ANALYSIS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

IN NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

In Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa, local governments are increasingly playing a major role in tackling environmental issues and promoting sustainability. Important element of this local government proactive sustainability initiative are local group advocacy, education and engagement programs. However, there are very few detailed literature on the nature of these proactive initiatives available in academic journals. This paper examines how local governments in Nigeria and South African are increasingly engaged in proactive sustainability programs respectively. It argues that the most profound changes that must take place in both countries in other to achieve a sustainable civilization is community participation. The paper uses data derived from questionnaire survey administered to 1800 local government staff, community members and advocacy groups in Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa. Interviews of 80 relevant local government officials were conducted, meetings between key community members and environmental inspectors were also observed. The secondary data consisted of desk research, review of related government reports in Nigeria and South Africa, standard text, academic and professional journals. Data were analyzed to understand the reasons for proactive environmental initiatives in local governments in both countries as well as to find out the types of proactive environmental and sustainability initiatives. The findings suggest that there is a negative correlation between the sustainability goals of local governments' development programs in both countries and their proactive strategies in regions where group advocacy is low. The local governments of both countries must encourage more community participation in sustainable development initiatives. This is because participation offers new opportunities for creative thinking and innovative planning toward economic growth and sustainable development. Some challenges for further implementation of proactive environmental practices were identified and recommendations for appropriate policies that could address them are offered.

Keywords: Sustainable Local Governments; Urban Sustainability; Interest Groups; Citizens' Groups; Business Partnership; Economic Growth

INTRODUCTION

In the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa local governments are increasingly playing a major role in tackling environmental issues and promoting sustainability. Some very important element of local government proactive sustainability initiative are local group advocacy, education and engagement, yet only very few detailed literature on the nature of these proactive initiatives are available in academic journals. In both   Nigeria and South Africa respectively there are increasing awareness of the importance of becoming socially and environmentally friendly, and sustainable society. A growing number of cities and state or regional governments in these two countries have initiated sustainable programs (Ojeme 2016; Idike 2014; Zerenda 2013). The trend of proactive environmental awareness has also galvanized a greater commitment to environmental protection and more extensive adoption and implementation of local policies and program designed to protect the environment (Portney & Barry 2013). Businesses and local governments in both Nigeria and South Africa have also formed partnership in completing several programs in water conservation, urban suitability and mobility, waste reduction, energy efficiency and green resources for local businesses (Dibie & Dimitriou 2016; Sharma & Ruud 2003). Despite these partnerships or inclusion in sustainable development initiatives, many other environmental and economic challenges in the two countries require the integration of problem solving strategies within the local and national governments territories. Some local governments have implemented important policies and continues to move towards the goal of reducing overall energy use and green-house emissions, while others are still lacking behind.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has a representative democracy system of government. The 1999 Constitution of the country created three levels of government; one national, 36 states and 774 local government (Constitution of the Federal Government of Nigeria, 1999). Because the local governments are regarded as the nearest level of government to the citizens they were expected to evolve into amiable avenue for citizen participation and partnership for sustainable rural and urban development (Ojeme, 2016). The local governments in Nigeria are required to engage in the provisions of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and other services for the development and empowerment of citizens (Eboh 2010; Idike 2014). The National Environment Policy of 1999 is a key policy document that stipulates the principles for sustainable development in the country. The environmental policy covers regulation of issues in biodiversity, land degradation, climate change, forestry, clean energy, environmental crime, marine and costal environment, pollution control and clean water management (United Nations Development Programme, 2012). The Federal Ministry of Environment has been mandated to enforce environmental governance issues in the country.

The Nigerian economic development programs in the past two decades have witness some growth. According to the World Bank Group (2016) report, the nation's economy grew at an average of 6.2 percent between 2002 and 2012. The United Nations Development Programme (2012) report on Nigeria's path to sustainable development through green economy also indicated that growth in the agriculture sector, the main non-oil sector of the economy, increased partly due to the agricultural policy and institutional support that the government of the country consistently gave to the sector, in respect growth enhancement and capacity building initiatives for farmers (Dibie & Dimitriou 2016). One main challenge that Nigeria has is that of state-engineered economies, with resources allocated by mostly the federal government. According to Lopez (2013) state-owned enterprises generally yielded only limited success. On the other hand, ambitious targets together with institutional and

bureaucratic weakness often reflects a lack of capacity, exogenous shock and political factors that lead to failure in the planning process. Although the local government areas in Nigeria are expected to provide cultural, educational, management, research, commerce, employment, health facilities, and political services, they have often fall short in boosting their local economy (Diejomaoh & Eboh 2010; Abutudu 2011; Abada 2012; Ewetan & Ese 2014)

The Republic of South Africa practice a unitary system of government. The Constitution of South Africa (1996) stipulates that the nation's government constitutes a national, provincial and local governments. The local government consist of 278 municipalities (Msibi & Penshorn, 2010). According to Goldman (2010) many cities in South Africa have undergone fundamental changes in both their economies and populations since the end of the apartheid regime in 1994. However, many municipalities are under resources in terms of funding and staffing and are not able to reply on substantial local government service rates from residents. This challenge has now necessitated partnership between the previous disconnected stakeholders, such as community contractors, local governments, banks and various manufacturing companies to work together to create access to electricity, waste management services, water, sanitation, healthcare decent transportation and other economic development opportunities (Msibi & Penshorn, 2010). The current political climate in South Africa has created a new opportunity for cities, nongovernmental organizations, environmental groups to form partnership as well as participate in the local policymaking process (Everett & Gwagwa, 2005). For the Republic of South Africa Government to fulfil its promise of "a better life for all" it has position local governments to play a major role in social development, economic growth and service delivery (Msibi & Penshorn 2010; Goldman 2010). The Government White paper on Local Government states that municipalities must be committed to working with citizens, groups and communities to create sustainable human settlements, provide an acceptable quality of life and meet the social, economic and material needs of community (South Africa, 1998a).

Even though the apartheid regime ended more than 20 years ago a range of structural disadvantages created by the racial division and economic development in the country still require a high level of government intervention to promote sustainable development. Moreover, if such local government intervention is to be successful and sustainable such initiatives should be guided to involve and empower citizens and stakeholder groups in the development process. Many local governments are still faced with leadership and governance deficiency as well the inability to be responsive and accountable to their communities. In addition, many households in rural local governments do not have access to adequate refuse removal including weekly removal of waste by local authorities or private companies. These challenges have led to the call for more partnership between civil society, private sector and contracting out of service delivery (Goldman, 2010). These evidences show that local governments sustainable development activities in Nigeria reflects a neglected paradigm of national developmental paradigm. According to Idike (2014) and Ibeanu (2008) the local government situation in the country can be describe as been depicted as a situation of affluence and affliction.

What is missing in the literature of local government and sustainability initiatives is the systematic analysis of the political dynamics that seem to affect support for and adoption of efficient implementation of sustainability policies in Nigeria and South Africa. The previous literature on sustainability studies in Africa did not present the argument that many countries in the continent do not have all the resources needed to cope with sustainable practice as prescribed by western industrial countries (Dibie & Dinitriou 2016; Diejomaoh & Eboh 2012). Other local sustainability studies mainly focus on the number of

sustainability programs that are adopted by each local government (Berry and Portney, 2013; Owen and Videras, 2008; Portney, 2003; Swann, 2015). These scholars argue that the more the sustainability programs, the better the environmental performance outcomes. However, environmental performance outcomes may hinge on design features of the programs as well as the number of programs. It is often assumed that by using renewable sources of energy, recycling, reusing, and donating building materials, the local communities can become a green environment. However, proactive environmental initiatives require the local governments to maintains eco-friendly operations and amenities throughout regional communities as well as provide citizens and staff with hospitable, environmentally and safe facilities (Dibie & Dimitriou 2016; Berry & Portney 2013; Uphoff & Buck 2006).

The purpose of this article is to examine how local governments in Nigeria and South African are increasingly engaged in proactive sustainability programs respectively. A set of incentive-oriented tools that encourage individuals and organizations to behave in more sustainable ways is very important in understanding sustainability initiatives. However, the interest in conducting this research is due to the questions about program efficacy in local governments and the limited internal operation capacity and resources in Nigeria and South Africa respectively.

The paper uses data derived from questionnaire survey administered to 1800 local government staff, community members and advocacy groups in Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa. Interviews of 80 relevant local government officials were conducted, meetings between key community members and environmental inspectors were also observed. The secondary data consisted of desk research, review of related government reports in Nigeria and South Africa, standard text, academic and professional journals. Data were analyzed to understand the reasons for proactive environmental initiatives in local governments in both countries as well as to find out the types of proactive environmental and sustainability initiatives. The conceptual framework is based on stakeholders' theory, and an integrated model that combines the theory of planned inclusive behavior model for sustainable solution. The findings suggest that there is a negative correlation between the sustainability goals of local governments' development programs in both countries and their proactive strategies in regions where group advocacy is low. The local governments of both countries must encourage more community participation in sustainable development initiatives. This is because participation offers new opportunities for creative thinking and innovative planning toward economic growth and sustainable development. Some challenges for further implementation of proactive environmental practices were identified and recommendations for appropriate policies that could address them are offered.

STAKEHOLDER VALUES AND SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The idea that organizations are membership communities made of a diversity of individuals, each with a unique set of values, has simply been a foreign notion in the traditional construct of some local governments in Africa (Saha & Paterson, 2008). On the other hand, an institution consists of people assigned to specific positions, functions and roles with an organized structure in either the public or private sectors in any country. In addition, a system of governance refers to government's relationships with the electorate, the public, the consumers of services, and non-state actors (Alkinson 2002). The logic here is that development oriented system of governance such as in Nigeria and South Africa requires an institutional environment in which government could create the types of relationships with outsider stakeholders. Furthermore, relationships are essential to

encourage urban and rural stakeholders to work or seek sustainable development and capacity building initiatives to solve their nation's environmental problems.

Stakeholder value is a special concept that relates to the issue of sustainability initiatives because local governments are made of structures, processes and persons in a networked mosaic of inter-dynamics (Chamber 1997; Uzzi 1997). These scholars argue that stakeholders could operates in a way that sustains the action of each entity in pursuing economic growth strategies (Chambers, 1997). According to Portney and Berry (2013), Shrestha & Feiock (2011) and Uzzi (1997), the social embeddedness theories postulate the importance of relational communities that may arise from long-term reciprocal linkages among co-located organizations with the goal of achieving environment, economic development and equity for is citizens. Therefore, it could be argued that intergovernmental relationships are embedded in larger social, political and economic structures (Shrestha & Feiock, 2011). Figure 1 shows the relationship in a community participation approach to proactive sustainability initiative.
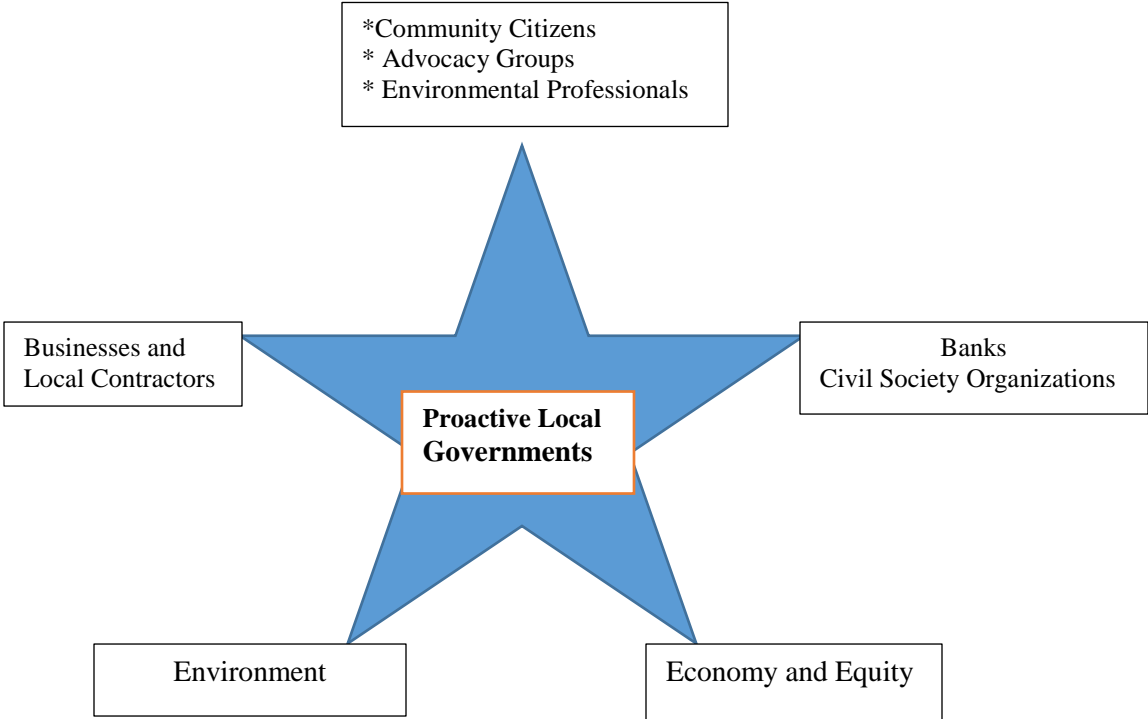
Source: Designed by authors

Figure I: Proactive Community Participation Model

Figure 1 shows the proactive community participation process as it related to local government and sustainability. According to chamber (1997) community participation should be developed to support the existing socio-economic context by mobilizing people to engage in sustainable development in local governments. Chamber (1997) contends that community participation is the key to successful development programs. He also argues that local government professionals need to rethink the way in which they value the views of community people and the consequence of only accepting the professional's judgment. These social embedded relations could also serve as the basis for creating sustainability initiatives at the local government levels. This is because local governments are intrinsically multi-sectoral or consist of many stakeholders in nature as well as very close to the citizens. Shrestha (2012) contend that local governments could also explore the possibilities of networking among key stakeholders through participation in service delivery, formal and informal networks among other private organizations within its domain. Thus, both weak and strong relations among stakeholders could help local governments to collaborate to achieve its sustainable development goals (Carr, & Feiock, 2004).

In addition, Rifkin (2001) and Chamber (1997) argues that although advocacy for participation waxes and wanes, it is often appreciated by many local and national governments as critical to program planning and poverty alleviation. It is very important to note that local governments have only recently begun to embrace the wider understanding of sustainable development in respect of the triple concept of equity, sustainable development and environmental protection in many African countries. Our research is an attempt to evaluate the commitment of local governments in Nigeria and South Africa the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as analysis of local governments proactive sustainability initiatives in the two countries.

The utilization of nonprofessional through citizen participation networks to address social environmental problems has become a common method for stakeholders' integration (Andersen, 2011). According to the World Bank (2012), participation is defined as a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives, and the decisions and resources which affect them. It could be argued that the community participation approach mechanism emphasizes self-help, the democratic process, and local leadership in community revitalization (Cotter & Hannan 1999; Agranoff & McGuire 2003). Sustainable development is often an over-used term, but it goes to the heart of tackling several inter-related African issues such as poverty, inequality among men and women, hunger and environmental degradation. In theory it means, development that is sustainable and not damaging to the African continent or the rest of the world is very possible (Wright & Boorse 2014). At the same time, as with justice freedom, and equality, it is important to uphold sustainable development as an ideal, as well as goal toward which all human society need to be moving in that direction (Withgot & Brennan, 2008). Sustainable development involves cconserving and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, land and marine resources for economic and sustainable development (Blewitt 2015; Wright & Boorse, 2014). It promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, as well as provides access to justice for all (women and men); build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Blewitt 2015; Kraft & Furlong 2016; Payne & Nassar 2006).

Many scholars have discussed the reasons why sustainability initiatives are becoming very important mechanism for local government strategic planning for economic development. According to Dollery et al. (2011) the concept of local government sustainability should extend beyond the narrow confines of financial sustainability or financial viability to include the vibrancy of local democracy, local social capital and local council administrative, and technical capacity. Portney & Berry (2013)

contend that local government face complex demand as they want to encourage business development while attracting professionals who look for communities that provide high performing schools, rich cultural amenities, and a strong municipal commitment to sustainable environmental protection. Conroy (2006) explored the familiarity of local government officials with the concept of sustainable development and their perception on the importance of the concept for planning practice. Jepson (2004) goes further to provide the first comprehensive list of sustainability activities that local government has been engaging in the United States. According to Japson (2004) sustainability initiatives by local government include air quality, water quality and conservation, energy consumption, solid waste production and levels of recycling, green buildings, open space, brownfield redevelopment, and equity activities. Other scholars have suggested that local governments with at least one active, identifiable environmental group seem to do more to pursue climate protection policies (Lubell et al., 2006; O'Connell, 2009; Brody et al., 2008; Zahran et al., 2008).

According to Wright and Boorse (2014) to achieve sustainable development will require a special level of dedication and commitment to care for the natural world and act with justice and equity towards one another. However, there are a lot of politics and challenges involved as discussed throughout this paper. For example, the challenges presented by sustainable local government initiatives and development are immense in Nigeria and South Africa. Many local governments that have initiated some sustainable programs are looking at ways to improve their infrastructures to become more environmentally friendly (Greenwood & Holt, 2010). On the other hand, they want to increase the quality of life for their residents, and cut costs at the same time. Proactive local governments are the ones that are strategically built for today and tomorrow and sit on a grid where the power supply is human kind (Upadhyay 2009; Abovu 2015). The tenacity, vision, and innovations that make sustainable local governments more livable, more prosperous, and better positioned for the century ahead becomes the mechanism that propel such local governments to greater economic growth. The technologies may be different from one local government to another, however the mission is to achieve sustainable communities (Portney, & Berry, 2013). It also entails reliable power sources, smarter ways for moving people from home to work and back again (Fitzgerald 2010; O'Connell 2009). A skyline that works with, not against, the air and ground that it occupies could be sustainable to both countries. In these proactive sustainable local governments, the entrepreneurial vision is the building block, and the common factor for building infrastructure with intelligence, equity and economic growth for all stakeholders.

According to Saha and Peterson (2008) if local governments are the places where most of the world's resource destruction and pollution takes place, it would obviously be reasonable for all stakeholders to work with local governments to find solution to those problems at the regional level. This is the main reason why local governments across the world are enacting policies and solution mechanism that attempts to reduce their environmental degradation problems as well as assure good quality of life for all citizens.

RESEARCH METHOD

The purpose of this study is to evaluate sustainability programs in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa. The second goal is to identify a set of sustainability practices that local governments in both countries could implement for them to be recognized as proactive environmental regional governments. The paper uses data derived from questionnaire survey administered to 1800 respondents in 40 local governments in Nigeria (20 LGs) and South Africa (20 LGs) respectively. The local

governments were selected because of their population size of 400,000 – 2 million, and the availability of major commercial cities. The respondents were local government staff, community members and advocacy groups in both countries. Interviews of local government officials were conducted, meetings between key community members and environmental inspectors were also observed. The secondary data consisted of desk research review of related literature derive from government reports in Nigeria and South Africa, standard text, academic and professional journals. Data were analyzed in other to understand the reasons for proactive environmental initiatives in local governments in Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa.

Questionnaires were administered to 1,800 respondents drawn from the staff of the 40 local governments in both countries. A total of 1200 (66.6%) questionnaire was completed and returned by the respondents. Data collected were analyzed with SPSS statistical tool and presented in correlations, frequency tables and percentile. The questionnaire was designed to capture data relevant to the research questions and objectives. It was predominantly comprised of closed ended questions, which along with two open ended questions sought to capture information explored. Nigeria and South Africa were chosen among the 55 African countries because both nations have the best economies in the continent.

 A total of ninety *(100)* one-on-one in-depth interviews were conducted among randomly selected staff of local governments in Nigeria and the South Africa. Interviews were strictly conducted using participatory research methods. Participants included both senior and junior management staff. The identities of the interview participants were kept confidential. The results of these analyses were organized into analysis matrix to summarize the data and develop typologies and descriptive statistics that linked findings to the research goals. Given that no study has been found that specifically evaluate proactive sustainability programs in Nigeria and South Africa the following research questions were formulated. The central research questions are: (1) Do you consider your local government to be engaged in any sustainability programs and development planning? (2) What are the major reasons for your local government's involvement in proactive sustainable practices? (3) What are the problems affecting sustainable development initiatives and inadequate capacity building programs in your local governments? (4) What are the problems affecting your local government from engaging in good governance and economic development of communities?

The administration of questionnaires and interview were conducted between 2014 and 2017 in Nigeria. The limitations of this research are that only local governments with population between 400,000 and 2 million people were selected. This is because local government that had less than 100,000 population in both Nigeria and South Africa, and are in rural areas could not afford to fund major sustainable development projects. Other reasons for eliminating local governments in rural areas include employers were sensitive about their reputation and government image regarding sustainability programs. Staff that were shift workers who found it difficult to identify free time to participate in one-on-one discussions were also eliminated. Other staff were unwilling to participate because they were afraid that their manager may be aware of their negative statements.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION

The demography of the 1200 local government staff that returned their completed questionnaire reveal that about 55% of them were male, while 35% were female. Approximately 10% of the respondents were elected officials such as mayor/chairperson of the local government or councilors. In addition, 28% of the staff were in management position, while 73% were in administrative positions. The data also reveal that most the managers have a degree in public administration, political sciences, business or other social sciences disciplines, and several of the non-managerial staff did not graduate from high school. About 5% of the senior staff in the local government in both Nigeria and South Africa hold degrees in an area of engineering. A total of 100 interviews were conducted. About 30 percent of the interview respondents were senior staff of local government such as major/chairperson and engineers. Approximately 12% were members of the community such as leaders of civil society groups. The remaining 58 respondents were junior staff of local governments in both countries. Table 1 show the types local government sustainability programs in Nigeria and South Africa.

Research Question 1:

Do you consider your local government to be engaged in any sustainability programs and development planning?

Table 1: Types of Local Government Sustainability Programs in Nigeria and South Africa

Local Government Sustainability Programs and development planning	Nigeria Number of Respondents 670	%	South Africa Number of Respondents 540	%	Total 1200
Waste disposal and Management	231	34%	300	55.5%	531
Protect the Environment and building and land use regulation	402	60%	290	53.7%	692
Recycle Plastic bottles	87	12.9%	308	57%	395
Recycle Papers or newspapers	244	36.4%	320	59.2%	564
Recycle Aluminum	130	19.4%	240	44.4%	370
Alternative Energy supply such as renewable sources –Solar energy or wind power	10	1.4%	166	30.7%	176
Reducing Building energy use	0	0.14%	55	10.1%	55
Eco-friendly transit system	12	1.7%	140	25.9%	152
Green Government Office Buildings and construction	105	15.6%	168	31.1%	273
Reducing public urban traffic congestion	290	43.2%	440	81%	730

Source: Derived from Field research in Nigeria and South Africa 2014-2017.

Questionnaire items 4 and 13 were utilized in the analysis of the type of sustainability programs that local governments in Nigeria and South Africa are engaging in their respective countries. The data from the survey shows that Nigerian local governments are doing more (60% response rate) to protect their environment by using building and land use regulation. About 43% of the Nigerian respondents indicated that their local governments are very active in reducing traffic congestions with public transportation. On one hand 34% of the respondents indicated that their local government were very active in waste disposal management in landfills since they do not have incinerators. On the other hand, 36% stated that they were very active in the recycling of papers such as carboard and newspapers. In general, local government is Nigeria are doing poorly in the following areas: garbage collection along the streets 2%, reducing building energy use 0%, alternative energy supply such as renewable source 10%, eco-friendly transit transport system 1.7%, reducing building energy sue 0.14 and alternative energy supply 30.7%, green office building 15.6%.and aluminum

South African local governments seem to be doing better in the following sustainability program areas: waste disposal 55.5%, protect the environment and regulations of buildings and land 53.7%, recycling of plastic bottles 57%, recycling of newspaper and carboard 59.2%, reducing public traffic congestion 81% and recycling of aluminum 44.4% and green office building 31.1%. The areas where South Africa's local governments are doing poorly are reducing building energy 10.1%, eco-friendly transit system 25.9%.

Table 2 shows that there is a positive correlation between Protect the environment and building, and land use regulation as well as reducing public urban traffic congestion in Nigeria (0.644) and South Africa 0.513). The table also show that there is a negative correlation between Eco-friendly transit system e.g. street car and reducing Building energy with the use a setback thermos stat to save energy during the off-office hours.

Table 2: Correlation Matrix

Types of Sustainability Programs	Nigeria Index	South Africa Index
Protect the Environment and building and land use regulation	0.644*	0.513*
Reducing public urban traffic congestion	0.465*	0.812*
Eco-friendly transit system e.g. street car	-0.013	-0.015
Reducing Building energy with the use a setback thermos stat to save energy during the off-office hours	-0.016	-0.019

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Ninety-two (92%) of the interview respondents in Nigeria indicated that their local government do not regularly clear the garbage on their streets. The respondents were not sure if it was the responsibility of the state or local governments to clear the garbage dumps that were overflowing in many urban roads in the country. Approximately 56 % of the interview respondents also stated that the local government workers in charge of cleaning garbage on the street some-times burn the refuse and cause smoke to pollute the air in their neighborhoods. Almost 100% of the respondents interview in Nigeria complained of noise pollution due to people using generating machines as a source of electricity. They also wonder when the public electricity problems in the country could be resolved after many years. Some respondents indicated that although, there is environmental cleaning day on the last Saturday of the month in the country most of the gutters in their local government were full of thrash and this has often led to flooding whenever it rains.

Local government is urban areas in South Africa have done much better than those of Nigeria in respect of the comments of respondents. Nearly 67% of the respondents in Johannesburg, Cape Town Durham, and Port Elizabeth indicated that they were pleased with the sanitation of their streets. About 28% of the respondents in South Africa stated that they observed that some of the township street garbage are not regularly cleared on time. Urban street congestion is sometimes a major problem in some areas in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Approximately 13% of the interview respondents indicated that some bushes around the townships were sometimes used by residents as their landfills. Ninety-nine (99%) of the respondents in local governments in South Africa indicated that proactive initiatives on sustainability program should be the number one priority of all the local governments in the country.

Research Question 2:

What are the major reasons for your local government's involvement in proactive sustainable practices?

Table 3: Reasons for Engaging in Sustainable Initiative

No	Why does your Local Government Engage in the Sustainable and Environmental friendly activities?	Nigeria 670				South Africa 540				
		Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%o	
14	Innovation	450	67%	220	33%	430	79%	110	21%	
15	Pressure from Enviro. Advocacy Group	235	35%	435	65%	412	76%	128	24%	
16	Public Health and Safety Management	130	19%	540	81%	432	80%	108	20%	
17	Local Economic Development	410	61%	260	39%	424	79%	116	21%	
18	Profit or Revenue Generation	195	29%	475	71%	340	62%	200	38%	
19	Attract more New Residence	90	13%	580	87%	408	76%	132	24%	
20	Make a difference	289	43%	381	57%	400	74%	140	36%	
21	Protect the Environment	382	57%	288	43%	425	79%	115	21%	
22	Cut cost of operating the Local Government	172	25%	498	75%	290	54%	250	46%	
10	Participate in Socially Responsible Activities	236	35%	434	65%	300	56%	240	44%	
11	Improve Performance	390	58%	280	42%	415	77%	125	23%	

Source: Derived from Questionnaire Survey data 2014 -2017

Table 3 shows the reason why local governments in Nigeria and South Africa are engaged in proactive sustainability initiatives. The survey data reveals that the major reasons given by respondents working in the local governments in Nigeria for engaging in sustainability initiatives are innovation 67%, local government development 61%, protection the environment 57% and

improvement of performance 58%. On the other hand, the local government staff in South African indicated that the reasons why they are engaged in proactive sustainability initiatives are mostly because they want to protect the environment 79%, innovation 79%, public health 80%, improve performance 77%, local economic development, pressure from environmental advocacy groups, attract more new business 76%, make a difference 74% and profit generation 62%. The local government staff in South Africa seem to be more serious about their sustainability initiatives than those of Nigeria. It is interesting to note that while Nigerian local government staff rated pressure from advocacy group as 35%, their South African colleagues rated the same reason as 76%. It is very important to note that the respondents in both Nigeria and South Africa believe that advocacy groups do not play any major role in galvanizing proactive environmental initiatives.

Table 4: Correlation Matrix

Reasons for Engaging in Sustainable Initiative	Nigeria Index	South Africa Index
Innovation	0.515*	0.612*
Protect the Environment	0.513*	0.644*
Public Health and Safety Management	-0.019	0.783*
Attract more New Residence	-0.027	-0.029

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Table 4 show a positive correlation between protection of the environment and innovation as the major reasons for engaging in proactive sustainability initiatives in Nigeria (0.6 and South Africa. While the significance of public health safety is weak in Nigeria (-0.019), that of South Africa is positive (0.783). In respect of attracting more residence to their local government the data shows a negative significance in Nigeria (13%) and a positive significance in South Africa (76%).

Table 5 shows data in respect of the problems affecting sustainable development initiatives and inadequate capacity building programs in local governments in both countries. The local government staff that responded to the survey identified the following environmental and sustainable developments problems in Nigeria. Almost all the respondents (90%) indicated that most visible environment problems in the country is no frequent collection of garbage from the streets. Next to lack of garbage collection from the street are poor drainage system to avoid floor on highways and residential areas (90%) and no wind mills to generate alternative source of energy (81%). Another major environmental problem identified by the respondents is that multinational petroleum companies are not doing a good job cleaning crude oil spillage in some local governments areas in Rivers, Delta, Bayesa, and Akwa-Ibom states (81%). Other environmental problems identified in Nigeria by the respondents are poor government infrastructure (63%), lack of enough electric propelled light rail vehicles, and street cars (43%), lack of fluidity of traffic lights on many streets in the country due to lack of electricity (54%). Respondents in South Africa stated the following as the major environmental problems; inadequate wind mill to generating alternative source of energy (59%), lack of enough electric propelled light rail vehicles and street cars (76%) and inadequate solar energy source (65%). The environmental problem areas with very low scores in South Africa are: poor local government infrastructure (19%), frequent

oil spillage that destroy the ecosystem (16%), lack of renewable energy street cars (9.2%) lack of high speed train (4%), and very few practice of vegetable roofing and rainwater harvesting in many local government areas near the desert (20%).

Research Question 3:

What are the problems affecting sustainable development initiatives and inadequate capacity building programs in your local governments?

Table 5: Environmental Problems due to Inadequate Capacity Building Initiatives

Type of Environmental Problems	Nigeria Number of Respondents 670	Percentage	South Africa Number of Respondents 540	Percentage
No Frequent collection of garbage from the street side	602	90%	110	20%
Low-loss electrical grids	540	81%	90	19%
Inadequate Mind Mills	100	15%	230	59%
No light rail vehicles	285	43%	410	76%
Poor Drainage system	602	90%	120	22%
Fluidity of traffic Light	360	54%	300	56%
Vegetative roofing and rainwater harvesting	220	33%	108	20%
Green building	40	6%	150	28%
Lack of High Speed Trains	0	0%	20	4%
Lack of Street cars	4	0.5%	50	9.2%
Inadequate Solar Energy	100	15%	350	65%
Ineffective cleaning crude petroleum spillage in some producing areas	540	81%	20	4%
Inadequate Green Hospitals	5	0.7%	168	31%
Using natural gas turbines contributed to a 60% reduction in a plant's CO_2 emissions	10	1.5%	120	22%
Collect rainwater, reducing its overall consumption of water by 20%	10	1,5%	120	22%
Frequent oil spillage	262	39%	86	16%
Poor Government Infrastructure	420	63%	104	19%

Source: Derived from Field research in Nigeria and South Africa 2014-2017.

Table 6 correlation matrix reveal that there is a negative correlation between no garbage collection from street side (-0.049) and poor drainage system in Nigeria (-0.013). This negative significant rate show why these two factors are the major environmental problems in Nigeria. In addition, table 6 shows that there is also a negative correlation between no light rail vehicles (-0.019) and lack of high speed train (-0.000) in Nigeria. Furthermore, there is also a negative significance in respect of ineffective cleaning of crude petroleum spillage in some local governments areas where oil drilling takes place (-0.034). This data support the views of the respondents that there are no functioning light rail vehicles and high speed train operation all over Nigeria.

In respect of South Africa, there is a positive correlation between no frequent collection of garbage from the street side (0.482) and poor drainage system in the country in many rural local government areas (0.594). Further, unlike Nigeria, the South African data also shows a major significance in no light rail vehicles in many local governments (0.522). The nation's data however reals a negative correlation in respect of lack of high speed train in many local governments. The ineffective cleaning of crude petroleum spillage in some producing areas is not an issue in South Africa. Thus, there were no significance data reported.

Table 6: Correlation Matrix

Reasons for Engaging in Sustainable Initiative	Nigeria Index	South Africa Index
No Frequent collection of garbage from the street side	-0.049	0.482*
Poor Drainage system	-0.013	0.594*
No light rail vehicles	-0.019	0.522*
Lack of High Speed Trains	-0.000	-0.003
Ineffective cleaning crude petroleum spillage in some producing areas	-0.034	0.044

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Research Question 4:

What are the problems affecting your local government from engaging in good governance and economic development of communities?

Table 7 report respondents' views of the major problems affecting local good governance initiatives. In Nigeria, the respondents identified corruption and waste of public funds (83%), weak organizational capacity in many local government (84%), lack of constant electricity (84%), lack of adequate budget; ethnic, religious politics, and poor rule of law and due process (64%) as the major reasons for ineffective and proactive governance. It is very important to note that the respondents in Nigeria (42%) and South Africa (28%) indicated that no culture of continuity of public programs were major problems in good governance in their respective countries.

In respect of South Africa, the respondents indicated that weak organizational capacity in many local governments (80%), lack of engagement with community stakeholders (56%), corruption (59%), ethnic religious and race politics (59%), corruption and waste of public funds (59%), and lack of consensus building (34%) were the major problems affecting local government governance in many parts in the country.

Table 7: Problems Affecting Local Government Good Governance Initiative

No.	Problems of Good Governance	Nigeria 670		South Africa 540	
		Yes %	%	Yes %	%
15	Ethnic, Religious, and Race Politics	340	51%	320	59%
16	Lack of Consensus Building	230	34%	182	34%
17	Lack of adequate budget	560	84%	350	65%
18	Lack of Engagement with Community Stakeholders	215	32%	300	56%
19	No Clear Difference between Public and Private Sector	305	46%	160	30%
20	No Culture of Continuity of Public Programs	280	42%	150	28%
21	Corruption and waste of Public funds	555	83%	320	59%
22	Lack of Constant Electricity	560	84%	212	39%
23	No Government Commitment on Social and Economic Issues	180	27%	175	32%
24	Inadequate Partnership with Members of the Society	145	22%	155	29%
25	Poor Rule of Law and Due Process	430	64%	205	38%
26	Weak Organizational Capacity in Many Local Government	560	84%	430	80%

Source: Derived from Questionnaire Survey data 2014 -2017

Table 8: Correlation Matrix

Problem of lack of Good Governance	Nigeria Index	South Africa Index
Weak Organizational Capacity in Many Local Governments	0.753*	0.731*
Lack of Constant Electricity	0.733*	0.245*
Lack of adequate budget	0.733	0.522*
Ethnic, Religious, and Race Politics	0.461*	0.472*
Corruption and waste of Public funds	0.724*	0.461*

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Table 8 shows the correlation matrix of the problems of good governance in Nigeria and South Africa. The relationship between weak organizational capacity in many local governments in Nigeria (0.753) and lack of constant electricity in (0.731) are positive. In addition, there is also a positive relationship between corruption and waste of public funds in Nigeria (0.724) and South Africa (0.461) as well as lack of adequate budget (0.733) in Nigeria and South Africa (0.522) respectively.

Overall the local governments in Nigeria and South Africa show different patterns in implementing their sustainability programs along the multiple dimension's sustainability strategy (Sharma, 2000). This study also reveals that local government that perform the following (1) provision of effective services; (2) provision of tax incentives (3) engage in public procurement; and (4) encourage partnership with community stakeholders are more proactive in promoting environmental sustainability initiatives.

Although many local governments are interested in promoting proactive sustainability initiatives their level of implementing such programs are incremental in nature. It is also very important to note that recycling and protecting water quality are the two most proactive sustainability initiatives that the local governments in Nigeria and South Africa are more actively engaged (Saha & Paterson, 2008). This study also confirms the findings of Abovu (2015) that bribery, corruption and incompetence are major actors that continue to affect good governance and the economic empowerment of the people of many countries in Africa. Therefore, it could be argued that good governance tends to influence proactive sustainability programs in Nigeria and South Africa's local governments. This study also reveals that promoting green government standards or green buildings have not gained much awareness in both Nigeria and South Africa. Hopefully awareness of the benefits of sustainable environmental behaviors may encourage local governments in both countries to do more to encourage their citizens to adopt the concept in new eco-friendly construction of green buildings. This initiative may become a new method for addressing ecological problems in the future. This study also confirms Portney and Berry (2013) findings that the inclusion of advocacy groups and community stakeholders in local government environmental policy making decisions could strongly galvanize proactive environmental sustainability initiatives. This study findings reveal that local governments in both Nigeria and South Africa that were more

inclusive of community stakeholder were more proactive in sustainability initiatives than those that had weak government and business relations. Local governments in urban areas in Nigeria and South Africa are still finding it difficult to effectively deal with the enormous sprawling issues. This is because some urban areas are characterized by a lack of effective zoning restrictions and a substantial population of low income immigrants from rural regions that are seeking employment in the bigger cities. Therefore, for sustainability initiatives to be credible in both countries there is the need for businesses to collaborate with local government more than it is currently taking place.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of this study is to evaluate sustainability programs in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa. Based on the findings of the study it is recommended that the standard of local government services in both countries should improve is respect of the delivery of sustainable capacity building initiatives. According to Abovu (2015) good governance in local government could be the cornerstone strategy for promoting sustainable development in African countries. This is because governance may also encourage the economic empowerment and capabilities of local government in their delivery of goods and services to the citizens. It paramount for the local governments and stakeholders to collaborative to fund sustainability initiatives for the common good of every citizen (Portney and Berry, 2013). There is also the need for local government to assign more of their employees to ensure that environmental advocacy groups have more access to government policy making processes as well as enhance the inclusion to improve the economy of individuals, the government and region in general (Ajake, 2015). As a result, the more effective the implementation of quality sustainability management practices; the greater the possibility of increasing customer satisfaction, reduce errors in service provision as well as increase the quality of the services offered and improve employees' satisfaction (Molina-Azorin et al 2015). In addition, the following recommendations could be very useful in helping local governments to achieve their sustainability goals:

- Advocacy groups and other civil society organizations should play the role of whistle blower in the monitoring of the activities of local political leaders to reduce corruption and increase accountability in the local government governance system.
- Businesses and local governments should also form partnership in completing several programs in water conservation, urban suitability and mobility, waste reduction, energy efficiency and green resources for local businesses. By recycling, reusing, and donating building materials, the local governments in both countries could become eco-friendlier.
- The national governments of Nigeria and South Africa should create laws that could help to address most of the challenges associated to governance deficiency, leadership, and weak responsiveness, transparency and accountability to communities and citizens. In addition, local governments should adopt a new culture of participation by communities in the governance process.
- There is the need to establish the political principles of recalling elected officials from their offices if they are not performing up to expectation or when they are found to be corrupt. These new laws to recall should not give immunity to state governors and local government chairperson and municipality officials.

- It is also very critical for the national government to encourage more research on environmental sustainability in Nigeria and South Africa. This is necessary because it is crucial for researchers in both countries to visualize holistic public policies and regulatory structure that may create business incentives for undertaking sustainability initiatives. Such initiatives could further galvanize the alleviation of ecological and social protection of the environment (Sharma & Ruud, 2003). There is also the need for local governments in Nigeria and South Africa to train their staff on environmental and sustainable development issues.

The application of the community participation and stakeholder concepts in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa could foster more proactive environmental practices. This measure could help to resolve the lack of initiatives that promote the mutual benefit of the national and local governments, contractors, suppliers, investors, advocacy groups, and other civil society organizations (Molina-Azorin et al 2015).

As a result, it is recommended that local governments in Nigeria and South Africa should start to rethink the benefits they could derive from their communicative relationship with some stakeholders. Since many community members and advocacy groups are currently not well informed of the key sustainability activities that their local governments have been engaged in or implementing. The local governments in both Nigeria and South Africa must ensure that their staffs are properly trained in sustainability management to enable them to attain the capacity to provide the needed services to their respective communities. Therefore, developing the right kind of manpower may in turn attract better planning and bring required professionalism to the local governments in both countries. This is because proactive environmental local governments need educated, well-trained, bright, energetic, multilingual and entrepreneurial skills to manage the sustainability initiative programs. Increase public education about water supply and desert friendly landscaping programs and compose waste management is also very essential in the local communities. In addition, creating more location for electronic water drop off and increase recycling center locations are very important area that local and national governments need to address in Nigeria and South Africa respectively.

CONCLUSION

This paper has examined proactive sustainability initiatives in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa. It argues that the most profound changes that must take place in both countries in other to achieve a sustainable civilization is community or stakeholders' participation in environmental issues. As a result, if local governments lack internal capacities, there is the risk that they could be captured by the wrong stakeholder groups that may not be interested in proactive sustainable environmental initiatives. Such predicaments could limit the scope of their sustainability programs (Greenwood & Holt 2010; Vogel and Henstra, 2015)

The study findings reveal that although sustainability initiatives are not new in the twenty-first century many local governments in Nigeria and South Africa do not have goals, targets and specific plans to promote sustainable development strategies. Moreover, the inclusion of interest groups in local government environmental policy making could become a very important mechanism to enhance their effort to become more sustainable in the future.

This research on proactive sustainability initiatives in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa also reveals that municipalities in both countries are still in the preliminary stage of adopting proactive sustainability initiatives. The results of this research show that about 92% of the local government surveyed are near to the lower end of doing nothing in respect of sustainability issues. These findings are puzzling because sustainability is not a new concept but local governments in both Nigeria are South Africa are still faced with the challenge of mandated activities to achieve set sustainable goals. Only 9% of local governments in Nigeria and South Africa have citizen committees and staff dedicated to sustainability. Respondents in both Nigeria and South Africa indicated that although their local governments strategy revolved around the three Es: environmental protection, economic development and equity, sometimes their eco-friendly initiatives are mostly instigated by economic reasons as opposed to the pure sustainability reasons. This finding compliments the outcome of Saha and Perterson (2008) study.

In addition, only one in 20 local governments in Nigeria, and 2 in 10 in South Africa have a separate budget to promote sustainability initiatives that are inclusive to advocacy groups, banks, community leaders, construction companies and local governments spending money to achieve sustainability set goals. This practice is contrary to what the stakeholder theory proposed (Donaldson & Preston 1995; Chambers 1997; Portney & Berry 2013). Moreover, very little research has been carried out regarding the future of proactive environmental practice in local government in Nigeria and South Africa. As a result, this study attempt to respond to the unanswered questions in both countries.

The findings of this study reveal that there is substantial weak relationship between the sustainability goals of several local governments Nigeria and South Africa, and their implementation strategies. Many local government staff in both countries do have training in sustainability issues, and are not aware of the expectations of sustainable practices in their organization. Thus, greater stakeholders support is recommended for partnership in sustainability initiatives in Nigeria and South Africa. On the other hand, community participation will happen with or without professionals. The challenges however in local governments in Nigeria and South Africa is how can professional in the public and private sectors support efforts for participation, empowerment and democracy that all citizens continue to expect but hesitate to ethically act upon (Chambers 1997; Rifkin 2001). Such ethical reasoning and action are necessary for the incorporation of management standards and proactive environmental practices through awareness and training of staff.

This study will contribute to the body of literature on sustainability in Nigeria and South Africa. One of the main limitations of this paper however is that it did not cover all the 774 in Nigeria and 278 local governments South Africa. There is currently no substantial study on proactive sustainability initiatives in local governments in both countries that extensively evaluate green stay or eco-friendly issues. Future studies should focus on environmental sustainability issues in local governments with populations of less than 400,000 people in other regions of Nigeria and South Africa that were not covered by this study.

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