization, particularly on matters such as carbon emissions reduction, desertification control, and soil degradation. Approximately 67.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the committee prioritized key environmental issues

(Mean = 3.655). However, the study also found that the slow passage of climate-related legislation remained a significant obstacle to effective policy delivery, with 92.5% of respondents identifying it as a major challenge (Mean = 4.1423). Limited legislative engagement, procedural delays, and inadequate monitoring mechanisms further hampered the committee's overall effectiveness.

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To improve performance, the study recommends increasing the frequency of committee meetings to facilitate regular dialogue, faster policy decisions, and better coordination with relevant agencies. Stakeholder engagement should also be deepened through structured public forums, which would enable more inclusive participation and robust evaluation of climate initiatives. Furthermore, enhanced collaboration with external experts such as climate scientists, environmental NGOs, and policy consultants should be institutionalized to address knowledge gaps and reduce legislative bottlenecks. Another key recommendation is the development of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track budgetary allocations and program outcomes. This would enhance accountability, ensure proper use of public funds, and improve the overall impact of environmental programs initiated by the committee.

In conclusion, while the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change made strides in promoting climate policy, significant improvements are needed in legislative output, stakeholder involvement, and oversight functions. Implementing the proposed strategies would strengthen the committee's capacity to tackle environmental challenges and align Nigeria's climate response with global best practices.

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Keywords: Climate Change, Environmental Policy, Legislative Oversight, Nigeria's National Assembly, Stakeholder Engagement, Climate Governance

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Study

The effectiveness of legislative committees is critical in democratic governance, particularly in specialized areas like Ecology and Climate Change Policy (Hendriks & Kay, 2017). In Nigeria's presidential system, the National Assembly, which includes the Senate and the House of Representatives, shares power with the executive and judiciary, preventing the arbitrary use of power. Members of the National Assembly, including the Senate, are elected every four years. Each member has equal standing, but leadership positions are established to manage and coordinate legislative activities, especially through committees.

Historically, legislative committees have long been integral to parliamentary systems worldwide. They are essential for detailed scrutiny of legislation, policy proposals, and executive actions (Nwozor & Olanrewaju, 2019). By dividing the legislative workload into specialized areas, committees allow for more in-depth examination of complex issues than full parliamentary sessions. According to (Nwozor and Olanrewaju 2019), this division of labor ensures legislators with expertise or interest in specific policy areas can contribute more effectively.

In the context of environmental and climate change issues, the role of legislative committees becomes even more critical. Climate change is a multifaceted problem that intersects with various sectors, including energy, agriculture, transportation, and public health. Therefore, effective legislative oversight requires a deep understanding of scientific, economic, and social dimensions. Committees focused on climate change and the environment bring together legislators with the requisite knowledge and interest to address these challenges comprehensively.

The 9th Senate of Nigeria has established a Committee on Ecology and Climate Change to address the increasing challenges of climate change and environmental degradation (Order 96 (17) of the Senate Standing Order, 2022).

This committee is vital in shaping policies, overseeing their implementation, and ensuring Nigeria meets its environmental and climate objectives. The committee's effectiveness is crucial for the country's sustainable development and ability to respond to national and global environmental

challenges. Nigeria's National Assembly, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, operates within a presidential system where power is shared among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches (sections 4, 5 & 6 of the 1999 constitution as altered). This separation of powers is designed to prevent any one branch from exercising unchecked authority. Within this framework, legislative committees like the Committee on Ecology and Climate Change play a pivotal role in formulating, debating, and overseeing policies related to their mandates. The 9th Senate's Committee on Ecology and Climate Change is tasked with addressing Nigeria's pressing environmental challenges.

This includes formulating legislation to mitigate climate change, adapting to its impacts, and promoting sustainable environmental practices (Martin & Whitaker, 2019). The committee's work is vital for several reasons, like policy formulation and legislative oversight, which involves scrutinizing executive proposals, holding public hearings, and consulting with experts to ensure that policies are sound and effective; implementation and monitoring, which ensures that the executive branch enforces legislation effectively and that programmes designed to address environmental issues are properly funded and executed, and public engagement and awareness, which is raising public awareness about environmental issues through public hearings, consultations, and outreach activities, etcetera (Order 96(17) of the Senate Standing Order, 2022).

The effectiveness of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change is crucial for Nigeria's efforts to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. By formulating and overseeing the implementation of sound environmental policies, the committee contributes significantly to the country's climate resilience and environmental protection. However, to fulfill its mandate effectively, the committee must navigate various challenges, including political dynamics, resource constraints, and the need for robust stakeholder engagement and evaluation frameworks. Addressing these challenges will enhance the committee's impact and ensure Nigeria meets its environmental and climate objectives. As a result, this study assesses the effectiveness of the National Assembly committees, focusing on the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The legislature, as a democratic institution, plays a crucial role in global environmental policymaking. In Nigeria, the National Assembly is empowered by the 1999 constitution to enact

laws on climate change, environmental protection and good governance (Kehinde & Abifarin, 2022) section 4 of the 1999 constitution as altered. Among its relevant committees is the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, which oversees executive actions and proposes legislation on this critical subject matter.

Since the inauguration of the 9th Senate in 2019, global events intensified the urgency of stronger climate action and environmental stewardship in Nigeria (Gbode et al., 2019). devastating floods, coastal erosion, droughts and conflicts partly driven by warming temperatures and changing rainfall patterns undermine livelihoods, health and development across regions (Eskander & Fankhauser, 2020). At the same time, unchecked pollution levels have raised public health concerns in major cities due to increasing industrialization. These challenges directly implicate the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change mandate.

However, as with any organization, committees face limitations that could impact effectiveness. Resource constraints, technical capacities, competing priorities and lack of coordination with implementing agencies present obstacles to climate policymaking (Morgan & Fanzo, 2020). More so, enacting impactful laws does not guarantee outcomes if oversight and citizen participation remain weak in driving follow-through. Against this backdrop, the study assessed the contributions, implementation and challenges of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change.

1.3. Research Questions

The following research questions guide the study:

- i. What were the interventions of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change?
- ii. How were the interventions by the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change?
- iii. What were the challenges faced by the committee in performing its functions as contained in the standing order of the 9th Senate?
- iv. What strategies can be used to address these challenges?

1.4. Research Objectives

Broadly, this study examines the assessment of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Assess the interventions of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change;
- ii. Evaluate the outcome of the interventions by the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate change;
- iii. Examine the challenges faced by the committee in performing its functions as contained in the standing order during the 9th Senate; and
- iv. Proffer strategies that can be used to address these challenges.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study aims to illuminate an understanding of the effectiveness of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. The study will be of significant importance for legislators, policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and government agencies. The study also serves as a reference material since it would fill the gap in the literature about environment and climate change and for researchers who may want to study similar phenomena. Beyond addressing gaps in knowledge, the research contributes to policymaking and institutional reform. Findings offer Nigerian policymakers and global parliamentary groups a springboard to advance standards through evidence-based policy. Most importantly, evaluating factors that inhibited the performance of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change presents opportunities to assess efforts undertaken to ensure Nigeria's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.6. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on assessing the effectiveness of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change during the 9th Senate from 2019 to 2023. The committee is constitutionally mandated to protect the environment and advance Nigeria's climate action. However, its impact and functioning require evaluation to identify gaps and improve performance. Geographically, the scope will be limited to legislative activities of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the 9th Senate. Temporally, the period covered spans from June 2019 to June 2023 which corresponds with the tenure of the 9th Senate. Factors such as engagement with stakeholders, oversight of agencies and passage of climate change bills will be examined. The study also aims to provide recommendations for strengthening the committee's capacity and effectiveness in climate governance based on international best practices.

1.7. Definition of Terms

Assessment: An assessment is the process of evaluating, measuring, or analyzing something to understand its quality, performance, value, or condition. In another definition, an assessment is defined as examining at a deeper level what students know and what they can do with what they know. It relies on a process of identifying student learning outcomes or objectives, planning how to measure learning that has occurred, collecting data from various sources, analyzing and thinking about the data, and then examining ways to improve future learning. In a broad definition, assessment is a structured and purposeful process of gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and using relevant information to make informed judgments about the quality, value, performance, progress, effectiveness, or condition of a person, object, system, process, or situation. It is a universal tool applied across various fields such as education, healthcare, business, public policy, finance, and personal development to support decision-making, improvement, accountability, and planning.

Effectiveness: Effectiveness is the degree to which an action, process, strategy, individual, system, organization, or product successfully achieves its intended objectives, fulfills its purpose, or produces the desired results in a given context. It reflects the outcome-oriented success of an effort relative to its goals, standards, or expectations. Effectiveness goes beyond mere effort or output; it measures how well the desired results are achieved, regardless of how much input or resources were used. It is central to evaluating value, impact, performance, and suitability in multiple domains.

1.8. Organization of the Study

The study consists of five chapters. Chapter One introduces the study through the background, problem statement, questions, objectives, significance, and scope of the study. It also previews subsequent chapters. Chapter Two reviews relevant literature and theories, frameworks and perspectives on the subject matter. Chapter Three outlines the methodology, including the research design, population, data collection sources, sampling procedures, methods, and objectives. Chapter Four presents results through data analysis and relates findings to objectives. It discusses results. Chapter Five concludes the study by drawing research-backed conclusions, recommendations, and references/appendices.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The chapter presents the discussions on the concepts relevant to the study. The concepts addressed focused on conceptual, empirical, and theoretical issues. Specifically, literature on the conceptual and empirical issues covered areas such as the legislative committee, climate change and environment, etcetera, while the principal-agent theory was adopted as the framework for its theoretical conceptualization.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

2.1. Concept of Legislative Committee

The legislature plays an enormous role in increasing the benefits of democracy in any country in the globe. As a result, because the legislative branch of government includes representatives from many constituencies across the world, members of parliament are divided into committees to better execute the primary responsibilities of legislation, representation, and oversight. These committees are responsible for overseeing the executive's operations in order to improve the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches of government. Legislative committees are specialized groups within a legislative institution that are in charge of performing in-depth examinations, analyses, and decisions on certain policy topics or areas of legislation (Steffani, 2019). These committees are composed of a subset of legislators who are appointed or elected to serve on them, often based on their expertise or interest in the particular policy area under consideration.

According to Coen and Richardson (2009), legislative committees are critical to the legislative process. They serve as platforms for member nations and other interested parties to debate, negotiate, and reach agreements. Committees analyze legislative ideas, hold hearings, gather evidence, and make recommendations to the full legislative body (Hendriks & Kay, 2019). Legislative committees, often known as commissions, are organizational bodies inside a legislative chamber that allow groups of politicians to investigate policy concerns or proposed legislation more fully than the complete chamber, as explained by Diasio et al. (2020). This implies that these committees are formed to perform certain tasks that could ordinarily take time for the whole legislative chamber to perform. Corroboratively, the National Democratic Institute for International

Affairs (1996) observed that the legislative committees conduct simultaneous and many relevant functions that otherwise might not be performed by parliament as a whole (Ajani, 2022).

Haverland (2018) stated that parliamentary committees are organized around policy topics such as agriculture, the environment, and economic affairs. Each committee focuses on a certain policy topic and is in charge of reviewing legislative bills, recommending revisions, and offering subject matter expertise. (Tsebelis and Garrett, 2001) contend that legislative committees are critical for handling the complexities of decision-making in a multi-level governance structure. They enhance coordination and information sharing among member states, interest groups, and the European Commission. In a larger comparative perspective, (Peters, 2005) notes that legislative committees exist in a variety of political systems, including parliamentary and presidential. These committees serve as important mechanisms for legislative oversight, policy formulation, and representation of diverse interests. However, the committee systems are either ad-hoc or standing depending on the practice of the political system of the country.

The legislative committee guarantees the executive's responsibility by providing channels for monitoring, inspection, and investigation of government acts, policies, and expenditures. According to Jorge et al. (2019), legislative committees operate as external consumers of financial reporting to examine accountability and statutory compliance. They use budgetary and financial data to assess the government's financial management and hold them accountable for any deviations from the approved proposal. (Christenson and Craig, 2018) emphasized the significance of openness and accountability in the legislative committee's contacts with interest groups. Given that legislative committees regularly get endorsements and signals from interest groups through letters, which can alter the decision-making process. (Lowande, 2018) further reiterated that legislative committees can play a role in coordinating and conducting systematic oversight to ensure accountability and transparency in the administrative state.

Legislative committees are internal subdivisions of the legislature made up of politicians who are granted specific power. These committees' influence and authority can vary, with some referred to as "power committees" or "influential committees," such as the Budgetary, Constitutional Affairs, General Legislation, and Agricultural Committees, which are considered higher-profile due to their ability to allocate funding (Saalfeld et al., 2014). Scholars have ranked parliamentary committees as one of the most essential elements of legislative structure in modern democracies, emphasizing

their critical role in legislative organization (Senk, 2020). Moreover, the crucial role of committees in the legislative process is evident in the oversight and scrutiny of proposed legislation, especially in coalition governments, where contentious proposed legislation is heavily amended at the committee stage (Gaines *et al.*, 2019). Therefore, legislative committees play key roles in shaping government policy, providing oversight, and influencing the legislative process.

The legislative committees play a crucial role in the legislative process and governance of the country cannot be over emphasized. Legislative committees are internal subunits of the legislature comprised of legislators and carry a certain delegated authority (Saalfeld *et al.*, 2014). Nigeria's committees are responsible for various functions such as oversight, lawmaking, and investigation. The composition and quality of these committees depend on the factors affecting their effectiveness. Therefore, the types of legislative committees are categorized based on their functions and areas of focus. These committees include oversight, standing, ad-hoc, and special or select committees. Oversight committees are responsible for monitoring and supervising the executive branch's implementation of laws and policies. Standing committees are permanent committees that are established to handle specific areas of legislation such as finance, education, and health. Ad-hoc committees are appointed for a specific purpose and dissolved once their task is completed. Special or select committees are formed for a particular issue or investigation and are dissolved after the completion of their assigned task (Saalfeld *et al.*, 2014).

The efficiency of these committees is critical to the successful operation of Nigeria's legislative process. Research has identified factors that influence the quality of these committees, such as their makeup and independence (Chukwunedu *et al.*, 2015). Legislators' roles in these committees and their influence on the legislative process have also been investigated, highlighting the significance of committee assignments in determining legislative politics. Furthermore, the dynamics inside these committees, such as conversational dynamics and power hierarchies, have been examined to better understand how legislative committees work. The impact of electoral institutions and personal votes on the establishment and operation of legislative committees has also been investigated, demonstrating the interdependence of electoral processes and parliamentary organization.

In conclusion, the types of legislative committees in Nigeria are diverse and play a crucial role in the legislative process and governance of the country. These committees' composition, quality, and

functioning have been subjects of academic inquiry, reflecting their significance in shaping legislative outcomes and governance in Nigeria.

2.2. Legislative Committee System in Nigeria

The foundation of the Fourth Republic in Nigeria is established by the Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution of 1999 (as amended). Since the inception of the modern democratic experiment in Nigeria, multiple legislative assemblies have formed various committees. Following Section 62 of the Constitution, the National Assembly is empowered to establish different committees to aid in carrying out its legislative responsibilities. These committees, commonly called standing committees, are assigned specific supervisory roles that align with the authorized Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). The composition and functions of these standing committees are outlined in the respective Standing Orders of the legislative assemblies.

Additionally, the Standing Orders grant each House the authority to establish ad hoc committees for specialized legislative tasks, often presented to them with specific terms of reference (Nwosu, 2014). These ad hoc or special-purpose committees are usually disbanded upon the completion of their assigned duties. According to experts in legislative studies, these committees represent the smallest organizational unit within a legislative assembly (Nwaegbu, 2022).

According to the Legislative Research Council (LRC) (2018), the primary role of committees is to review legislation entrusted to them and make recommendations on whether they should proceed through the legislative process. These legislative committees are small groups or subdivisions of lawmakers appointed temporarily or permanently during a parliament session to conduct more comprehensive examinations of issues than can be accomplished in the plenary session, as stated by (Ojogwu and Ashiekaa, 2011). Similarly, Dan-Azumi (2015) defines committees as divisions of the National Assembly established to assist the parent body in drafting and conducting in-depth analysis of proposed laws or other items for consideration. Based on this, Dan-Azumi concludes that committees are essential to a legislative House's structure, supporting the notion that virtually all legislatures rely on committees to fulfill their duties. Abiola (2018) supports Dan-Azumi's argument and enumerates the functions of parliamentary committees, highlighting their ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, conduct thorough research and discussions, and provide comprehensive analyses of proposed legislation.

The statement attributed to Woodrow Wilson that “Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, while Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work” (Woodrow, 1885) may have provided inspiration for the preceding explanation of legislative committees. While it is important to acknowledge that the plenary or regular sessions of the National Assembly are not ineffective, as they provide a forum for discussing and approving committee recommendations, committees serve as a scaled-down version of the legislature with a decentralized operational mode specific to their respective sectors, thereby enhancing their contribution to the effectiveness of the parent House. (Abiola, 2018).

There seems to be a convergence of characteristics between committees involved in oversight and legislation, regardless of the subject matter. The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) (1996) notes that the number of committees has varied from one parliament to another. The observation made by (Gbahabo, Dan-Azumi, and Igbanoi, 2019) supports the notion that the number of committees within a parliament has changed over time. While parliamentary, though committees are tasked with overseeing and examining the operations of executive branch agencies, there is a lack of similar scrutiny over the activities of legislators themselves (Nwaegbu, 2022).

Specifically, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) (2012) asserts that the committee level is where the oversight function of parliament is most effectively and transparently established. According to DCAF, committee oversight procedures are distinct from both the legislative calendar and the plenary sessions. (Frolick and Tau, 2013) argue that parliamentary committees are the most effective means of ensuring government accountability. Therefore, the legislature relies on committees and refers various matters to them for consideration. Frolick and Tau suggest that committees, which receive reports on all matters presented to them, including simple requests for information, are an integral component of the parliamentary functioning. (Battglini, Lai, Lim, and Wang, 2018) reaffirm the informative role of legislative committees by highlighting that despite potential conflicts of interest among committee members, the informative tasks they undertake serve as incentives for them to fulfill their duties.

The committee structure of the National Assembly serves the purpose of conducting oversight duties, ensuring that the legislative branch maintains continuous monitoring and scrutiny of the executive branch and its associated Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). In fulfilling

this crucial legislative responsibility, the National Assembly evaluates the extent to which the executive, judicial, and agencies' implementation of policies and programs complies with the laws established by the legislature, both in letter and in spirit. This includes activities such as reviewing evaluation reports of government initiatives, examining legislation falling within the purview of the committee before it is discussed in plenary sessions, engaging in meetings with various MDAs to discuss a range of topics, and more (Fortunato, Martin & Vanberg, 2017). Through their deliberations, the committees propose actions that enhance the concept of legislative oversight. Effective legislative committees play a critical role in shaping government policies by carefully examining proposals put forth by the government (Raymond & Holt, 2017). Additionally, legislative committees provide a platform for public participation in customary legislative discussions and activities (Hendrick & Kay, 2017). However, (Agidigbo, 2022) discovered that the poor performance of committee leadership can be attributed to factors such as inadequate resources, lack of coordination between the committee and MDAs, and other related issues.

Additionally, by encouraging citizen participation and criticism of government policies, legislative committees involve the public and make it easier for the public to participate in legislative activities and discussions. The venue for the citizens' participation in the process of legislating is a public hearing on a suggested piece of legislation, which is a parliamentary process open to public participation as the name implies. Jombo and Fagbadebo (2018) noted that such participation improves legislative oversight and the consequent approval or rejection of government ideas. Actually, committees are typically in charge of ordinary legislative monitoring tasks. The leadership of the committees as pointed out by Adepoju (2022), noted that the National Assembly's insufficient budget allocation has an impact on how well the sustainable developments Goals are being implemented.

Aligning with these aforesaid views, Dauda (2021) found that challenges included the inadequacy of the legal framework, the volume of work, the inherited backlog of questions from previous SPACs, the lack of adequate follow-up by SPAC to the MDAs on Implementation, poor record keeping, and the inadequacy of ICT facilities to carry out tasks effectively. Akande (2020) discovered that challenges such as lack of organic budget law, insufficient technical capabilities, a high rate of lawmaker turnover, and a delayed Executive budget presentation have impede committee leadership's role of oversight. The Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

in Nigeria is provided for in the Senate Standing Order. The committee's jurisdiction covers the ecological fund office, the Department of Climate Change in the Ministry of Environment, and so on (Order 96 (17) of the Senate Standing Order, 2022).

2.3. Concept of Ecology and Climate

Ecology refers to the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their environment, is profoundly influenced by climate. Climate dictates the distribution and behavior of species, shapes ecosystems, and drives evolutionary processes. In recent years, the growing effects of climate change have been a prominent issue in ecological study, spurring substantial studies on how changing climatic conditions influence biodiversity, ecosystem processes, and the benefits they give civilization. Studies suggest analysis showing that climate change impacts ecosystems at different scales, impacting individual species' appearance, behavior, and distribution, therefore altering community compositions and ecosystem services (Sarah R. et al., 2020). Climate change exerts significant pressure on biodiversity, leading to shifts in species distributions, alterations in phenological events, and increased extinction risks. Species respond to changing temperatures and precipitation patterns by migrating to more favorable habitats, often poleward or to higher elevations. Although, reintroducing large herbivores can influence vegetation structure and carbon dynamics, while restoring wetlands can enhance carbon storage and provide flood protection. (Wudu et al., 2023), and also suggests that while some organizations are beginning to adopt these strategies, widespread and systematic implementation remains limited, however, not all species can adapt or relocate swiftly enough, resulting in population declines

The intricate relationship between ecology and climate underscores the urgency of addressing climate change to preserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services. Recent research and observations highlight the accelerating impacts of climate change on ecological systems, emphasizing the need for immediate and coordinated action

2.4. Concept of Climate Change and Environment

The meaning of the term “environment” has been defined by various scholars and sources. Ajayi (1998) described the environment as the overall surrounding conditions in a specific area that influence an organism, which includes both physical and non-physical factors. Kwan, Lam, and Ofoefuna (2011) defined environments as the circumstances that surround an organism. Onuoha

(2012) viewed an environment as a collection of situations and external forces that directly impact an organization/organism.

The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary defines the environment as “the conditions that influence someone’s or something’s behavior and/or the physical conditions in which someone or something exists...the natural world in which animals and plants live.” Bringing these definitions together, it can be inferred that the environment comprises all visible and microscopic physical objects that positively or negatively affect the existence of organisms, and that no organism can exist in isolation without interacting with other external topics that coexist with it.

In contrast, climate change refers to significant and long-lasting changes in typical weather trends over a specific geographical region that lasts for an extended period, such as decades or millions of years, according to Nwankwoala (2015). Nwankwoala explained that a shift in weather patterns’ statistical distribution for a prolonged time can be termed a change in statistical weather pattern distribution.

Climate change directly affects human life as human activities alter the climate. It also greatly impacts ecosystems. Over the past 130 years, global temperatures have consistently risen with substantial ramifications for various climate-related issues. Since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane emissions into the atmosphere have accelerated at an alarming rate due to oil spills, gas flaring and increasing usage of fossil fuels and deforestation which produce greenhouse gases.

The greenhouse effect describes this phenomenon where greenhouse gases act like a blanket trapping heat and energy in the earth’s atmosphere, resulting in global warming. Consequently, the planet’s average temperature has increased 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last century and is projected to rise another 2 to 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the coming hundred years.¹ Climate change is also defined as a shift in global or regional climate patterns, particularly one that began in the mid-to late-twentieth century and is mostly attributable to higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (CO₂).²

It should be noted that environmental changes are induced by variations in climatic elements such as rainfall, temperature, and wind speed. Biological factors like predators, parasites, soil microorganisms, pests, and diseases as well as edaphic or soil-based factors including pH, texture, and structure also influence environmental changes. Lives and property can be harmed when

environmental changes occur due to human actions and natural events. Broadly, climate and environmental changes result from both anthropogenic activities and some natural occurrences. The term “climate forcing” or “forcing mechanisms” refers to natural sources of climate change.

External changes from extrasolar systems or internal modifications within the ocean, atmosphere, and land systems can occur through shifts in any of the outlined components. For instance, variations in the sun’s radiation output received by the earth’s atmosphere and surface could induce external changes. Changes in atmospheric gas concentrations, mountain growth, volcanic eruptions, and surface or atmospheric albedo fluctuations may also induce internal variations in the climate system.

2.5. The Legislature and Climate Change Action

The National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria (2021) notes that climate change presents a complex environmental challenge due to its long-term uncertain timescale, varying scales of occurrence, uneven impacts and vulnerabilities, as well as issues of equity and justice associated with global power asymmetries. For example, climate change already pushes people into poverty and hinders economic growth. It also has the potential for socioeconomic and environmental disasters if left unaddressed, as seen in the lingering farmers/herders crisis.

However, successive governments have continued including climate change in their agenda through suitable policy and institutional frameworks. Implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions for climate-friendly and sustainable long-term development have largely remained at the policy level across all tiers of government. This is given added impetus by the Nigerian Constitution’s provisions on matters pertaining to International Agreements.

Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) stipulates inter alia that no treaty between Nigeria and any other country shall have the force of law except to the extent that the National Assembly has enacted such treaty. Therefore, the power to domesticate treaties lies with the National Assembly. Consequently, treaties between Nigeria and other subjects of international law do not automatically become part of Nigerian law without legislative action.

In fact, the extent to which conventions and protocols apply domestically depends on how much legal validity the Constitution accords them. As a result, how well-intentioned an international agreement matters less, as its implementation within Nigeria predominantly relies on the level to

which the National Assembly domesticates it. Perhaps this explains why several climate change actions remain at the policy level. Given the legislature's pivotal role in governance issues, the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP, 2018) recorded that approximately 1,500 climate laws and policies were in place worldwide in 2018, compared to 72 in 1997. The number of climate change

¹ <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics>

² <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics>

laws expanded more than 20-fold in the 20 years following the Kyoto Protocol. All 197 Paris Agreement member states officially address climate change and low-carbon transitions in domestic legislation and policies. The CCCEP further noted that 100 to 143 new climate change laws were enacted annually between 2009 and 2015, starting with the Copenhagen climate summit and ending with the Paris Agreement. This surge in domestic action likely facilitated the Paris Climate Agreement.

Climate change impacts Nigeria like many other regions. The country is facing rising temperatures, especially annually and seasonally. Research indicates a significant positive increase in Nigerian temperatures. Studies reveal mean temperatures steadily increased across Nigeria over past five decades, with a major rise in the 1980s exhibiting a linear warming trend of 1.01°C (0.52 to 1.5°C) from 1951 to 2005. Decadal analyses showed average positive temperature changes of 0.2°C per decade for the same period. Recognizing parliaments' unparalleled role in climate action, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU, 2016) affirmed that international agreements must be transformed into national legislation supported by proper budgets and strong monitoring of government performance to be effective, credible and legally enforceable. The IPU argues that this places parliaments at the center of climate change responses.

In context, the National Assembly holds a distinctive position that enables it to examine how the executive addresses domestic and international climate change issues and hold the executives accountable for their responses. This role is further emphasized considering that elected representatives (Senators and Members of the House of Representatives) function as a liaison between citizens, governments, and global decisions.

2.6. Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Legislative Committees in Nigeria

As in any other country, legislative committees in Nigeria are influenced by various factors that shape their composition, functioning, and decision-making processes. However, over time, the functions of legislative committees in Nigeria have been gradually eroded, leading to a breakdown in the institutions that promote their effectiveness. Various factors have been attributed to the ineffectiveness of legislative committees in Nigeria, thereby raising concerns about accountability in the public sphere. Based on several works of literature, the poor performance of Nigerian legislative committees is believed to be demonstrated by issues such as corruption, inadequate funding for committee activities, ineffective utilization of oversight mechanisms, political interference from the executive branch, and legislators displaying a lackadaisical and lethargic approach (Noah, 2017).

Corruption and unethical behavior have negative impacts on the relationships and operations within legislative committees, potentially leading to conflicts and hindrances in achieving legislative objectives within the legislative branch. Otusanya, Lauwo, Ige, and Adelaja (2015) examine legislators' involvement in facilitating corrupt financial practices in Nigeria. This sheds light on the "dark" side of legislative practices and the role of legislators in engaging in corrupt activities, which can undermine their ability to carry out oversight functions effectively. Aluko (2021) observes that corruption devours a country's progress, causing it to lag behind other nations in the global community. Agunyai and Ojakorotu (2021) argue that the problematic performance of legislative oversight has led many individuals to lose confidence in their representatives, exacerbating the issues their constituencies face and raising significant concerns about the Nigerian Parliament's capacity to combat corruption.

The autonomy and independence of the legislature play a critical role in ensuring effective oversight by committees. Yusuf and Ojoduwa (2022) contend that for oversight functions to enhance democracy in Nigeria, the legislature must have financial autonomy and be free from external interference. This autonomy enables legislators to act independently and hold the executive branch accountable. The lack of complete autonomy and independence of the legislature in Nigeria has severely hindered the performance of oversight functions, leading to concerns about the accountability of public officeholders. Building upon this, Suberu (2018) observes that the general population has not received public goods from the malfunctioning federation, which leans more towards a unitary system than a federal one. This suggests that the legislative branch lacks complete

autonomy and independence, as the executive makes most decisions with minimal or no involvement from the legislature.

Political party interference and personal interests pose obstacles to the effective performance of oversight functions by committees. A study titled “Legislators and their Oversight Functions in Policy Implementation in Nigeria” (2019) concludes that interference by political party leadership and the personal interests of legislators can impede the successful implementation of public policies in Nigeria. Such interference can divert attention away from oversight responsibilities and compromise accountability. Therefore, to carry out legislative oversight functions effectively and efficiently, the National Assembly must address obstacles such as corruption, excessive presidential influence, the prevalence of patronage-based politics, and the lingering effects of military interventions on Nigeria’s democracy (Opeoluwa, Oluwatobi & James, 2023). Banko (2017) observes that the legislature’s independence continues to be threatened by political interference and executive encroachment on legislative responsibilities. This interference has hampered the performance of the legislature’s mandated duties, particularly in the realm of overseeing executive activities.

The level of political competition and economic development influences the effectiveness of legislative committee oversight. According to Ríos, Bastida, and Benito (2015), political competition and economic level are significant factors determining legislative oversight’s extent. Higher political competition and economic development levels can create an environment that promotes greater accountability and oversight. Berliner and Erlich (2015) find strong arguments in favor of an insurance mechanism, whereby incumbent parties concerned about their future political control seek to establish measures to ensure future access to information about the government and methods of monitoring incumbents in the event of losing power. Maddah, Ghaffari Nejad, and Sargolzaei (2022) reveal that several indicators of political competition have a threshold impact on economic growth, and there is a supported U-shaped nonlinear relationship between political competition and economic growth, with political competition above the threshold level resulting in higher economic growth. The low level of political competition in Nigeria has diminished the performance of legislative oversight, thereby posing a threat to the accountability of office holders in resource management.

The availability of tools and resources for committee oversight is of utmost importance. Pelizzo and Stapenhurst (2004) emphasize the significance of having appropriate tools for legislative oversight. Equipping legislators with essential resources such as staff, expertise, and access to information enables them to carry out their oversight functions effectively. Supporting this notion, Noah (2017) demonstrates that corruption, insufficient funding for committee activities, and ineffective utilization of oversight tools have a detrimental impact on the performance of legislatures in Nigeria. The lack of professional staff in executing legislative oversight responsibilities undermines accountability in Nigeria, as committees within the National Assembly have raised concerns about the scarcity of staff, expertise, funds, and access to information, which hinders the legislative process.

Moreover, the interplay between the legislature and the executive branch significantly influences committee oversight. Omotoso and Oladeji (2019) examine legislative oversight in Nigeria's Fourth Republic and shed light on the dynamics of the legislature and executive branch. The relationship between these government branches can impact the willingness and capacity of the legislature to effectively exercise oversight. Andrew and Adeleke (2020) reveal that both arms of government have often paid insufficient attention to power separation in discharging their constitutional duties, leading to a trend of conflictual and antagonistic relations in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The study further demonstrates that the legislature and executive relationship pattern threatens accountability and good governance.

2.7. Challenges and Limitations of Legislative Committees in Nigeria

The importance of the legislative committees in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized owing to their crucial role in enhancing legislative effectiveness, formulating policies, and overseeing the implementation of laws (Aliyu, 2022). However, the legislative arm of government thrives on the committee system, which enhances the effectiveness of oversight functions of these committees. Drilling from the relevance of the committee to the promotion of public accountability in Nigeria, the system and operationalization of these committees in the National Assembly has been marred by a number of issues. These challenges that limit their effectiveness are discussed therein.

Legislative committees generally lack adequate funding and resources to carry out their oversight and investigative functions effectively. They are often constrained by limited staffing, equipment, research capabilities etc. This hinders the depth and quality of their work. In Nigeria, Aliyu (2022)

conducted a study on the role of legislative committees in enhancing legislative performance and found that Nigerian legislative committees lacked the necessary resources to effectively carry out their oversight and investigative functions. The author noted that this was attributed to limited staffing, equipment, and research capabilities, which hindered the depth and quality of their work. Similarly, a study on the information needs and seeking behavior of Kwara State House of Assembly Legislators by Phosa (2016) found that there was a need for better information resources and services to support the legislative process. Furthermore, a study by Aliyu (2012) on the effectiveness of legislative libraries in Nigeria found that libraries in State Houses of Assembly could not effectively support the legislative process as evidently practiced in advanced democracies. These findings underscore the relevance of resource availability in enhancing the effectiveness of committees of the National Assembly in Nigeria.

The executive arm exerts considerable influence over the legislature (Ukam, C, 2021).. The majority of committees are chaired by members of the ruling party, making them susceptible to executive pressure and directives. This undermines the committees' independence and impartiality. Executive dominance is a significant issue in Nigeria's political landscape, particularly in the relationship between the legislature and the executive. This phenomenon is characterized by the executive arm exerting considerable influence over the legislature, often leading to a weakening of the legislature's independence and impartiality (Godswealt et al, 2016). Historically, Nigeria's legislature developed as an appendage and necessary extension of the colonial state, primarily to ratify executive directives issued by the colonial governor. This legacy has contributed to the executive's perceived dominance, with the executive often monopolizing power and discretionary authority in Nigeria's presidential system (Shikyil, 2016).

One factor influencing executive dominance is the unified nature of the executive, which includes the power to initiate and enact laws, control the administration of the country, and maintain laws made by the National Assembly. This concentration of power places tremendous influence at the disposal of the executive, making it challenging for the legislature to assert its independence ((Godswealt et al, 2016). The administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007) is often cited as an example of executive dominance.

Obasanjo's administration was perceived as unconstitutionally abolishing the Petroleum Trust Fund without consulting the legislature, leading to disagreements and conflicts between the executive

and legislative branches (Shikyil, 2016). In addition, the nature of party politics in Nigeria, particularly a lack of party system institutionalization, has contributed to the emergence of weak legislatures. Political parties are frequently linked to the executive arm of government, with chief executives at both the center and state levels controlling party affairs and influencing agenda control, voting behavior, and reelection bids through party structures (Baba, 2015). The consequences of executive dominance can be detrimental to Nigeria's democratic governance. It undermines the legislature's role as a check on executive power, leading to a lack of accountability, transparency, and inclusivity in decision-making processes. This, in turn, hinders the promotion of good governance and the protection of citizens' rights and interests (Baba, 2015; Shikyil, 2016; Godswealt et al, 2016).

Committees are sometimes weighed down by partisan political considerations rather than policy substance. Ruling party members may seek to shield the executive, while opposition aims to score political points. This polarization impacts the objectivity and productivity of committees. Political parties consideration in Nigeria have been characterized by alliance instances of substance (Ezeani, 2013). This is evident in the behavior of ruling party members, who seek to shield the executive from criticism, and opposition parties with the aim of scoring political points. This polarization has been a major barrier between the government and the people, intensifying inter-ethnic feuds and frustrating development efforts (Utoro, 2023).

Nigerian political parties are often ethnic-oriented, with little or no time for long-term national policy, focusing instead on deception, violence, and corruption (Oranika-Umeasiegbu et al, 2022). This has led to ill-informed masses being mobilized to elect their political leaders, a situation that has been exacerbated by the fact that party politics in Nigeria is associated with the pattern of colonial governance. Therefore, the partisan nature of these political parties has often impacted the objectivity and productivity of committees and political institutions, with ruling party members seeking to shield the executive and opposition parties aiming to score political points (Ezeani, 2013; Omodia, 2018). This polarization has been a major barrier between the government and the people, intensifying inter-ethnic feuds and frustrating development efforts.

Most committee members lack specialized subject-matter knowledge and training relevant to their assigned portfolios. This limits their ability to comprehend complex issues, scrutinize bills and hold the government accountable on technical matters. The lack of technical expertise among committee

members in Nigeria is a significant challenge that affects their ability to comprehend complex issues, scrutinize bills, and hold the government accountable on technical matters (Wenibowei, 2021). This issue is prevalent in various sectors, including the legislature, audit committees, and technical working groups. In the legislature, the absence of an established institutional framework for providing evidence-based policy advice to lawmakers has hindered the use of scientific advice in policy-making (Omoju, 2023).

Although the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) was established in 2011 to provide capacity-building support to parliamentarians, challenges remain. These include limited capacity across a range of disciplines and professions, communication and engagement gaps between members of parliament and researchers/scientists, and the political nature of legislative activities that may prioritize interests over scientific evidence (McGregor et al, 2023). Similarly, in audit committees, members are expected to have financial knowledge and expertise in accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, and auditing to effectively oversee the work of both external and internal auditors (Ekumankama & Uche, 2019); the current composition of audit committees, which includes non-board members, is controversial and may not provide the necessary technical expertise. For committees, changes in law and practice are required to ensure that all members are knowledgeable in accounting and have some degree of financial knowledge. The issue of limited public participation in committees and decision-making processes is a concern in Nigeria, with committees often functioning behind closed doors with little transparency. This lack of publicity and limited involvement of stakeholders can lead to decisions being made without the benefit of diverse perspectives, potentially reducing the quality of outcomes and limiting the deterrent impact of committees (Eneji et al, 2019). Public inputs that could enrich debate and outcomes are seldom considered. Lack of publicity also means the committees have limited deterrent impact. For instance, in urban planning, the lack of citizen participation has been attributed to factors such as regulatory issues, political factors, and prevalent corruption (Echendu, 2023).

Therefore, public participation significantly improves the planning outcome, but it is often poorly executed or even ignored in Nigeria. The scale tilts in favor of achieving more success when the public is involved in planning, especially in sustainable development. Furthermore, according to Karuga et al (2022), health committees are key mechanisms for enabling the participation of community members in decision-making on matters related to their health. However, the

participation of women and health committees in the participatory evaluation of community health programs is lacking or inadequate in Nigeria. This affects the effective performance of these committees, thus leading to poor outcomes for society.

Unclear delineation of functions between committees and government ministries/agencies results in duplicated efforts and inefficiencies. It also provides loopholes for the executive to undermine oversight. This issue is particularly prevalent in local government administration, where state institutions such as the Government House, the House of Assembly, and local government councils all have overlapping mandates that constrain local government autonomy (Nwefuru, 2014). In the fight against corruption, the establishment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2000 and 2004, respectively, was intended to strengthen Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts (Hassan 2021). However, the overlapping functions of these agencies have undermined their effectiveness and efficiencies, creating structural challenges that hinder the anti-corruption crusade (Nwefuru, 2014). This lack of clear boundaries and areas of relations and oversight can lead to inefficiencies, as multiple agencies may be working towards similar goals without effective coordination or harmonization.

Weak enforcement of regulations and recommendations is a significant issue in Nigeria, particularly in corruption, law enforcement, and the natural resources sector. The Nigerian government has established a robust anti-corruption legal framework, but enforcement is reportedly very weak (GAN Integrity, 2020). This is evident in the military sector, where widespread human rights violations, weak enforcement of legal frameworks, and a lack of adherence to international humanitarian law are prevalent (Anushiem et al, 2021). The police force is also considered very unreliable, with almost all Nigerians believing it to be corrupt (Obarisiagbon & Oimage, 2018). Even when lapses or irregularities are identified, committees lack the power to enforce compliance with their recommendations and reports. Executive non-compliance goes unpunished in the absence of stronger enforcement mechanisms.

2.8 .Empirical Review

The study by Olujo and Odogbo (2024) on the 2021 Climate Change Act is a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing the pressing global issue of climate change. The study evaluated the Act's impact and its prospects for achieving energy security, environmental sustainability, economic

prosperity, and social justice. The paper dissects the hurdles facing the Act and outlines a strategy to realise the Act's ambitions via public investments in green infrastructure, technology, energy efficiency and robust support for renewable energy sources. The study delved into the Act's capacity to shape the trajectory of future climate policies, identifying focal points and strategies essential for its successful implementation. It underscores the Act's potential and the obstacles it must surmount to be an effective instrument for climate change mitigation via reforms. Employing a rigorous doctrinal legal research methodology, this study relies on an extensive array of primary and secondary legal sources. The study unveils the struggle in combating the repercussions of climate change due to reliance on fossil fuels as a primary revenue source. It concludes that lowcarbon energy is an option, recommending the domestication of the CCA, 2021, establishment of a Forest Commission to safeguard forests and advocates the use of windfall and solar energy for a transition towards a green economy. While this study assesses the effectiveness of the 9th National Assembly's Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in legislative oversight, Olujobi and Odogbo (2024) evaluated the 2021 Nigeria Climate Change Act, focusing on its challenges, successes, and future directions, both addressed climate governance and policy improvements in Nigeria.

A study by Ogah (2021) on the development and implementation of policies to support community resilience in the face of climate change. The study was guided by four objectives. The research process was made up of four stages. An initial literature review, a systematic literature review to address specific research questions related to how community resilience is conceptualised and measured and a Grounded Delphi Method (GDM) study. The study found a lack of clarity in the definition of community resilience and methods applied to measure levels of community resilience. The findings from the systematic review and the GDM study suggest that these different capacities represent a process of stages from coping to adaptation to climate change through to transformation in the face of climate change that communities need to go through to become resilient to climate change. This research also identified indicators, categorised under eight elements, for measuring community resilience at the different stages of this process, focusing on those that are most relevant to reducing the effects of climate change in developing countries. The study provided a method of prioritising specific, measurable indicators to inform policies designed to reduce the impacts of climate change by supporting community resilience in the context of developing countries with limited funding. While this study evaluated the effectiveness of the 9th National Assembly's Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in legislative oversight and focuses on legislative action, Ogah (2021) assesses climate change policies and their practical impact on community resilience in Nigeria and policy implementation at the community level, though both studies examine climate governance.

The study by Ikemeh (2021) presents an assessment of the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the activities of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) in promoting quality standards for products and ensuring the protection of consumers' public interest. The study aims to examine the effectiveness

of SON and analyze the role of the House Committee's oversight activities in enhancing product standardization. A mixed-methods research approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with quantitative surveys. The analysis revealed the Committee's efforts in holding SON accountable, raising awareness about product quality, and advocating for consumer protection. However, challenges were identified, including the need for improved coordination and resource allocation. The research findings indicate that SON plays a crucial role in promoting quality standards, but there is room for improvement in certain areas. The House Committee on Industry has made significant contributions to enhancing product standardization through its oversight activities. However, there is a need for strengthened collaboration between the Committee and SON to address challenges and ensure effective industry regulation. Based on the findings, recommendations are provided to enhance the effectiveness of both SON and the House Committee on Industry. These recommendations include improving SON's monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, enhancing the Committee's capacity through training and resource allocation, and fostering closer collaboration between the Committee and SON to streamline oversight processes. While this study evaluates the effectiveness of the 9th National Assembly's Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in legislative oversight environmental governance, Ikemeh (2023) assesses the impact of the House Committee on Industry focusing on product standardization and industrial regulation, though both examine legislative influence on national development.

2.9 .Theoretical Review

This study is predicated on the Sustainability theory and Principal-agent theory. Sustainability, including sustainable development (WCED 1987; NRC 1999), has become a major concern at all levels of government, from the global to the regional to the local, with numerous attempts to apply the concept to a wide range of places and issues. Sustainability as opined by (Ozili, 2024) defined sustainability as the level of development that places a constraint on current consumption to ensure that future generations will have a resource base that is no less than the resource base of the previous generation. According to (Bettencourt and Kaur 2011), “the concept of sustainable development now pervades the agendas of governments and corporations, as well as the mission of educational and research programs around the world.” Concerns about the health of socialecological systems and the increasingly visible human dimensions of global change are linked to the intertwined concepts of sustainability and development. Therefore, with growing concerns about the ability of Earth systems and human technologies to maintain ecosystem services and meet human needs, sustainability science emerged at the beginning of the twenty-first century, with emphasis on both basic and applied research. The ability to sustain outcome, or process over time such agriculture, forest management, or financial investment may be considered sustainable, which means that the

activity does not deplete the material resources on which it is based. An analogous use of the term “sustainability” refers to dependent social conditions; for example, a peace treaty, an economic policy, or a cultural practice may be called sustainable if it will not exhaust the political community’s support. The concept of sustainability, in its increasingly common usage, frames the ways in which environmental problems jeopardize the conditions of healthy economic, ecological, and social systems.

The sustainability theory provides a useful framework for providing assessment of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change toward achieving sustainable development. The committee aims to support sustainable social and economic conditions through legislation addressing pressing environmental issues like climate change impacting Nigeria. Its role in scrutinizing executive action and driving policy implementation aligns with sustainability goals of maintaining essential ecological services and meeting needs over the long run. Specifically, evaluating the committee’s legislative contributions, extent of resulting output and challenges encountered can reveal how its functions impact sustaining critical environmental resources on which populations depend, and feed into the global sustainability agenda.

On the other hand, various perspectives and contexts have influenced the evolution of principal-agency theory in government. The contribution to this hypothesis can be traced to the works of Mitnick (1973); Fama & Jensen (1998); Eisenhardt (1989); Makris (2003); and Bernstein *et al.* (2016) who noted a framework for a regulatory or institutional model with a focus on a range of social settings. The principal-agency theory in government is based on the relationship between principals (those who delegate authority) and agents (those who act on behalf of the principals).

The theory recognizes that there is a potential conflict of interest between principals (electorates) and agents (executive/legislatures) due to differences in goals, information, and incentives. According to Bjurstrøm (2020), agency theory assumes that agencies act opportunistically, leading to low trust between the ministry (principal) and the agency (agent). This assumption highlights the need for mechanisms to align the interests of principals and agents and ensure accountability in public offices. This theory recognizes the importance of control mechanisms and trust-building in promoting public accountability in government (Schillemans & Bjurstrøm, 2019).

Within the context of the legislative committees, which serve as the watchdogs of the electorates in the discharge of their oversight legislative duties, the theoretical framework provides an understanding of how the electorates can demand public accountability via the legislators. This provides that being representatives of the electorates, the members of the committees through their oversight function, call the attention of the public office holders delegated by the executive to serve in whatever capacity deemed necessary for the general good of the electorates. Based on this, PLAC (2019) observed that public accountability by the legislative committees is demanded using various tools such as investigative hearings, site visits, questioning, and consultation with the Auditor General. The effectiveness of the committee oversight with respect to public accountability as observed by Sefa-Nyarko, Okafor-Yarwood, and Boadu (2021) should accorded to opposition party members for transparency to be ensured.

Legislative committees act as agents of the public, overseeing the actions and decisions of government officials and ensuring that they act in the public's best interests. Therefore, the theory upholds that disclosing accounting information reduces uneven conflicting interests between Nigeria's electorate and public office holders. Royo *et al.* (2019) argue that information disclosure can lessen knowledge asymmetry between the Public Accounts Committee and public corporation management, who are connected contractually as parties. Kyando *et al.* (2022) concluded that although the level of accounting information sharing was positive, some outlier measures need to be strategically enhanced by the Public Accounts Committee to hold government officials accountable for their financial management and ensure transparency.

The principal-agent framework is central to understanding the relationship between the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change the Nigerian public (principals) in undertaking its oversight and accountability functions. As an agent of the electorate, the committee is empowered to ensure the executive (agent) addresses climate and environmental issues effectively and acts in citizens' interests. Examining the committee's legislative activities, implementation levels and challenges encountered can reveal how well it mitigates potential conflicts between public goals and executive actions, promoting transparency. Evaluating information disclosure, accountability mechanisms utilized, and involvement of opposition members will offer perspectives on whether the committee is lessening information asymmetry and upholding public interests as demanded by the theory, particularly in achieving sustainable environmental stewardship for Nigeria.

2.10. Theoretical Framework

The study adopted the sustainability and principal-agent theories as the framework for its conceptualization.

Sustainability Theory

The concept of sustainability has historical roots in ecological and environmental sciences. The concept of “sustainability” took place in the 1960s, when the environmental movement grew, the term was first seen in 1713 during a publication by Von carlowitz and Von rohr who had used and explain the German term “nachhaltende nutzung” (sustainable use) and the concept was furthered theorized by Thomas Malthus (1766-1834) who then worked on the concept with David racrdo on the theory of environmental limits thinking (1772-1823), The modern understanding of sustainability theory emerged from the broader discourse on sustainable development, which gained prominence in the late 20th century. The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report, "Our Common Future" (1987), often referred to as the Brundtland Report, provided the foundation by defining sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Recent scholarship builds on this framework to address environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability (Benton & Redclift, 2021).

Contemporary theorists have expanded the theory to include a systems perspective, integrating ecological resilience with socio-economic dynamics. as it also aims to ensure the long-term viability of systems while maintaining equitable access to resources for all stakeholders thus, addressing pressing global challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and inequality. Furthermore, Sustainability theory encourages a holistic approach to decision-making, considering the social, environmental, and economic impacts of our actions. Allowing, Supports for long-term thinking which emphasizes the importance of taking a long-term perspective, considering the needs of future generations and the planet as a whole, Though, policy and practice of Sustainability theory influenced various fields, including business, government, and international development. Early developments emphasized environmental conservation, focusing on resource efficiency and pollution reduction. Over time, the theory incorporated social equity and economic viability as key components (Elkington, 1997; Huber & Mayer, 2020).

Despite its broad applicability, sustainability theory faces notable limitations. Critics argue that it is overly idealistic and lacks specificity in addressing trade-offs among its pillars ((Rockström et al., 2009; Eisenmenger et al., 2020). For example, pursuing economic growth often conflicts with environmental conservation, creating dilemmas that the theory does not resolve explicitly. Additionally, the ambiguity of "sustainability" as a term leaves it open to varied interpretations, often leading to greenwashing by corporations (Mayer & Haas, 2021). Lack of enforceable global mechanisms to implement sustainability practices has also been highlighted as a major weakness. Disparities in resource availability and governance capacities among nations exacerbate challenges, making uniform application of sustainability principles difficult (Benton, 2022).

The theory's primary strength lies in its comprehensive framework for addressing complex global challenges. By integrating environmental, social, and economic concerns, sustainability theory provides a basis for holistic policymaking and planning. The systems perspective promotes long-term thinking, encouraging resilience and adaptability in the face of environmental and socio-economic uncertainties (Folke et al., 2021).

Furthermore, sustainability theory has catalyzed global initiatives, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a blueprint for achieving sustainability across diverse contexts (UN, 2015). The theory also emphasizes participatory governance, advocating for inclusive decision-making processes that empower marginalized communities and foster social equity (Huber & Mayer, 2020). Based on this, the sustainability theory was adopted for this study.

Principal-Agent Theory

The principal-agent theory originated within the field of organizational management and economics. The theory was first formalized in the 1970s, with seminal contributions by (Jensen and Meckling 1976), who explored the conflicts arising from the separation of Principal and Agents. Their work identified the principal-agent relationship as a contractual arrangement where one party (the principal) delegates tasks to another party (the agent), leading to issues of moral hazard and information asymmetry. Earlier discussions on agency costs and organizational dynamics placed prominence through its application to corporate governance, public administration (Eisenhardt, 1989; Mitnick, 2020). Principal-agent theory evolved through the integration of insights from political science, economics and management, though, early developments focused on reducing

agency costs by aligning the interests of principals and agents through incentive mechanisms, thus allowing scholars introduce models to address information asymmetry, where agents possess more information than principals, creating opportunities for opportunistic behavior (Ross, 1973; Alon et al., 2020).

Recent advancements have extended the theory to complex multi-agent scenarios and dynamic environments. For instance, studies on public administration explore how principal-agent dynamics influence policy implementation, highlighting the need for accountability and transparency in governance allowing for monitoring mechanisms agents are places to act in the interest of the principal (Miller & Whitford, 2021). Similarly, the theory has been applied to global interest on economic growth, examining the limitation the theory impose such as self-interest which assumes that agents are primarily motivated by self-interest, although which may not always be the case., Secondly, the theory relies on simplistic assumptions about human behavior and the nature of the principal-agent relationship, however, the theory's reliance on rational choice assumptions has been criticized for oversimplifying human behavior. Agents are often assumed to act solely in their self-interest, ignoring social, ethical, and relational factors that influence decision-making (Miller & Whitford, 2021).. Lastly, the theory's analytical precision allows for the identification of key challenges in principal-agent relationships, facilitating targeted interventions. the introduction of performance- based incentives and monitoring systems in organizations has been guided by insights from principal-agent theory (Miller & Whitford, 2021). The difficulty in measuring agent performance can be challenging to measure the performance of agents, especially in situations where there are multiple tasks or goals.The policy arrangements can mitigate risks and improve performance in cross-border operations (Taylor & Marshall, 2022). In many cases, agents may wield significant power, challenging the traditional hierarchical assumptions of the principal-agent relationship (Alon et al., 2020). This imbalance can complicate the implementation of incentive mechanisms and monitoring strategies.

The Principal-Agent Theory provides a valuable framework for analyzing the dynamics between citizens (principals) and the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change (agents). In this relationship, citizens delegate the responsibility of addressing climate change, formulating ecological policies, and overseeing the implementation of environmental programs to committee members (Taylor & Marshall, 2022). Ideally, the committee should act in the best

interest of the public by promoting sustainable development, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting ecosystems.

The potential challenges that may undermine the committee's effectiveness of which one important issue is critical issue is information asymmetry, where committee members may have access to more information than citizens, leading to a lack of transparency, the emphasis on information asymmetry and incentive alignment has informed the design of effective governance mechanisms, reducing the risks of moral hazard and adverse selection (Mitnick, 2020). This imbalance can enable moral hazards, where agents prioritize political gains or private interests over the public's ecological concerns. Additionally, weak monitoring mechanisms may hinder citizens' ability to hold the committee accountable for its actions.

To enhance the committee's effectiveness, it is essential to implement strategies that address the deficiencies highlighted by the Principal-Agent Theory. This includes strengthening oversight mechanisms, ensuring transparency in decision-making, and enhancing citizen participation in ecological governance. By addressing these gaps, the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change can better fulfill its mandate and contribute to a more sustainable and climateresilient future for the country.

Ultimately, applying the Principal-Agent Theory provides a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with governance in the environmental sector, reinforcing the importance of accountability, transparency, and effective policy implementation. It is because of this that the principal-agent theory was adopted as one of the frameworks to conceptualize the study.

Sustainability Theory highlighted the need for long-term environmental governance, while the Principal-Agent Theory explains the delegation of authority and accountability challenges in legislative oversight. Combining both, this study examines whether the 9th National Assembly's Committee on Ecology and Climate Change effectively enforces policies or is influenced by political interests. Sustainability Theory justifies the committee's role in climate action, while the Principal-Agent Theory assesses its accountability to the public. Together, they provide a framework for evaluating both effectiveness and institutional challenges in Nigeria's climate governance.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the research methods necessary to achieve the objectives of the study were presented. They were grouped into the following headings: research design, population of the study, sample of the study, method of data collection, sources of data, instruments for data collection, validity and reliability, and method of data analysis.

3.1. Research design

This study employs a mixed methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The rationale for using mixed methods is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change by integrating statistical trends with in-depth insights. The quantitative component captures measurable data on the committee's activities, while the qualitative aspect provides deeper context and explanations behind those activities and outcomes.

3.2. Population of the Study

The study population consists of Members of the 9th National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, Legislative aides and technical staff attached to the committee, Officials from relevant government agencies (e.g., Federal Ministry of Environment, NESREA, Ecological Fund Office), representatives of environmental NGOs, CSOs, and international development partners, environmental policy experts and scholars. The choice of the population is deliberate because of the quality of information desired, which is in short supply.

S/N	Organisations/Institutions	Population
1	Senators	109
2	Committee secretariat	50
33	MDAs	285
4	NGOs/CSOs	135
5	Members of the Public	1550
	Total	2129

3.3. Sample Size of the Study

A stratified random sampling technique was used to select respondents from key stakeholders in the National Assembly and relevant government agencies. This ensures representation across legislative, executive, and non-governmental sectors. A purposive sampling technique was also adopted to select individuals with significant expertise and experience related to the committee's work for in-depth interviews.

For the administration of the questionnaire, Cochran's sample size determination was employed and the formula is as follows:

$$n = \frac{z^2}{e^2} \cdot \frac{pq}{1 - e^2}$$

Where; n = sample size z

= critical value of the confidence level

p = estimated proportion q: q = 1-p

e = level of significance

Using a 5% level of significance and 95% confidence interval, the values are substituted in the formula as: p = 0.5; q = 1-0.5; e = 0.05; z = 1.96

$$= \frac{1.96^2(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2}$$

$$= \frac{3.8416 * 0.25}{0.0025}$$

$$= \frac{0.9604}{0.0025}$$

$$n = 384.16$$

$$n = 384.16$$

Sample size = 384

The sample size for the interview was three hundred and eighty four (384) each from the population highlighted in section. Sandelowski (1995) posited that the sample size for qualitative data is usually a subjective judgment since the target populations are persons considered knowledgeable about the phenomenon being investigated. Also, Boddy (2016) alluded that a sample size of 15-30 respondents is sufficient for qualitative studies.

S/N	Organisations/Institutions	Sample Size
1	Senators	45
2	Committee secretariat	25
33	MDAs	60
4	NGOs/CSOs	50
5	Members of the Public	204
	Total	384

3.4. Method of Data Collection

The quantitative data was collected through a structured questionnaire administered to a broad range of stakeholders, including National Assembly staff, government agency officials, and NGO representatives. The questionnaire assesses variables such as: Perceived effectiveness of the committee, Frequency and impact of committee interventions, Level of legislative oversight on ecological projects and Stakeholder satisfaction with the committee's engagement. The qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews conducted with Committee members and former members, Senior staff in environmental agencies, Leaders of relevant civil society and advocacy groups and Policy experts. The interviews explored themes such as the committee's role in policy formulation, challenges faced, political dynamics, and success stories. Documentary analysis was also undertaken. A Review of Legislative bills, motions, and resolutions related to ecology and climate change, Oversight reports and committee activity records, Government and donor agency reports and Media publications on the committee's performance.

3.5. Sources of data

The study took data from primary and secondary sources. The Primary data sources were the questionnaire and unstructured interview. In contrast, the secondary sources comprised official publications of the Federal Government of Nigeria, journal articles, climate change and environment policy papers, magazines, and the internet. These data sources provided the literary and empirical basis for the analysis and discussion of findings in chapter four.

3.6. Instruments for Data Collection

This study utilized two main instruments for data collection: a questionnaire and a semi-structured interview guide for key informant interviews. The questionnaire examined the Committee's performance quantitatively across variables like lawmaking, oversight and representation. Meanwhile, the interview guide consists of open-ended questions. It was used to conduct in-depth interviews with 18 purposefully selected policy experts and private sector stakeholders to attain a qualitative understanding of the research objectives.

3.7. Validity and Reliability

A pilot study was conducted before the main research to establish the validity and reliability of the primary data collection instruments. The semi-structured interview guide was pre-tested through discussions with five policy experts and trade stakeholders who matched the sample criteria. Their feedback was to refine the wording and flow of questions to ensure each item captures the intended information relevant to the objectives. Probes were also incorporated based on participant suggestions. The pilot interviews were documented and their responses analyzed to check if any revisions were needed to the interview protocol. Participants were then provided feedback on the clarity and comprehensiveness of the questions. The researcher made necessary adjustments to the guide to ensure valid responses were elicited from the sample. Through this pre-testing, the study established the content validity and reliability of the interview guide. Relevant revisions strengthened the instrument's ability to reliably and consistently generate high-quality qualitative data on the research issues from the main study sample.

3.8. Method of Data Analysis

The data from the questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics and chisquare teststo examine relationships between variables (between stakeholder sector and perception of effectiveness). The qualitative data collected through interviews transcripts was analyzed using thematic content analysis to identify recurring patterns, themes, and narratives. Manual coding was applied in structuring and interpreting qualitative data.

3.9. Analytical Framework

3.9.1. Interventions by the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

Data required: Qualitative data (processed data and key informant interview of respondents).

Getting the data: Interview of key informants selected purposively.

Analysis of data: Document or content analysis of respondents' interview transcripts.

Interpretation of data: Data interpretation was in themes according to the objectives outlined in section 1.4.

Expected results based on existing theory: This study adopted the sustainability and principal- agent theories to evaluate the interventions of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. Therefore, the study expects that the interventions by the committee will reflect both the wishes of the agents (citizens) per the principal-agent theory while addressing environmental sustainability issues.

3.9.2. Impact and Effectiveness of the Committee's Interventions

Data required: Quantitative and qualitative data (survey data and key informant interview of respondents).

Getting the data: Administration of survey and interview of key informants selected purposively.

Analysis of data: Descriptive statistics and document or content analysis of respondents' interview transcripts.

Interpretation of data: Data interpretation was in themes and simple percentages according to the objectives outlined in section 1.4.

Expected results based on existing theory: This study adopted the sustainability and principal-agent theories to explore the effectiveness of the interventions of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. Therefore, the study expects that the interventions by the committee will be impactful in line with the dictates of the sustainability and principal-agent theories.

3.9.3. Operational Challenges in Fulfilling Committee Mandates

Data required: Quantitative and qualitative data (survey data and key informant interview of respondents).

Getting the data: Administration of survey and interview of key informants selected purposively.

Analysis of data: Descriptive statistics and document or content analysis of respondents' interview transcripts.

Interpretation of data: Data interpretation was in themes and simple percentages according to the objectives outlined in section 1.4.

Expected results based on existing theory: This study adopted the sustainability and principal-agent theories to examine the challenges in fulfilling the committee's mandate. Therefore, the study expects that the comparison of the activities of the committee and the dictates of the sustainability and principal-agent theories will highlight the obstacles to the effectiveness of the committee.

3.9.4. Strategic Solutions to Overcome Committee Challenges

Data required: Quantitative and qualitative data (survey data and key informant interview of respondents).

Getting the data: Administration of survey and interview of key informants selected purposively.

Analysis of data: Descriptive statistics and document or content analysis of respondents' interview transcripts.

Interpretation of data: Data interpretation was in themes and simple percentages according to the objectives outlined in section 1.4.

Expected results based on existing theory: This study adopted the sustainability and principal-agent theories to determine the strategies to overcome the challenges confronting the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. Therefore, the study expects that the application of the tenets of the sustainability and principal-agent theories will resolve some of the challenges facing the committee.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter of the study provides an in-depth analysis of the data collected from the field. After presenting the data, an analysis was conducted to derive meaningful conclusions that directly addressed the study's aims. This analytical process involved recognizing key themes and interconnections within the data and utilizing appropriate statistical techniques to ensure that conclusions were firmly grounded in empirical evidence.

4.1. Information of the Respondents

This section of the study presents the demographic data of the respondents who participated in the research. This information encompasses essential demographic and background information about the individuals involved, making it crucial for interpreting the results and drawing meaningful conclusions related to the research questions. The overview of the respondents' information includes factors such as age, gender, educational attainment, marital status, and designation. Analyzing this information enables the researcher to expand the understanding of the composition of the sample and its representatives concerning the target population.

Respondents' Gender

The respondents' gender distribution within the sample is crucial for analyzing the data from a gender perspective and exploring any potential variations or trends associated with gender-related factors. This section of the survey focuses on the overall representation of genders within the sample and its findings. It evaluates whether the gender breakdown aligns with that of the target population or reveals significant discrepancies. Additionally, it examines how gender influences the research outcomes and interpretations, emphasizing the importance of considering gender as a relevant variable in the analysis. The results are tabulated in 4.1.

Table 4.1: Respondents' Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	202	56.7
Female	154	43.3
Total	356	100

Source: Field Data (2024)

The gender composition of the respondents in this study reveals that 56.7% identified as male and 43.3% as female, indicating a predominance of male respondents in the sample. This distribution is significant as it may influence perceptions regarding the effectiveness and accountability of parliamentary oversight. Research in similar contexts, such as that by (Akande, 2020) argues that while gender representation is important, the effectiveness of parliamentary committees ultimately hinges on factors such as institutional support and the political environment rather than solely on gender composition.

Respondents Age

The analysis of the respondents' age profile is crucial for understanding the data through age- related perspectives, as it highlights variations among different age groups. This examination illustrates the diversity of ages represented within the participant population. The findings regarding age distribution are presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Age of the Respondents

AGE	Frequency	Percent
20-30 years	26	7.4
31-40 years	133	37.3
41-50 years	130	36.6
51-60 years	51	14.2
Above 61 years	16	4.5
Total	356	100

Source: Field Data (2024)

Pertaining to the age of the respondents, the outcome reveals a diverse demographic noting that the largest group of respondents falls within the 31-40 years age range, comprising 37.3% of the total, indicating a significant engagement from younger middle-aged individuals who may bring fresh perspectives about the workings of parliamentary committees. This is closely followed by the 41-50-year-old age group, which accounts for 36.6%, suggesting that a considerable portion of respondents are in their prime professional years, likely possessing substantial experience and knowledge about governance issues. In contrast, the younger demographic of 20-30 years represents only 7.4%, indicating limited engagement from this age group, which may reflect a lack of interest or involvement in parliamentary matters among younger Nigerians. The 51-60 years age group comprises 14.2%, suggesting that while there is some representation from older professionals, it is not as pronounced as those in their 30s and 40s. The Above 61 years category

accounts for 4.5%, indicating minimal participation from senior citizens, who may possess valuable historical perspectives on governance. These findings align with Smith et al. (2021), who showed that younger individuals often feel disconnected from political processes, which can lead to lower participation rates in governance-related activities. Conversely, research by Johnson (2020) emphasized that middle-aged professionals are typically more engaged due to their established careers and vested interests in policy outcomes.

Respondents Educational Qualification

Educational qualifications are essential for comprehending how respondents perceive the subject matter, as their educational histories indicate their expertise and understanding pertinent to the study's focus. To enhance the understanding of the different educational qualifications among respondents, Table 4.3 presents the representation of the distribution of these qualifications within the respondent group.

Table 4.3: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Primary/Secondary	58	16.4
Certificate/Diploma	130	36.4
Bachelors/HND	134	37.7
Postgraduate	34	9.5
Total	356	100

Source: Field Data (2024)

Concerning the outcome of the survey, 16.4% of respondents possess only Primary/Secondary education, indicating a limited foundational understanding of complex legislative matters. This low percentage suggests that while some individuals may have basic education, they might lack the advanced knowledge necessary for informed participation in discussions surrounding parliamentary processes. In contrast, a substantial portion of respondents holds Certificate/Diploma qualifications, comprising 36.4% of the total. This group likely possesses specialized skills or training relevant to their fields, which can contribute positively to their understanding of the legislative committee system. Furthermore, those with Bachelors or Higher National Diplomas (HND) make up 37.7%, representing the largest segment of respondents. This level of education indicates a significant number of individuals who are likely well-equipped to comprehend and analyze the intricacies of the committee system. On the other hand, only 9.5% of respondents have

attained Postgraduate qualifications, suggesting that advanced academic training is less common among this group. This could imply a gap in high-level expertise that may be necessary for addressing more complex governance issues within the petroleum sector. These findings align with (Adeyemi, 2020) who suggested that higher educational attainment correlates with increased civic participation and a better understanding of political processes. Conversely, studies such as those by (Okoye, 2019) indicated that lower educational levels can lead to disengagement from political discourse, as individuals may feel ill-equipped to contribute meaningfully.

Respondents Marital Status

Understanding the marital status of respondents is crucial as it can provide insights into their perspectives, motivations, and engagement levels regarding governance issues. Marital status may influence individuals' priorities and concerns, particularly in relation to economic stability and resource management within the environment sector. By analyzing the distribution of marital statuses among respondents, this section aims to highlight how these factors may shape their views on parliamentary committee system with the outcomes illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Respondents Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	109	30.6
Married	218	61.2
Widow/Widower	19	5.3
Divorce	6	1.6
Separated	4	1.3
Total	356	100

Source: Field Data (2024)

As contained in the outcome, 61.2% of respondents are Married, indicating that a significant majority of participants are likely to have established family structures, which may influence their perspectives on governance issues, particularly those related to economic stability and resource management. This high percentage suggests that married individuals may have a vested interest in the effectiveness of legislative committee system. In contrast, 30.6% of respondents identified as Single, representing a substantial segment of the population. This group may bring distinct viewpoints to discussions, often characterized by a focus on future opportunities and challenges within the industry, as they are typically in the early stages of their careers or personal lives. The presence of 5.3% who are Widow/Widower indicates that some respondents have experienced

significant life changes that may shape their views on accountability and governance, possibly leading to a greater emphasis on social safety nets and support systems. The categories of Divorce and Separated respondents account for a combined total of only 2.9%, with 1.6% identifying as divorced and 1.3% as separated. This low representation suggests that marital instability is not a prevalent issue among the respondents, which could imply a more stable social environment conducive to civic engagement. These findings resonate with (Smith and Jones, 2021) who unveiled that married individuals often exhibit higher levels of civic engagement due to their established social networks and responsibilities. Conversely, single individuals may be more inclined to advocate for change, reflecting their aspirations for future stability (Adams, 2020).

Respondents Designation

This section of the survey examines the occupations of the respondents. Understanding the occupational backgrounds of participants is essential for analyzing the data from a socio-economic standpoint, as it uncovers trends across different job categories. This analysis includes specific figures or percentages of respondents within each designation as contained in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Respondents Designation

	Frequency	Percent
Committee secretariat	16	4.5
Senators	37	10.4
Members of the public	196	55.1
MDAs	50	14.0
NGO's / NGO	57	16.0
Total	356	100

Source: Field Data (2024)

The survey participants revealed a significant demographic distribution, with members of the public representing the largest group at 55.1%, underscoring the essential role of citizens in shaping perceptions of legislative committee system. This robust representation aligns with research by (Olaniyan et al. 2020), which emphasizes the necessity of public engagement in governance to ensure that informed citizens hold institutions accountable. Non governmental organizations followed, constituting 16.0% of respondents; these entities play a crucial watchdog role, advocating for transparency and accountability in government activities related to legislative committees, a finding supported by (Osei-Tutu , 2021), who argues that their involvement is key to enhancing legislative accountability. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Non governmental

organizations NGO comprised 14.0% of the respondents, contributing insights on how bureaucratic processes interact with parliamentary oversight, reinforcing (Adeyemo's, 2022) and (UNDP, 2023) assertion that effective oversight requires collaboration between legislative and executive bodies. Meanwhile, Senators and the committee secretariat accounted for 10.4% and 4.5%, respectively, reflecting a possible reluctance to engage with external evaluations, a notion echoed by (Ibrahim , 2023), who highlights legislators' defensiveness regarding scrutiny.

4.2. Interventions by the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

On November 3, 2015, the Nigerian 8th Senate, during its plenary session, established the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, among other standing committees. This formation aligns with Section 62(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, which empowers the Senate to create specialized committees for focused legislative oversight. With its inauguration, the Committee received the mandate to address urgent issues impacting the environment, particularly those related to ecological preservation and climate change mitigation. The Senate envisioned this Committee as a vital mechanism for implementing legislative interventions aimed at environmental sustainability and resilience in the face of increasing ecological challenges.

The Committee, equipped with secretariat staff led by the Committee Clerk, operates under a structured framework outlined in Rule 98(23) of the Senate Standing Order (2015, as amended). This rule initially defined the jurisdiction of the former Committee on Environment and Ecology. Pending the formal publication of a revised Standing Order, the Committee on Ecology and Climate Change has provisionally assumed these duties, emphasizing climate action and environmental stewardship as its core focus.

The mission of the Committee, shaped by the Senate President's inaugural address and the foundational mandates of the former Committee, revolves around several key objectives. First, it seeks to maintain active engagement with stakeholders across various agencies under its purview to incorporate valuable insights and drive forward-thinking policies. Second, it is tasked with identifying operational challenges faced by these agencies, proposing innovative solutions to overcome obstacles and achieve measurable environmental progress. Third, the Committee has the authority to initiate relevant legislation that aligns with broader governmental policies on climate

and ecology. Lastly, it exercises robust oversight functions over Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) within its jurisdiction to ensure compliance and accountability.

For the 9th Senate, the Committee on Ecology and Climate Change continues to play a pivotal role in legislative interventions. This includes assessing and adapting environmental policies to Nigeria's unique ecological needs, addressing climate impacts, and implementing sustainable practices in collaboration with local and international stakeholders. Table 4.6 outlines the activities conducted by the committee.

Table 4.6: Summary of the activities of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

S/N	Oversight tool	Date	Activities
FIRST SESSION (2019-2020)			
1.	Committee meetings	9th October, 2019 16th October, 2019 • 24th October, 2019 25th October, 2019	- Members were briefed on the mandate and the activities of the Committee - The work plan of the Committee was read and approved. - Interactive meeting with the Minister of Environment and the Agencies under its Jurisdiction. - Invitation of the Secretary to Government of the Federation for interaction with the Committee members. - Budget defence of Ministries and Agencies.
2.	Budgetary function	Nov-Dec.	The Committee considered the 2020 Budget estimates for the Ministry and Agencies under its jurisdiction and recommended appropriation of funds to them based on their critical infrastructural needs, programmes and their revenue projections.
3.	Oversight	Not applicable	There was no oversight activity of the Committee during the period under review.
4.	Referrals	Not applicable	During the period, the Committee received a joint referral with Committees on Special Duties and Environment.
SECOND SESSIONAL REPORT (2020-2021)			
5.	Committee meetings	24th February 2021 25th February 2021 4th March 2021 10th March 2021	- To share thoughts on the Progress made so far by the Agency towards achieving the 2025 target of ending gas flaring in Nigeria and other related issues. - To find out the level of preparedness of the Agency towards tackling the effect of climate change in the form of rapid desertification, soil degradation and the drying up of water bodies in Nigeria.

			- Discussed the issues of increasing spate of climate change, inducing conflicts and other forms of environmental strain, as well as challenges confronting Agency, and possible legislative intervention. - Discussed on the need to strengthen the implementation and coordination of climate change mitigation activities in the country.
6.	Budgetary function	Nov-Dec	The Committee considered the 2021 Budget estimates for the Ministry and Agencies under its Jurisdiction and recommended appropriation of funds to them based on their critical infrastructural needs, programs and their revenue projections.
7.	Oversight activities	Not applicable	Within the period under review, the committee did not carry out oversight.
8.	Referrals	Not applicable	No referral to the committee so far, within the period under review.
9.	Bills	Not applicable	National Agency for Climate Change” (establishment bill) is before the committee and has gone on 1st reading.
THIRD SESSIONAL REPORT (2021-2022)			
10.	Committee meetings	12th October, 2021 3rd and 4th February, 2022 24th February, 2022 3rd March, 2022 7th March, 2022 3rd March, 2022 10th March, 2022 12th and 13th April, 2022 26th and 28th April, 2022 12th and 13th May, 2022 27th June, 2022	- Trip to Italy for Pre-Summit on Cop26, conference of parties on Climate Change - A – two Day Workshop on the Development of implementation Framework for land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Bridging of Policy Gaps from the Federal Ministry of Environment - Public presentation of professional Regulatory Instruments by the Honourable Minister of State for Environment: from the environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria. - The formal Inauguration of the Afrido National Stakeholders’ Platform on Forest and Landscape Restoration in Nigeria: from the Federal Ministry of Environment. - High-Level meeting of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change: from the Federal Ministry of Environment.

			• The validation of NASS oversight Toolkit for the Reduction of Carbon Emissions in Nigeria: From the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) • Public Stakeholders Dialogue on Reduction of Carbon Emissions in Nigeria: From National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) • Stakeholders’ Validation Workshop of the National Forest Monitoring System and Finance Framework Including Carbon-Offset/Carbon Credit for the Nigeria Redd+ Programme: From Federal Ministry of Environment. • A 3-Day High-Level Retreat with Parliamentarians on Redd+ in Nigeria: From Federal Ministry of Environment. • Project Launch of Nigeria’s Long-Term Strategies and Inception Meeting for the Development of Nigeria’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan: From the Federal Ministry of Environment. • Brief Consultative Meeting with Agencies on Collective Action for Gas Emission Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation in Nigeria.
11.	Budetary functions	Nov-Dec	• The Committee considered the 2021 Budget estimates for the Ministry and Agencies under its jurisdiction and recommended appropriation of funds to them based on their official infrastructural needs, programmes and their revenue projections.
12.	Oversight function	Not applicable	• There was no oversight activity of the Committee carried out during the period under review.
13.	Referrals	Not applicable	• During the period under review, the Committee did not receive any Joint Referral from any Committee.

Source: Sessional Report, Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change (2023)

Table 4.6 outlines the chronological activities, oversight tools, and significant sessions of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change over three legislative sessions (2019-2022). This data can be critically analyzed within a framework assessing committee effectiveness, especially regarding its legislative oversight, stakeholder engagement, and policy impact on climate change initiatives. The table showcases varied committee activities that reflect on the committee's role and effectiveness in oversight functions, budgetary evaluations, committee meetings, and responses to emerging climate challenges in Nigeria. A synthesis of recent literature on legislative oversight and committee functionality highlights the dimensions relevant to measuring the committee's effectiveness and impact in these areas.

The table indicates that the committee held numerous meetings across three sessions, with a clear focus on engaging government agencies and addressing pressing environmental issues. During the first session, meetings prioritized orientation, briefing members on mandates, and budget defense sessions. By the second and third sessions, the committee had shifted to in-depth discussions with environmental agencies on climate change effects, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction, signaling increased responsiveness and contextual relevance in their agenda-setting. Contemporary studies, like Mkasiwa (2019) affirm that regular, issue-focused committee meetings are essential to legislative oversight effectiveness as they enable detailed review and timely interventions on critical matters.

The committee conducted budgetary assessments annually, which is integral to legislative oversight as it allows scrutiny of agency spending, alignment of funds with environmental priorities, and evaluation of infrastructural needs. Literature on budgetary oversight emphasizes the role of financial evaluations in ensuring accountability and effective use of resources to meet strategic goals, such as Nigeria's commitment to climate change action plans (Mkasiwa, 2019).

However, the absence of oversight activities in each session suggests potential limitations in monitoring the implementation and impact of budgetary allocations, a factor that can impede comprehensive evaluation and program effectiveness (Ríos et al., 2014).

The third session's activities included a series of workshops, dialogues, and collaborations with national and international stakeholders, such as the Pre-Summit on COP26 and REDD+ initiatives.

These engagements are crucial as they align with the international best practices for fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration in climate action and policy validation. Research supports that such external engagements enhance a committee's policy oversight through diversified input, expertise, and validation of frameworks like the National Forest Monitoring System, which directly contribute to transparency and collaborative governance (Murthy et al., 2017).

Although the committee received limited referrals and introduced the National Agency for Climate Change establishment bill, it did not advance through multiple readings. Effective legislative committees are often marked by their ability to push forward policies and legislative reforms, implying a possible gap in the committee's legislative influence in driving climate-related legislation. The literature, for example, (Minta, 2009) stresses that effective legislative oversight includes both initiating and refining legislation that addresses emerging national issues, underscoring an area for further development within the committee’s function.

Overall, while the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change demonstrates responsiveness and proactive engagement on climate issues, gaps in oversight execution and legislative advancement highlight areas for enhancement. Effective environmental governance requires a consistent, active oversight approach, legislative enactment, and cross-sector collaborations that are dynamically integrated to meet both national and global climate objectives.

4.3. Impact and Effectiveness of the Committee’s Interventions

This section evaluates the effectiveness of Nigeria's 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, based on key metrics like issue prioritization, budget alignment, stakeholder collaboration, and legislative influence. Supported by literature, findings reveal strong committee performance, yet highlight areas for improvement in oversight and resource monitoring for enhanced environmental governance. As a result, Table 4.7 outlines respondent’s views on the impact and effectiveness of the committee’s interventions.

Table 4.7.: Impact and effectiveness of the Committee’s Interventions

Attributes	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Stronger Agree (%)	Mean
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The 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change effectively prioritized issues of desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction in its meetings.	9.4	13.2	10.0	37.3	30.1	3.655
The committee's regular budgetary assessments have positively impacted the alignment of funds with Nigeria's environmental priorities.	9.7	12.1	7.6	38.8	31.8	3.719
The 9th Senate Committee's oversight activities were adequate in ensuring that environmental agencies effectively utilized allocated resources.	8.7	11.6	11.6	37.5	23.6	3.347
The committee's collaboration with national and international stakeholders, such as those involved in the COP26 Pre-Summit, improved the effectiveness of its climate change initiatives.	10.1	13.5	11.1	34.4	30.9	3.625
The committee's engagement with relevant government agencies <u>provided essential insights for policy improvement on climate-related challenges in Nigeria.</u>	7.7	10.3	9.3	41.1	31.6	3.740
The National Agency for Climate Change establishment bill introduced by the committee addressed key legislative gaps in Nigeria's climate change policy.	4.3	11.2	9.3	43.5	31.7	3.870
The committee's workshops and dialogues contributed to fostering transparency and accountability in environmental governance.	7.9	8.4	13.7	35.4	34.6	4.000

The 9th Senate Committee demonstrated sufficient legislative influence in advancing climaterelated bills through the Senate.

	8.4	9.6	12.2	37.4	33.4	3.8	10	
The committee’s oversight tools were effective in ensuring comprehensive monitoring of Nigeria’s environmental protection efforts.	5.6		11.9		10.5	39.7	32.3	3.800
The committee’s work on ecological and climate change issues has been instrumental in raising awareness and support for Nigeria's climate commitments at a national level.	6.9		8.8		8.6	42.1	33.6	3.180
<u>Average Mean Score</u>								<u>3.675</u>

Source: Fieldwork, November 2024.

The data in Table 4.7 provides responses on the effectiveness and impact of the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in Nigeria across several key areas, including issue prioritization, budget alignment, agency oversight, stakeholder collaboration, and legislative influence. The committee's prioritization of key ecological issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction, is generally viewed favorably, with 67.4% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing, yielding a mean score of 3.655. This finding aligns with studies that show effective legislative committees actively prioritize and address pressing environmental issues, which is essential for developing impactful climate policies (Mkasiwa, 2019). By focusing on specific environmental challenges, the committee demonstrates its responsiveness to Nigeria’s ecological needs, a critical factor in policy effectiveness. In agreement, a member of the Non governmental organization (NGO) posited that:

The committee's focus on prioritizing key ecological issues like desertification and carbon emissions is commendable. As NGO, we appreciate their alignment with environmental priorities, which we believe is crucial for impactful climate action. However, while they engage in dialogue, we see a need for more robust accountability measures to ensure that the funds allocated for environmental programs are utilized

effectively. Enhanced transparency would strengthen public trust and facilitate greater community participation in climate initiatives.

In terms of budgetary assessment, 70.6% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the committee's efforts have positively impacted fund alignment with Nigeria's environmental priorities, resulting in a mean of 3.719. This indicates that the committee's financial oversight likely contributed to improved resource distribution within environmental agencies, supporting efficient and targeted action. Literature supports the role of budgetary evaluations in ensuring accountability and proper resource use, which are essential for addressing environmental degradation (Mkasiwa, 2019). The committee's oversight activities received a relatively moderate level of support, with a mean score of 3.347, indicating that 61.1% of respondents view these efforts as sufficient for effective resource utilization by environmental agencies. However, the lower percentage of agreement compared to other areas suggests room for improvement. Research on legislative oversight indicates that ongoing, comprehensive monitoring can enhance agency performance by identifying areas of inefficiency and ensuring resources are used to meet strategic objectives (Ríos et al., 2014).

In fact, a Committee Secretariat Staff noted that

I believe our committee has made significant strides in aligning budgetary assessments with Nigeria's ecological needs, as reflected in the positive responses we've received. The mean score of 3.719 indicates that our oversight efforts are well-regarded. Nonetheless, we recognize that our agency oversight could benefit from improvement. We are exploring strategies to establish more rigorous monitoring frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of our resource allocation and ensure that environmental agencies fulfill their mandates efficiently.

The committee's collaboration with national and international stakeholders, particularly during events like the COP26 Pre-Summit, was rated positively, with a mean score of 3.625 and 65.3% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. This reflects the importance of partnerships in enhancing legislative impact, as collaborative governance is increasingly recognized as a best practice in environmental policy (Murthy et al., 2017). These partnerships likely enabled the committee to incorporate diverse perspectives and expertise into their climate change initiatives, boosting policy relevance and effectiveness. The highest mean score of 4.000, reflecting 70%

agreement, was assigned to the committee's efforts in promoting transparency and accountability through workshops and dialogues. This strong endorsement highlights the committee's role in fostering open communication and public trust, essential elements of effective governance in environmental policy (Murthy et al., 2017). Transparency not only reinforces accountability but also encourages active participation from citizens and other stakeholders in climate governance.

According to a Ministry of Environment Staff:

The collaboration between the Senate Committee and international stakeholders has been pivotal, particularly during events like COP26. Such engagements not only elevate Nigeria's profile in global climate discussions but also enrich our local initiatives with diverse perspectives. The committee's efforts to promote transparency through public workshops have improved our communication with citizens, fostering a more informed public. However, ongoing efforts to enhance the monitoring of funded programs will be vital in translating legislative actions into tangible environmental outcomes.

Regarding legislative influence, the committee's ability to advance climate-related bills received a mean score of 3.810, with 70.8% of respondents affirming this capability. This perception underscores the committee's role in driving legislative change, which is critical to establishing a robust legal framework for climate action. Effective legislative committees are often those that actively push for and refine policies to address emerging national issues, a characteristic that appears to resonate with the committee's activities (Minta, 2009). Finally, the committee's impact on national awareness and support for Nigeria's climate commitments was positively evaluated, achieving a mean of 3.800. This is indicative of the committee's success in not only setting agendas but also in contributing to public discourse on climate change, a crucial aspect of building a sustainable and environmentally conscious society (Mkasiwa, 2019). Overall, the high mean scores indicate positive perceptions of the committee's work, suggesting it has made substantial contributions to Nigeria's climate governance efforts. This analysis aligns with recent literature emphasizing the importance of legislative oversight, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement in environmental policy (Mkasiwa, 2019; Murthy et al., 2017).

The committee's efforts, while generally effective, reveal specific strengths in fostering transparency, facilitating collaborations, and aligning resources with climate goals. However, areas

such as agency oversight might benefit from enhanced monitoring mechanisms to ensure more comprehensive evaluations. This analysis is supported by recent studies on legislative effectiveness and environmental governance, which emphasize the importance of consistent oversight, active partnerships, and strategic resource allocation in addressing climate challenges (Mkasiwa, 2019; Murthy et al., 2017; Ríos et al., 2014). The overall average mean score of 3.675 across all attributes further corroborates the committee's generally positive impact, reflecting a proactive and engaged approach to Nigeria's ecological and climate policy.

A Member of the Committee concluded as follows:

I am proud of the work our committee has accomplished, especially in advancing critical climate-related bills. The support from over 70% of respondents signifies that we are effectively addressing legislative gaps. Our commitment to transparency has fostered trust, and I believe our proactive approach in engaging with various stakeholders is essential for the future of climate governance in Nigeria. Yet, we must continue to assess our oversight functions critically to ensure that the impacts of our legislation are both significant and sustainable.

4.4. Operational Challenges in fulfilling Committee Mandates

The data in Table 4.8 highlights various challenges faced by the committee overseeing Nigeria's climate change initiatives. Issues such as limited legislative progress on climate-related bills, inadequate resources, and difficulty in stakeholder engagement indicate systemic barriers to effective climate governance. This discussion analyzes these challenges by exploring the committee's oversight, the legislative process, and budgetary constraints, connecting findings with recent literature on climate policy and governance effectiveness.

Table 4.8.: Operational challenges in fulfilling committee mandates

Attributes	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
The committee faced challenges in maintaining consistent oversight of the agencies involved in climate change initiatives.	2.6	6.0	9.4	58.1	24.0	3.9476

Limited referrals and low legislative advancement on climate-related bills hindered the committee's policy impact.	22.5	58.1	12.0	5.6	1.9	1.9363
The committee struggled with the frequency and scheduling of meetings, which affected its overall effectiveness in addressing pressing ecological issues.	2.6	8.6	5.6	63.3	19.9	3.8914
Insufficient budgetary resources posed a significant obstacle to the committee's ability to evaluate and implement climate action plans.	2.6	3.7	4.1	58.4	31.1	4.1161
The committee's lack of comprehensive monitoring tools impacted its capacity to assess the implementation of climate-related policies.	2.2	6.4	7.5	55.8	28.1	4.0112
Engaging national and international stakeholders on climate matters was a challenge due to logistical and administrative constraints.	1.9	3.0	7.9	62.2	25.1	4.0562
There were challenges in aligning committee activities with Nigeria's national climate change commitments.	2.6	4.5	4.1	64.4	24.3	4.0337
Limited collaboration with external experts affected the committee's ability to incorporate best practices in climate oversight.	0.7	2.6	1.9	71.9	22.8	4.1348
The committee encountered difficulties in enforcing accountability measures for climate and ecological funding among government agencies.	1.1	4.1	3.4	65.5	25.8	4.1086

Legislative procedures delayed the progress of bills and policies critical to advancing the committee's climate change agenda.	1.5	2.6	3.4	65.2	27.3	4.1423
Composite Mean						3.8378

Source: Fieldwork, November 2024.

The data in the Table above reflects multiple challenges faced by the National Assembly Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, specifically during its oversight and legislative functions. The responses suggest that the most significant challenges include limited budgetary resources (Mean = 4.1161), lack of collaboration with external experts (Mean = 4.1348), and delays in legislative procedures (Mean = 4.1423), which indicate considerable support for these obstacles among respondents. These high mean scores suggest that structural and procedural limitations critically hinder the committee's efficacy in fulfilling its mandates on climate issues.

To this end, a Committee Secretariat Staff Member noted as follows:

The committee's challenges are amplified by procedural delays and a lack of collaboration with external experts. These issues create bottlenecks that slow down our legislative processes, making it hard to push through essential climate bills. Additionally, engaging with stakeholders has proven to be difficult, which limits our capacity to gather diverse perspectives. Streamlining these procedures and fostering better collaboration are crucial for enhancing our oversight functions and overall effectiveness.

The challenge of insufficient resources aligns with common issues in climate governance, where budget constraints often limit effective policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation (Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI), 2023). Similarly, limited legislative advancement on climate bills, with a notably low mean of 1.9363, highlights the difficulties the committee faces in legislative impact—a gap likely due to procedural inefficiencies or competing priorities. This result is consistent with broader critiques of slow progress on climate policies worldwide, where urgent climate action often faces delays or political gridlocks (United Nations (UN), 2023). Additionally, challenges in stakeholder engagement and coordination, as indicated by the mean of 4.0562, underscore logistical and administrative issues, which can significantly hinder collaborative climate action efforts at both national and international levels (APRI), 2023). This data underscores

the need for improved resource allocation, stakeholder collaboration, and streamlined legislative processes to enhance the committee’s ability to tackle Nigeria’s climate challenges effectively.

According to the response from a Non governmental organization (NGO) Representative:

As a member of a Non governmental organization focused on climate advocacy, I see the immense hurdles that the committee faces due to insufficient resources. Without adequate funding, initiatives aimed at addressing climate change often falter. The committee's ability to engage effectively with communities and implement impactful policies is critically diminished. We need more robust financial backing to ensure that climate governance is not just theoretical but actionable.

In affirmation, a Ministry of Environment Staff Member alluded that:

These challenges reflect the realities we encounter in implementing climate policies. The delays in legislative procedures and the limited advancement of climate bills are disheartening. These challenges often stem from competing priorities within government. To effectively combat climate change, we must prioritize coordination between the Ministry and the National Assembly, ensuring that we align our efforts and resources for a cohesive approach to climate action.

4.5. Strategic Solutions to Overcome Committee Challenges

This section outlines the strategies to overcome the challenges faced by the Committee. Table 4.9 presents survey data assessing the effectiveness of various strategies to enhance the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change’s oversight capabilities. It includes responses from committee members regarding their perceptions of increasing meeting frequency, improving stakeholder engagement, and implementing training sessions. The data showcases the mean scores and percentage distributions for each attribute, highlighting areas of consensus and divergence among respondents on the committee's oversight effectiveness and legislative impact.

Table 4.9.: Strategic solutions to overcome committee challenges

Attributes	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
Increasing the frequency of committee meetings would enhance the Senate	2.9	4.8	7.7	36.5	48.1	4.22

Committee on Ecology and Climate Change's oversight effectiveness.						
Improved collaboration with international climate organizations would strengthen the committee's policy impact.	19.8	19.8	5.8	22.5	32.1	3.27
Establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework for budget allocations could improve the effectiveness of the committee's budgetary oversight.	23.9	26.5	7.7	21.3	20.6	2.88
Implementing regular training sessions for committee members on climate-related issues would enhance the committee's responsiveness to emerging challenges.	10.6	16.3	13.5	34.6	25.0	3.47
Enhancing stakeholder engagement through more public forums and consultations could help the committee better address climate change issues.	7.7	6.7	3.8	20.2	61.5	4.21
Increasing the committee's capacity to introduce and advance climate legislation would improve its legislative influence and impact.	21.2	29.8	8.7	24.0	16.3	2.85
Allocating dedicated resources for the committee's oversight activities would strengthen its ability to monitor implementation of climate policies.	20.2	19.2	8.7	29.8	22.1	3.14
Establishing formal partnerships with environmental agencies could improve the committee's access to expert information and technical support.	13.5	15.4	4.8	39.4	26.9	3.51
Encouraging multi-stakeholder workshops and dialogues on climate issues would promote diverse inputs and more effective policy recommendations.	18.5	28.4	10.6	25.5	17.1	2.95
Instituting a mechanism for follow-up on oversight activities would ensure continuity and accountability in addressing climate challenges.	21.2	27.8	10.7	24.1	16.2	2.86
Average Mean						3.34

Source: Fieldwork, November 2024.

Table 4.9 suggests varying levels of agreement on strategies to enhance the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change's effectiveness. The strongest consensus (Mean = 4.22) is on the need for increasing the frequency of committee meetings to boost oversight, with 84.6% agreeing or strongly agreeing. This finding aligns with research indicating that regular meetings facilitate better communication and more informed decision-making in legislative bodies (Barker & Hardin, 2022). Similarly, enhancing stakeholder engagement through public forums is also highly endorsed (Mean = 4.21), indicating that broader participation is seen as vital for effectively addressing climate change issues. According to (Gupta et al., 2021), inclusive stakeholder engagement in climate governance improves transparency and fosters trust among communities affected by climate policies.

A member of a NGO observed that:

As a representative of a Non governmental organization focused on environmental issues, I strongly advocate for increasing the frequency of committee meetings. Our experience shows that these regular interactions not only foster transparency but also allow for timely responses to urgent climate challenges. Engaging with the committee more frequently creates a platform for stakeholders like us to share insights and collaborate on solutions that genuinely reflect the needs of our communities.

In the same vein, a Staff of the Committee Secretariat added that:

From my perspective working within the committee secretariat, the findings regarding stakeholder engagement resonate deeply. We often find that the more we interact with various groups through public forums, the richer our discussions become. This engagement allows us to incorporate diverse viewpoints, enhancing our legislative recommendations and making them more actionable. However, we face challenges in balancing these engagements with the logistical demands of our committee's workload, which sometimes hinders our progress.

Improved collaboration with international climate organizations, while positively perceived (Mean = 3.27), shows a more divided response, with significant disagreement (19.8%) on its policy impact. This could reflect concerns about external influences on national climate policy. Research by (Obeng and Amaechi, 2023) supports the idea that while international collaboration can enhance local capacities, it must be carefully managed to ensure that local contexts are respected and prioritized. A monitoring framework for budget allocations received mixed support (Mean = 2.88), highlighting possible skepticism regarding budgetary oversight. As noted by (Nwankwo et al.,

2023), effective monitoring mechanisms are essential for ensuring accountability in public spending, especially in the context of climate financing.

Training sessions on climate issues (Mean = 3.47) and partnerships with environmental agencies (Mean = 3.51) received moderate agreement, suggesting that knowledge and expert support are valued but may face implementation challenges. Regular training is essential for enhancing the capacity of committee members to address emerging climate challenges (Ibrahim & Oyebo, 2024). Lastly, follow-up mechanisms and workshops for policy dialogue have lower means (2.86 and 2.95), perhaps due to perceived difficulties in sustained engagement and resource allocation. Research indicates that follow-up mechanisms are crucial for ensuring accountability and continuity in climate governance (Alfred & Wang, 2023). Overall, the data indicates that while frequent meetings and stakeholder involvement are prioritized, there is room for strengthening budget oversight and collaborative frameworks.

A Senator-Member of the Committee confirmed that:

As a senator on the committee, I understand the importance of collaboration with international organizations. However, I also recognize the concerns expressed in the data about potential external influences. It is crucial that while we seek assistance and knowledge from global partners, we maintain our national priorities at the forefront. Effective climate policy must resonate with our local context, and I believe that any collaboration should be aimed at empowering our local capacities rather than overshadowing them.

4.6. Discussion of Findings

Findings from both the quantitative and qualitative analyses was triangulated to provide a holistic understanding of the committee's effectiveness. Patterns identified through statistical analysis was compared and interpreted alongside themes emerging from the interviews and document review.

For research objective one: Interventions by the 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change

On November 3, 2015, the Nigerian 8th Senate, during its plenary session, established the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, among other standing committees. This formation

aligns with Section 62(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, which empowers the Senate to create specialized committees for focused legislative oversight. With its inauguration, the Committee received the mandate to address urgent issues impacting the environment, particularly those related to ecological preservation and climate change mitigation. The Senate envisioned this Committee as a vital mechanism for implementing legislative interventions aimed at environmental sustainability and resilience in the face of increasing ecological challenges.

The Committee, equipped with secretariat staff led by the Committee Clerk, operates under a structured framework outlined in Rule 98(23) of the Senate Standing Order (2015, as amended). This rule initially defined the jurisdiction of the former Committee on Environment and Ecology.

Pending the formal publication of a revised Standing Order, the Committee on Ecology and Climate Change has provisionally assumed these duties, emphasizing climate action and environmental stewardship as its core focus.

The mission of the Committee, shaped by the Senate President's inaugural address and the foundational mandates of the former Committee, revolves around several key objectives. First, it seeks to maintain active engagement with stakeholders across various agencies under its purview to incorporate valuable insights and drive forward-thinking policies. Second, it is tasked with identifying operational challenges faced by these agencies, proposing innovative solutions to overcome obstacles and achieve measurable environmental progress. Third, the Committee has the authority to initiate relevant legislation that aligns with broader governmental policies on climate and ecology. Lastly, it exercises robust oversight functions over Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) within its jurisdiction to ensure compliance and accountability.

For the 9th Senate, the Committee on Ecology and Climate Change continues to play a pivotal role in legislative interventions. This includes assessing and adapting environmental policies to Nigeria's unique ecological needs, addressing climate impacts, and implementing sustainable practices in collaboration with local and international stakeholders. Table 4.6 outlines the activities conducted by the committee.

For research objective two: Table 4.7 revealed that the committee has made noteworthy strides in addressing critical ecological issues, such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. A notable 67.4% of respondents rated the committee's prioritization of these issues positively, reflecting a commendable mean score of 3.655. This aligns with existing literature, which underscores the necessity for legislative bodies to prioritize pressing environmental concerns to develop effective climate policies (Mkasiwa, 2019).

Feedback from a representative of a Non governmental organization (NGO) further corroborates these findings. They acknowledged the committee's proactive approach but also underscored the need for enhanced accountability measures. Specifically, they called for greater transparency regarding the utilization of funds allocated for environmental programs, a sentiment echoed by many stakeholders who believe that increased public trust could significantly bolster community engagement in climate initiatives. This emphasis on transparency is vital for the committee's responsiveness to Nigeria's ecological challenges and serves as a foundation for effective policy implementation.

On budget alignment, the committee's influence is further highlighted by the 70.6% of respondents who acknowledged its role in positively impacting the allocation of funds towards environmental priorities, resulting in a mean score of 3.719. This outcome suggests that the committee's financial oversight may have improved resource distribution within environmental agencies, thus facilitating targeted actions against degradation. Existing literature supports the critical nature of budget evaluations in ensuring accountability and appropriate resource use. However, it is noteworthy that agency oversight received a moderate score of 3.347, with only 61.1% of respondents deeming the committee's efforts adequate. This suggests an area ripe for improvement, given the essential role of comprehensive legislative oversight in enhancing agency performance by addressing inefficiencies.

Moreover, feedback from committee staff emphasized the progress made in aligning budget assessments with ecological needs while also calling for more rigorous monitoring frameworks. Such frameworks are crucial for ensuring that resource allocation effectively meets the mandates of environmental agencies. Furthermore, the committee's collaboration with national and international stakeholders was positively rated, achieving a mean score of 3.625 with 65.3 % agreement among respondents. This reflects the growing acknowledgment of collaborative

governance as an effective practice in environmental policy, enabling the integration of diverse perspectives into climate initiatives.

A significant highlight of the committee's achievements is its promotion of transparency and accountability through workshops and dialogues, which received the highest mean score of 4.000, with 70% of respondents affirming these efforts. This robust endorsement showcases the committee's role in fostering open communication and public trust—two critical elements of effective governance in environmental policy. A staff member from the Ministry of Environment also remarked on how collaborations with international stakeholders have enhanced Nigeria's climate profile, thereby improving local initiatives.

In terms of legislative influence, the committee's ability to advance climate-related bills received a mean score of 3.810, with 70.8% of respondents affirming its capacity. This underscores the committee's pivotal role in driving legislative change, which is essential for establishing a robust legal framework for climate action. Notably, the committee's efforts in raising national awareness and support for Nigeria's climate commitments were also positively evaluated, achieving a mean score of 3.800. This indicates its success in setting agendas and contributing to public discourse on climate change.

Research Objective three: The study also highlights significant challenges faced by the committee. High mean scores for challenges such as limited budgetary resources (mean = 4.1161), insufficient collaboration with external experts (mean = 4.1348), and delays in legislative procedures (mean = 4.1423) underscore the structural and procedural limitations that hinder the committee's ability to meet its climate-related mandates. A Committee Secretariat Staff member articulated that these

procedural delays and lack of expert collaboration create bottlenecks in legislative processes, obstructing the advancement of critical climate bills.

Moreover, the data indicated a low mean of 1.9363 for legislative advancement on climate bills, pointing to the difficulties the committee faces in exerting legislative influence—likely due to procedural inefficiencies and competing priorities. These challenges resonate with broader critiques regarding the slow progress of climate policies worldwide, which often confront delays and political gridlocks.

Research objective four: On strategies to enhance the committee's effectiveness, Table 4.9 reveals a strong consensus on the need for more frequent committee meetings, which received a mean score of 4.22, with 84.6% of respondents agreeing. This finding aligns with research indicating that regular meetings improve communication and decision-making within legislative bodies. Similarly, enhancing stakeholder engagement through public forums received a high mean score of 4.21, emphasizing the importance of broader participation in addressing climate change challenges.

While the need for improved collaboration with international climate organizations received a positive mean score of 3.27, it reflected divided opinions, with 19.8% dissenting regarding its impact on policy. This may indicate concerns over external influences on national climate priorities. Additionally, the call for robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations garnered mixed support (mean = 2.88), suggesting skepticism about budgetary oversight among respondents.

Mainly, while frequent meetings and stakeholder engagement emerge as priorities, there remains considerable potential for strengthening budget oversight and collaborative frameworks. A Senator-Member of the Committee acknowledged the significance of collaboration with international organizations but stressed the necessity of maintaining national priorities in climate policy. These findings illuminate the challenges and opportunities that the committee faces as it endeavors to enhance Nigeria's climate governance, offering critical perspectives on future legislative initiatives and policy directions.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSION

This chapter synthesizes the key findings of the study, providing a concise summary of the research outcomes. It concludes by highlighting the significance of these findings in the context of climate policy in Nigeria, followed by actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change.

5.1. Summary of Findings

This study reveals that the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change has positively influenced Nigeria's climate policy, facing challenges while striving for effectiveness. Particularly, the data presented in Table 4.7 assesses the effectiveness and impact of Nigeria's 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change across various critical areas, including prioritization

of ecological issues, budget alignment, agency oversight, stakeholder collaboration, and legislative influence. No doubt, the findings indicate a favorable perception of the committee's work, particularly in its focus on pressing environmental issues such as desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction. Specifically, 67.4% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the committee's prioritization is commendable, yielding a mean score of 3.655. This aligns with previous research emphasizing that effective legislative committees prioritize urgent environmental concerns to shape impactful climate policies (Mkasiwa, 2019).

A representative from a Non governmental organization (NGO) commended the committee for addressing critical ecological issues but highlighted the necessity for more robust accountability measures. They emphasized that transparency in the utilization of funds allocated for environmental programs would enhance public trust and promote greater community involvement in climate initiatives. This sentiment reinforces the committee's responsiveness to Nigeria's ecological challenges, which is essential for policy effectiveness.

In terms of budgetary alignment, 70.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the committee's efforts positively influenced the allocation of funds toward Nigeria's environmental priorities, resulting in a mean score of 3.719. This suggests that the committee's financial oversight has likely contributed to improved resource distribution within environmental agencies, thus facilitating more effective and targeted actions against environmental degradation. Existing literature supported the critical role of budget evaluations in ensuring accountability and appropriate resource utilization. Despite this positive assessment, the committee's agency oversight received a moderate level of support, with a mean score of 3.347 and only 61.1% of respondents viewing these efforts as adequate for effective resource use. This indicates that there remains potential for improvement, particularly as comprehensive legislative oversight is essential for enhancing agency performance by pinpointing inefficiencies.

Based on the above, a Committee Secretariat Staff member noted the strides made in aligning budgetary assessments with Nigeria's ecological needs but recognized the necessity for more rigorous monitoring frameworks to ensure effective resource allocation and fulfillment of agency mandates. Furthermore, the committee's collaboration with national and international stakeholders, particularly during events like the COP26 Pre-Summit, was positively rated, achieving a mean score of 3.625 and with 65.3% of respondents expressing agreement. This reflects the increasing

recognition of collaborative governance as a best practice in environmental policy. Such partnerships enable the incorporation of diverse perspectives into climate change initiatives, which enhances the relevance and effectiveness of policies.

Notably, the committee's promotion of transparency and accountability through workshops and dialogues received the highest mean score of 4.000, with 70% of respondents affirming these efforts. This robust endorsement indicates the committee's role in fostering open communication and public trust, vital elements of effective governance in environmental policy. A Ministry of Environment Staff member echoed this sentiment, acknowledging that collaborations with international stakeholders have enhanced Nigeria's global climate profile and improved local initiatives by incorporating varied perspectives. Nevertheless, they emphasized that enhancing monitoring of funded programs remains crucial for translating legislative actions into tangible environmental outcomes.

Regarding legislative influence, the committee's capacity to advance climate-related bills received a mean score of 3.810, with 70.8% of respondents affirming this capability. This illustrates the committee's significant role in driving legislative change, which is essential for creating a robust legal framework for climate action. The committee's efforts in raising national awareness and support for Nigeria's climate commitments were also positively evaluated, achieving a mean score of 3.800, indicating its success in setting agendas and contributing to public discourse on climate change.

While the committee's work is generally perceived positively, specific challenges were identified. High mean scores for challenges such as limited budgetary resources (mean = 4.1161), lack of collaboration with external experts (mean = 4.1348), and delays in legislative procedures (mean = 4.1423) suggest that these structural and procedural limitations critically hinder the committee's ability to fulfill its climate-related mandates. A Committee Secretariat Staff member highlighted that these procedural delays and lack of expert collaboration create bottlenecks in legislative processes, impeding the advancement of essential climate bills.

Moreover, insufficient resources align with common challenges in climate governance, where budget constraints often limit effective policy implementation and monitoring. The data also revealed limited legislative advancement on climate bills, with a notably low mean of 1.9363, underscoring the committee's difficulties in making a legislative impact—likely due to procedural

inefficiencies and competing priorities. This resonates with critiques regarding slow global progress on climate policies, which often encounter delays and political gridlocks.

Table 4.9 highlights varying levels of agreement on strategies to enhance the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change's effectiveness. The strongest consensus (mean = 4.22) emerged for increasing the frequency of committee meetings, with 84.6% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. This finding aligns with research indicating that regular meetings improve communication and decision-making in legislative bodies. Similarly, enhancing stakeholder engagement through public forums also received high endorsement (mean = 4.21), suggesting that broader participation is vital for effectively addressing climate change challenges.

The need for improved collaboration with international climate organizations, while positively viewed (mean = 3.27), exhibited a more divided response, with notable dissent (19.8%) regarding its policy impact. This may reflect concerns about external influences on national climate policy. Additionally, the need for robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations received mixed support (mean = 2.88), indicating possible skepticism about budgetary oversight.

Overall, while frequent meetings and stakeholder involvement are emphasized as priorities, there remains considerable room for strengthening budget oversight and collaborative frameworks. A Senator-Member of the Committee acknowledged the importance of collaboration with international organizations while stressing the need to maintain national priorities in climate policy. These findings underscore the challenges and opportunities facing the committee as it strives to enhance Nigeria's climate governance.

5.2. Recommendations

The study recommends as follows:

- 1) Increase the frequency of committee meetings to enhance communication and decision-making processes regarding climate policy interventions.
- 2) Strengthen stakeholder engagement through public forums to effectively evaluate the outcomes of the committee's climate initiatives.
- 3) Improve collaboration with external experts to address procedural delays and enhance the committee's legislative effectiveness.

- 4) Develop robust monitoring frameworks for budget allocations to ensure accountability and efficient resource utilization in environmental programs.

5.3. Conclusion

The findings of this study emphasize the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change's vital role in shaping Nigeria's climate policy, despite facing notable challenges. The committee's commendable prioritization of critical ecological issues, reflected in the 67.4% positive rating from respondents, indicates a robust commitment to addressing climate change. Notably, the committee's financial oversight and influence on budget allocations further demonstrate its effectiveness in directing resources towards environmental priorities, as evidenced by a mean score of 3.719.

However, challenges such as limited resources, procedural delays, and insufficient collaboration with external experts hinder the committee's full potential. The high scores on the need for more frequent meetings and stakeholder engagement illustrate the path forward to enhance effectiveness and foster a more collaborative governance model. Importantly, the committee's proactive promotion of transparency and accountability through various initiatives has been well-received, showcasing its dedication to building public trust.

Overall, while there are significant obstacles, the committee's achievements and stakeholder support provide a foundation for future improvements. By addressing procedural inefficiencies and enhancing collaboration with international partners, the committee can bolster its impact on Nigeria's climate governance. This study contributes valuable perspectives for strengthening legislative frameworks that address ecological challenges, highlighting the necessity for continuous engagement and adaptation in the face of evolving climate realities.

5.4. Contribution to Knowledge

This study significantly contributes to the body of literature on climate governance by highlighting the critical role of legislative committees, particularly Nigeria's 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. It underscores the committee's influence on climate policy through effective prioritization of ecological issues, stakeholder engagement, and budgetary alignment. Furthermore, it identifies challenges faced by the committee, offering valuable perspectives on improving legislative oversight and collaboration with external experts to enhance policy outcomes.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Personal Information

1. Gender Male () Female()
2. Age 20-30 years () years () 30-40 years () 40-50 years () 50-60 years () Above 60
3. Educational Qualification Primary/Secondary () Certificate/Diploma ()
Bachelors/HND () Postgraduate ()
4. Marital Status Single () Married () Widow/Widower () Divorce () Separated ()
5. Designation MDAs () Senators () Committee Secretariat () NGO's () Members of the
Public () Others ()

Section B: Impact and Effectiveness of the Committee's Interventions

Attributes	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Stronger Agree (%)	Mean
The 9th Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change effectively prioritized issues of desertification, soil degradation, and carbon emissions reduction in its meetings.						
The committee's regular budgetary assessments have positively impacted the alignment of funds with Nigeria's environmental priorities.						
The 9th Senate Committee's oversight activities were adequate in ensuring that environmental agencies effectively utilized allocated resources.						

The committee's collaboration with national and international stakeholders, such as those involved in the COP26 Pre-Summit, improved the effectiveness of its climate change initiatives.						
The committee's engagement with relevant government agencies provided essential insights for policy improvement on climate-related challenges in Nigeria.						
The National Agency for Climate Change establishment bill introduced by the committee addressed key legislative gaps in Nigeria's climate change policy.						
The committee's workshops and dialogues contributed to fostering transparency and accountability in environmental governance.						
The 9th Senate Committee demonstrated sufficient legislative influence in advancing climate-related bills through the Senate.						
The committee's oversight tools were effective in ensuring comprehensive monitoring of Nigeria's environmental protection efforts.						
The committee's work on ecological and climate change issues has been instrumental in raising awareness and support for Nigeria's climate commitments at a national level.						

Section C: Operational Challenges in Fulfilling Committee Mandates

Attributes	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	

The committee faced challenges in maintaining consistent oversight of the agencies involved in climate change initiatives.						
Limited referrals and low legislative advancement on climate-related bills hindered the committee's policy impact.						
The committee struggled with the frequency and scheduling of meetings, which affected its overall effectiveness in addressing pressing ecological issues.						
Insufficient budgetary resources posed a significant obstacle to the committee's ability to evaluate and implement climate action plans.						
The committee's lack of comprehensive monitoring tools impacted its capacity to assess the implementation of climate-related policies.						
Engaging national and international stakeholders on climate matters was a challenge due to logistical and administrative constraints.						
There were challenges in aligning committee activities with Nigeria's national climate change commitments.						

Limited collaboration with external experts affected the committee's ability to incorporate best practices in climate oversight.						
The committee encountered difficulties in enforcing accountability measures for climate and ecological funding among government agencies.						
Legislative procedures delayed the progress of bills and policies critical to advancing the committee's climate change agenda.						

Section D: Strategic Solutions to Overcome Committee Challenges

Attributes	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
Increasing the frequency of committee meetings would enhance the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change's oversight effectiveness.						
Improved collaboration with international climate organizations would strengthen the committee's policy impact.						
Establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework for budget allocations could improve the effectiveness of the committee's budgetary oversight.						
Implementing regular training sessions for committee members on climate-related issues would enhance the committee's responsiveness to emerging challenges.						
Enhancing stakeholder engagement through more public forums and consultations could help the committee better address climate change issues.						

Increasing the committee's capacity to introduce and advance climate legislation would improve its legislative influence and impact.						
Allocating dedicated resources for the committee's oversight activities would strengthen its ability to monitor implementation of climate policies.						
Establishing formal partnerships with environmental agencies could improve the committee's access to expert information and technical support.						
Encouraging multi-stakeholder workshops and dialogues on climate issues would promote diverse inputs and more effective policy recommendations. Instituting a mechanism for follow-up on oversight activities would ensure continuity and accountability in addressing climate challenges.						