



Research Article

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Climate Change and Conflict Resolution in Africa: The Nexus

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the nexus between climate change and conflict resolution in Africa. Its general objective is to assess the nature of relationship between climate change and conflict resolution, with the specific aims to identify how the interconnections between the twin concepts affect national security, and to propose policy-based recommendations to mitigate the anomalies. Its methodology include the use of qualitative descriptive method of analysis, secondary sources of information (books, internet, journals, newspapers, etc), and use of charts in its analysis. It adopted the Functionalist theory for its theoretical framework for needful extrapolations to explaining the nexus between climate change and conflict resolution. Some findings were made; a few of these include 1. There is inextricable causal relationship between climate change and conflict resolution: the more there are climate change-related conflicts, the more conflict resolution mechanisms emerge to resolve them; 2. Its impacts hold negative implications to national security; etc. In view of the findings, the paper therefore concluded that there is a correlation between the two variables, and recommends thus: leadership of the affected communities and the indigenes should be actively involved in resolving the climate change related conflicts; African national governments should take up climate change and conflict resolutions as top priorities in their national budgets with adequate provisions, etc.

Keywords: Climate; Climate Change; Conflict; Conflict Resolution; Global Warming; Nexus; Weather

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

To be sure, several studies in the past have examined and reflected on the twin concepts of climate change and conflict resolution; however, to a limited or greater extent, an epistemic investigation into the nexus between climate change and conflict resolution is a novel area of intellectual research, albeit the trending nature of the twin concepts. The trending posture of the twin concepts in

contemporary global discourse has made climate change and conflict resolution to occupy an indisputable relevance in the intellectual and/or socio-economic and geopolitical space in global affairs. Admittedly, while propositions and insights can be deduced from the past corpus of intellectual investigations on the twin concepts, the common denominator of any past or present intellectual exercise on the subject matter is to seek how to ameliorate the human condition! – by throwing light on the degree of the antinomies of climate change and its immanent contradictions, including the conflicts it reproduces on human lives and national security in Africa, and how they can be mitigated for the richness of human lives in pursuit of human centered development in the African region, that has become a hotspot for climate change anomalies. In the epistemic conceptualization of the twin concepts, climate change connotes observed long-term changes or distortions in the average weather patterns of local, regional, and global climates. On the other hand, the concept of conflict resolution connotes the various ways or strategies employed by disagreeing parties in resolving their differences or disputes. The point of departure in the nexus between the twin concepts suggests an inter-linkage –that is, how does climate change affect conflict resolution, and how does conflict resolution affect climate change, with inferences from Africa.

Frankly speaking, from the exigencies of cause and effect relationship between variables, the nexus connecting the boundaries of the matrix of climate change and conflict resolution is evidently causal; that is, in the inter-linkages of the two variables, one is an independent variable (Climate change) that causes the other to emerge; and the other is a dependent variable (Conflict Resolution) that occurs as a result of the former – precisely on the account of the fluid dynamics of the manifestations of observed ruptures, anomalies, and/or immanent contradictions in the climate system, and state actors reactionary responses in resolving the crises tendencies erupting from our climate system. Thus, in the matrix of the nexus between the twin concepts, whereas the main *raison d'être* of conflict resolution is to resolve the emerging conflicts, climate change on the other hand, to a limited or greater extent, triggered the conflicts – at least, in the context of the present discourse!

In 2019, BBC World News Climate Change Specialist, Richard Washington, reported that Africa is more vulnerable than any other region to the World's changing weather patterns (BBC News, December 15th 2019). The principal reason adduced by him was that hundreds of millions of people in Africa depend on rainfall to grow their food; hence, the climate change risks would be disastrous for Africa if there is change in weather patterns that affect rainfall. In response to this challenge, the African Union (AU) has taken the lead in Africa to tackle this environmental anomaly and its conflict risks. Ideal-typically, such leading actions of AU have triggered a wakeup call for state actors' interventions globally and regionally who have started recognizing the risks climate change portends for national security. For instance, in April 2021, U.S President Joe Biden called for a 'Leaders' Summit on climate change' for forty (40) World leaders in which some countries representing Africa were inevitably present --Nigeria, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, and Kenya (Mbiyozo and Maungandize, 2021). The thematic consideration that took the center stage of the Summit's discourse was on, responding to the global security challenges posed by the climate change. The pervasiveness of climate change and its antinomies to national security has prompted the deployment of international and regional missions to high risks areas in Africa as part of Conflict Resolution approaches to tackling the climate change driven conflicts in Africa. The nature of the risks posed by climate change in these designated hotspots in Africa is highly retrogressive to national security. For instance, Mali hosts the World's largest UN Peace keeping mission in seeking solutions to mitigate climate change related insecurities. Mali relies more on natural resources and farming which engages 80% of its labour force (Farah et al, 2021). But due to climate change, rainfall that aids arable farming has become erratic, plus land degradation which has resulted into lower crop yield. Thus, with its annual 3% population growth rate, the result precipitates competition over increasingly scarce resources which further reproduce itself into intra communal conflicts, especially between farmers and herders in Mali and across the Sahel. Similarly, such interventions are witnessed in Somalia as part of Conflict Resolution mechanisms. Climate Change and its immanent contradictions have resulted into competition for political and economic power over scarce resources.

Typically, mixed farming (like animal farming and crop production) majors as Somalia's staple contributor to its Gross Domestic Product --but has been weakened due to incessant climate change with severe droughts and floods. This has escalated the already existing conflicts in the land. Nigeria, the giant of Africa, is not left out in this climate change related crises tendencies: due to climate change in Nigeria that expresses itself in forms of land degradation and droughts, there have been constant clashes between herdsmen and farmers as a result of competition over control of lands, where armed herdsmen have forcefully entered farms of the poor farmers to graze their flock. This has further escalated into inter-tribal killings and religious conflicts in Nigeria. A few scenarios of such intractable situations shall, here, be very constructive: since 2005, Nigeria has lost 8,343 persons to farmers-herders conflict (Vanguard, August 30, 2021) with Benue and Plateau states the states with most attacks. In 2017 alone, farmers and herders claim 2,500 lives and \$13.7BN in one year (Vanguard, October 31, 2017), while no fewer than 62,000 people were displaced within one year in Kaduna, Plateau, Nassarawa, and Benue states (Vanguard October 31, 2017) to which United Nations in 2018 later confirmed that West Africa face security threat from herders-farmers violence (Vanguard, April 26, 2018) which were not unconnected with climate change related violence. Thus, the risks of climate change, and the attendant immanent conflicts it triggers make the epistemic articulation of the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution clearer and meaningful. We shall appreciate more of the inter-linkages in the furtherance of the discourse.

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of the paper is to examine the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution in Africa. However, the specific objectives include, to identify how the interconnection between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution affect national security, and to propose policy-based recommendations to mitigate the anomalies.

1.3 Methodology

The procedural plan and/or design for the study entail the use of qualitative descriptive method of analyses in presenting the narratives. It also included the use of secondary sources of information, like information from books, internet, newspapers, Journals, etc. Besides, observatory analyses of global events were also employed. Additionally, charts were used in the method of data analysis. The outcome of the study, through its findings revealed a correlation between the two variables and the impacts of the interconnections between climate change and conflict resolution on national security, and a few policy-based recommendations to tackling the identified challenges.

1.4 Conceptual Clarifications

Certain terms are preponderant throughout the narrative. Some of them are semantic registers or lexicons in the epistemic space of climate change and conflict resolution. Ideal-typically, these lexicons ought to be clarified for proper understanding.

1.4.1 Climate

'Climate' and 'weather' are sometimes interchanged with one another; though, they refer to events with broadly different spatial and timescales. Climate refers to the long-term regional or even, global average of temperature, humidity, and rainfall patterns over seasons, years, and decades (NASA, 2022). Its average temperature is usually measured in Celsius or Fahrenheit.

1.4.2 Weather

This refers to the condition of the atmosphere per time, especially within brief periods of time. For instance, we talk about rainy day, snowy weather, cloudy weather, windy weather, or thunderstorms, etc.

1.4.3 Climate Change

Climate change denotes change in the climate system (like change in the earth's temperature) which may be caused by natural occurrences or by human actions. The temperature increases which occurred due to human activities are commonly known as 'Global Warming'. However, natural processes can as well cause climate change, like cyclical ocean patterns, external eruptions like volcanic activity, changes in the sun's energy output, variations in Earth's orbit. Thus, the slight difference between the two is, when these temperature increases are caused by human activities, they are called 'Global Warming'. Climate Change key indicators include, ocean temperature rises, rising sea levels, frequency and severity changes in extreme weather (like hurricanes, droughts, floods, cloud and vegetation cover changes, etc).

2. Global Warming

Simply defined, it is change in the climate system or change in the earth's normal temperature caused mainly by human activities (like industrial gas emissions, forest burning, etc). Whereas Climate Change refers to both natural and human activities that produce warming or increase in the average temperature, Global Warming, on the other hand, refers to increases in the average global temperature induced by human activities. Global Warming is measured as, the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's global surface.

2.1 Conflict

Conflict can be defined as a clash between individuals or groups arising out of differences, attitudes, interests or requirements. It can also be conceived as, a struggle and clash of interest or opinion over something. Its degree could be mild or severe leading to deaths. Conflict is social in nature; as a result, it will always be found in society. The basis for conflict may vary from personal to racial, caste, political, economic, etc. For the sake of our discourse, we shall focus on climate change related conflicts.

2.2 Conflict Resolution

Simply defined, it is a way two or more parties can find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among themselves. Additionally, it is the informal or formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute (Shonk, 2021). Some of these processes or mechanisms of conflict resolution can include mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and litigation.

2.3 Nexus

Nexus refers to the central link or connection between two or more phenomena. Other synonyms may include, affinity, relationship, inter-linkages, inter-connections, point of intersection. For the sake of our discourse, 'the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution', would suggest, "the affinity, or inter-linkages or inter-connections between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution".

3. Climate Change and Conflict Resolution in Africa - An Overview

Climate change connotes a change in the climate system or lasting distortions in the earth's temperature or conditions of weather which could be man-made or natural. However, since 1800s, the shifts have been identified as driven by human activities, mainly due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas whose emissions into the atmosphere may deplete the ozone layer resulting into intense heat in the atmosphere, causing droughts and other climate change risks effects. These human induced temperature increases are regarded as 'global warming' (NASA, 2022).

In concrete terms, the glaring fact before the world today is that there are changes in our climate system with deleterious consequences, therefore quick actions are urgently required to mitigate the climate anomalies. Natural causes alone (like changes in solar energy, volcanic eruptions, and natural changes in greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations) cannot explain all of these changes in the Earth's climate system. According to Melillo et al (2014), research has shown that most changes that occur in our climate system annually are man-made. According to United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the more greenhouse gases we emit, the larger future climate changes will be (EPA, January 19th, 2017). Changes in the climate system affect our health, environment, and have a long-term effect on our economy in a broad variety of ways: it alters rainfall patterns which in turn influence crop yields negatively, inducing intense heat which affects human health. According to the Inter-government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global average temperature has increased by more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 1800s (IPCC, 2013). Thus, going by 1951 - 1980 baseline period, the normal average global temperature is 14 degrees Celsius. However, since this period, the average Earth's temperature has been increasing at different rising rates. Evidences observed from the datasets collected by various research institutes and scientific organizations like NASA, NOAA, Berkeley Earth's research group, etc confirm this position. This is graphically illustrated in Figure 1 below:

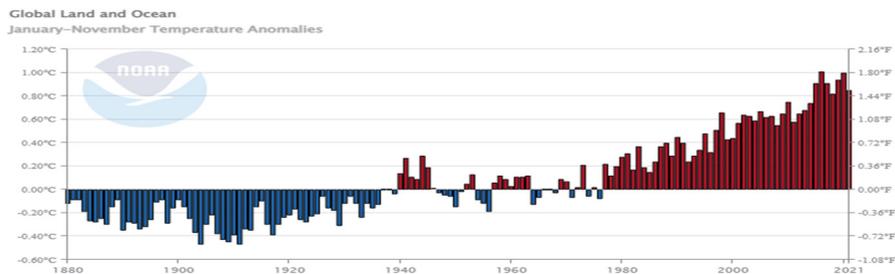


Figure 1: Global Average Temperature increasing rates (from pre-industrial 1880 - 2021).

Source: ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/202111.

The above data reveals that the global average temperature, mostly from the 1951-1980 global average temperature base-line, has been on the increase up to 2021; and the implication is an increasing climate change impacts on lives on earth. From the above data, it reached its highest in 2021 at an increasing/growth rate of 1° Celsius above the global average temperature. Supporting this, most research institutes, especially NASA Goddard Institute (2022), WMO (April 19, 2021), and NOAA (Jan 10, 2022) affirmed that the last decades are the warmest with 2020/21 being the hottest in six years. In the current wave of climate change which have become a global reality, African region is the hardest hit. As Ray (2021) rightly observed, it has led to increase in food insecurity and/or food prices, and further give rise to rural-urban migration to already overcrowded cities whose resources become further depleted as a result of the incoming population from the rural areas displaced by climate

change effects.

To be sure, Africa is largely a dependent economy; and its economy, to a large extent is based on agriculture for exports; hence, agriculture is critical to Africa's economic growth. The antinomies of climate change, with its attendant immanent contradictions in forms of land control competition that further degenerates into communal conflicts could destabilize local markets, increase consumer price index, limit economic growth, and increase risks for investors in the agricultural sector. Thus, with temperatures expected to increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius, changes in the global climate system with its deleterious effects will be felt more in Africa as Africa lacks inadequate infrastructure and support systems to mitigate the climate change anomalies. Therefore, this calls for external help from the advanced countries of the world to complement African efforts. As Professor Esther Duflo rightly observed at a virtual Seminar on climate change with AFDB, the world has not shown great generosity to poor countries like African countries during the COVID-19 crisis; rich countries spent large amount more on their own citizens (Duflo, 2021) --we hope the rich advanced nations will not look the other way this time in helping poor Africa fight the menace of climate change. The African Union (AU) has taken the lead in convening a Summit to address the situation. Other advanced nations like China and U.S have a moral obligation to help African nations in this climate change fight because these advanced nations through their Transnational Corporations (or MNCs) splattered all over African countries, produce more carbon emissions that affect the climate system adversely through their industrial activities in the African region.

At this point, an overview on Conflict Resolution in Africa, as related to climate change, becomes necessary. Katie Shonk (2021) writing under the platform of 'Program on Negotiation' (PON) at Harvard University Law School, saw conflict resolution as the procedure or methods by which those involved in disputes or disagreement resolve their differences. Drawing insight from Shonk (2021), such process of resolving dispute is both strategic and deliberate. At the risk of finding a simplified epithet for the subject matter, it can also be described as a dispute resolution where arbitration and litigation processes are strategically involved.

The United Nations (2020) in its own perspective stated that Conflict Resolution may take the form of mediation, conciliation or negotiation, including efforts made at the political level to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. Similarly, Peter Wallensteen (2015) in his own persuasion was more particular on armed conflict -- in this frame of reference, he perceives those involved in conflicts to carry arms against their opponents. His viewpoint is timely because several climate change anomalies have generated conflicts which have escalated to monumental proportions where the parties involved are carrying arms against each other, like communal clashes between armed herdsmen and farmers in some parts of African countries. Thus, the "conflicting parties" in Wallensteen's (2015) definition can be said to be formally or informally organized groups engaged in intra-state or inter-state conflict. In his thesis, Wallensteen proposed seven strategic mechanisms or conflict management systems that can help in resolving conflicts. A few of these include:

1. A shift in priorities. That is, one of the parties can shift from his basic position to what he considers highest priority. With this, new possibilities for conflict resolution may arise.
2. Dividing the contested resources. That is, both conflicting parties show some extent of shifts in priorities which then gives room for a compromise.
3. Those involved in the conflict can adopt conflict resolution mechanisms like arbitration or legal procedures to ensure that the process of resolution is outside the immediate control of the conflicting parties, etc.

However, from the backdrop of the foregoing mechanisms enunciated for conflict resolution, the bottom line is, arbitrators should always focus on mutual level or "win-win" solution for the parties (Ury and Fisher, 1981). Hence, Jacob Imm (2021) perspective on conflict resolution endorses the foregoing reasoning as he defined Conflict Resolution as, the process of ending a dispute and reaching an agreement that satisfies all parties involved.

Although, there are a wide spectrum of methods in conflict resolution, most commonly applied methods include, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, diplomacy and peace building. Thus, since the

post-independence chequered history of most African countries as they attain statehood, the countries have been bedeviled by several conflicts ranging from conflicts that are politically motivated, inter-tribal conflicts, inter-state conflicts, boundary disputes, and civil wars, etc. which have claimed millions of lives in a pogrom. In recent times, new dimension of conflicts have equally emerged in African region -- like climate change driven conflicts which emerged as an immanent contradictions or latent antinomies of the current global change in the climate system as Africa has become the hotspot in this climate change anomalies.

To be sure, an important question in this domain is, how has Africa been managing conflicts within its region, what is the conflict resolution approach adopted by Africa in achieving peaceful resolution in conflict situations like the climate change driven conflicts? In the light of the above adumbrated queries, two approaches in conflict scholarship call to mind: one is conflict resolution approach; and the other, conflict management approach. Conflict Resolution approach entails making attempts to remove the root causes of the conflicts and ensuring that the conflicting parties have a "win-win" satisfaction. Conflict management approach, on the other hand, does not try to get to the root cause of the conflict, instead gives attention on mitigating the symptoms to ameliorate the immediate suffering rather than getting to the root cause. That is, attention is paid more on elimination of the overt violence. In all intents and purposes, judging from Africa's chequered history, conflict management approach (instead of conflict resolution approach) has been the approach adopted by Africa in handling conflicts within the region, with several peace keeping troops sent to conflict areas, mainly to stop the overt violence and not solving the remote causes of those crises between parties involved. Its approach in most cases has been more of a coercive intervention using the military or paramilitary forces.

Interventions from international communities like U.N.O Peace keeping mission, international court of justice (ICC), etc. have always assisted Africa in seeking solutions to conflicts within its region. Although, its regional organizations like the defunct OAU, and the present African Union (AU), and other sub-regional organizations like ECOWAS have been pulling their weights in tackling conflicts within the region; but as a poor region of the Global South countries with a dependent economy, its efforts are not enough; therefore, outside interventions from the global state actors and/or international communities and other global non-state humanitarian actors are still required to complement Africa's conflict resolution efforts. In Darfur, in 2004, AU faced the real test of its first credibility in handling conflicts within its region. As it committed peacekeeping troops to the conflict area; also held peace talks with the government of Sudan and the rebels (which was highly commendable), and several other conflict resolution efforts. Nonetheless, AU is short of capacity and the resources to tackle the tall order of the climate change related conflicts that have become a reality in the region. Therefore, international communities should provide meaningful supports to complement Africa's efforts in resolving this climate change anomalies and its conflicts. Not just promises and pledges made but yet unfulfilled. As Kofi Annan (a former UN Secretary General, 1997 - 2006) would say, "the only promises that matter are the promises that are kept"!

4. The Point of Nexus or Inter-Linkages Between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution in Africa

Perhaps, a useful starting point in attempting an epistemic treatise on the subject matter of 'the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution' is to, first, introduce a theoretical model that could capture the subtle link between the twin concepts. The paper proposes Functionalist model. It is hoped that the theoretic assumptions of Functionalism shall be very constructive in revealing the undercurrents of the point of nexus or interpenetrations between the twin concepts with regard to national security.

Functionalism - A Theoretical Model to Explaining the Nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution: Talcott Parsons (1902 - 1979), a functionalist viewed society as a social system having a set of interconnected parts or systems. These systems are functional in maintaining the

whole social system (Haralambos and Robin, 1980). That is, the systems function to meet the prerequisites of the social system (society). These basic needs represent the AGIP model --Adaptation (helps the society to adapt to the dynamics of its environment), Goal attainment (sets and meets goals for societal survival), Integration (ensures cohesion or integration of the whole system for a functional unity that keeps the entire system in a state of social equilibrium or homeostasis), and Pattern maintenance (ensures that the societal values are maintained). The systems being interconnected, ensures that a change in one system affects a change in the other systems. The theory assumes that, if there is any disturbance that threatens the unity of the social system, the system has inherent ability to adapt as other systems will react to restore the entire system back to its equilibrium or order. Hence, Parsons surmised, "once a disturbance has been introduced into an equilibrated system, there will tend to be a reaction from other parts of the system to restore the system back to equilibrium" (Haralambos and Robin, 1980).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA – THE NEXUS (EXTRAPOLATIONS FROM THE FUNCTIONALIST MODEL)

The theory is relevant in explaining what happens to the climate system and the societal response in trying to restore the climate anomalies. From the Functionalist frame of reference, a change in a system brings a change in other parts: for instance, a change in the climate system brings a change in the economic sector (reduction in food production), and brings further changes in competition over lands control, that further leads to communal conflicts or clashes that threaten national security. Thus, as a change occurs in the climate system which triggers climate change related conflicts, other parts of the system like the legal system and the political system will function to bring back the social system to order or equilibrium through conflict resolution strategies to resolve those conflicts brought about by the climate change. This makes relevant the existence of Conflict Resolution in its interconnection or nexus with climate change --this is the point of their nexus! That is, change in the climate system brings about climate change-related conflicts, which in turn functions to provide conflict resolutions to resolve those conflicts in order to bring back society to its equilibrium and maintain national security.

Thus, from the insights drawn from the theoretic assumptions of Functionalism, the bit about the interconnection of the matrix of climate change and conflict resolution is that, whereas the climate system, ontologically, is to function for societal survival or maintenance; whenever there is a rupture in the system, it portends immanent contradictions that manifest inform of insecurities, starvation, competition for scarce resources that further leads to communal conflicts, killings, that threaten national security, which in turn require policy-based conflict resolution mechanisms to tackle the climate anomalies.

To a large extent, the point of nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution as demonstrated by the foregoing theoretical model, reveals that the point at which the twin concepts are inter-linked is at the point that reveals a causal relationship between the two variables; that is, at the point where changes in the climate system brings about climate change-driven conflicts, which in turn gives rise to conflict resolution approaches to tackle the conflicts brought about by the climate change. In what follows, we shall address or situate the implications of the interpenetrations of the twin variables in Africa, as praxis.

As Mbiyozo and Maungandize (2021) noted, change in the climate system threatens national security in the African region. As an ancillary to that, the situation has started kicking up political moves from various quarters for possible conflict resolution strategies to mitigate the climate anomalies. AU's March 2021 summit and President Joe Biden's World leaders' summit, April 2021 (with some African leaders inclusive) to address climate change insecurities, are cases in point. Thus, World leaders, researchers, and humanitarian practitioners are currently talking about the relevance of reducing climate security risks via conflict resolution mechanisms of peacekeeping and peace building. These evidences of peace talks and conflict resolution Summits by diverse groups and/or stakeholders on climate change insecurities as exemplified above, further demonstrates the affinity or nexus climate change shares with conflict resolution. As it were, a 'shock' (climate change) has come

to threaten the social equilibrium (homeostasis) of the social system (society); structurally, other parts of the social system, like the political system (in form state actors, world leaders) are rising up to the occasion to bring back the social system back to its equilibrium.

Thus, there is no discussion of climate change and/or its manifest conflicts without mentioning conflict resolution; the two are indeed inter-linked! The security challenges posed by climate change in Africa are multifaceted; at the individual or micro level, it affects a person's wellbeing; at the complex level, it affects both community and national securities. Furthermore, not losing focus on the thematic discourse, the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution, can further be distilled into the implications climate change-related conflicts can have on conflict resolution architecture. Typically, conflicts emanating from the climate change will portend huge challenges on the conflict resolution architecture in the following ways: first, it increases more conflicts in already existing conflicts in fragile areas of Africa, too many to pose an overload for conflict resolution mechanisms. That is, it would seed additional pressure for conflict resolution mechanisms (Marlin, 2017). Again, being an add-on to the existing conflicts, climate change related conflicts will as well require additional resources or funds in its handling; hence, expensive for poor African nations.

5. Implications of the Nexus of Climate Change and Conflict Resolution to National Security in Africa

Climate Change has become both a global and national interests with regard to national security. It is already having deleterious consequences globally, but more in the African region. As Hussona (2021) noted, a study on the relationship between heat and aggression showed that, in Africa there is at least a ten to twenty percent rise in conflicts attributable to change in the climate system. This has contributed to displacement, increasing abductions (by headsmen and unknown gun men), killings, growth of terrorist organizations causing 10 million people to need humanitarian assistance (Hussona, 2021). Several large scale armed attacks in Nigeria (Benue, Enugu, Nassarawa, Plateau states) are suspected to have been carried out by armed herdsmen competing for land/water with farmers to graze their flock induced by climate change. Thus, in sum, the implications of the nexus between Climate Change and Climate Resolution to National Security can be distinctly identified, as threat to food security, threat to lives and properties, increased violent conflicts, and displacement of individuals.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

The paper examined the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution with inferences from Africa. In its investigation, the paper uncovered that there is a causal relationship between the two variables - where Climate Change is the independent variable, and Conflict Resolution is the dependent variable. In view of this, the major findings uncovered from the investigation include as follows:

1. There is an inextricable causal relationship between Climate Change and Conflict Resolution: the more there is a change in the climate system, the more likely climate change related conflicts emerge.
2. Climate Change related conflicts put additional pressure on conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Its implications hold negative impacts to national security.
4. Climate Change related conflicts portend huge financial expenditure for Africa; hence, external assistance is urgently required.

Thus, in the light of the foregoing findings, the paper therefore concludes that, there is a correlation between climate change and conflict resolution in Africa in terms of the nexus between the twin variables.

6.2 Recommendations

1. The leadership of the affected communities and the indigenes should be more involved in resolving the climate change related conflicts.
2. Government to establish a 'Climate Change officers' (like Social Workers) to create an awareness among the locals to acquaint them of the dynamics of climate change and the dangers of failing to seek quick peaceful resolution of the conflicts it engenders.
3. Government to train more security personnel so that in times of increased pressure on the conflict resolution architecture, these trained personnel should be dispatched to the conflict areas to handle the crises.
4. African national leaders to map out huge financial provisions for Climate Change and Conflict Resolution in their national budgets as top priorities.

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