

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA: CAN THE STATE ACHIEVE GOAL SEVEN OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)?

John Lekan Oyefara, PhD

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba,
Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract

Many of the generally acknowledged global environmental problems (greenhouse warming, ozone depletion, soil erosion, chemical management, acidic rain and water pollution, among other things) are directly or indirectly caused by the creation, operation, or disposal of the built environment undertaken by man. If man is responsible for many environmental disasters in which humankind is threatened, can his activities be regulated and conditioned by law? This question poses a view towards what should be the role of regulating authority (government) in environmental sustainability. But the critical explanation in this regards will go beyond just government but good governance. Governance or good governance in this regards is talking about ruling authority that provides enabling environment for the citizenry to achieve their goals and aspirations. Good governance here is not talking about people who fill positions of power for the fun of it, but people who fulfil their mandates as expected according to historical expectation of government. According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), environmental sustainability is the seventh goal of the scheme. On this note, this paper looked at the relationship between good governance and environmental sustainability in Lagos State. In order to do this, the paper examines critically three major targets of MDGs that bordered on environmental sustainability and how Lagos State fair on each of the targets. These targets are: one, integrate the principles of sustainable development into the State policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources; two, halve by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and three, to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Secondary data generated by various Ministries,

Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of governments and national/international non-state actors were used in the paper. Results of the study reveal significant impact of good governance on environmental sustainability of the State as evident in various urban forestry, beautification and green Lagos projects. In conclusion, the paper posited that, with good governance, the State can reverse the loss of environmental resources and sustain environmental development.

Keywords: Environment, good governance, sustainability, MDGs, Lagos State, Nigeria

Introduction And Historical Background

Many of the generally acknowledged global environmental problems (greenhouse warming, ozone depletion, soil erosion, chemical management, acidic rain and water pollution, among other things) are directly or indirectly caused by the creation, operation, or disposal of the built environment undertaken by man. On the belief that many of the environmental challenges are caused by men activities call for social action on environmental sustainability. Before the objectives of environmental sustainability can be achieved, there must be someone at the helm of authority who have sociological knowledge of what is and what ought to be. According to Oduwaye and Lawanson (2007), some of the critical problems facing cities of the developing world are deteriorating living conditions, increasing rates of death and diseases caused by pollution and poor sanitation. Thus, these authors argued that the environmental and social consequences of urbanization are quite visible such as conversion of environmentally fragile areas to shantytowns by indigent migrants highlights the inextricable relationship between environmental degradation and poverty. Environmental degradation is both a cause and consequence of poverty and the challenge of environmental degradation moves beyond resultant effect of poverty.

The living situations of many Nigerians are not what it supposed to be. According to PRB (2012), the average life expectancy of Nigerians living in Nigeria is 52. This is due to many social environmental factors which are not far from the discussion of environmental sustainability. From the work of Ekiyor (2007), many factors have been discovered which are associated to poor governance in Nigeria. Those factors that were identified and discussed on the account of environmental pollution by Ekiyor are:

1. **Oil spillage:** This is a by-product of oil exploration in Nigeria. There are many oil companies involved in oil exploration in Nigeria. Some of them are Shell Nigeria, British Petroleum, Texaco, Total, Mobil, ELF and ESSO. However, Shell Nigeria is

the largest oil extraction company in Nigeria (Ekiyor, 2007). Even though Shell drills oil in twenty-eight countries, 40% of its oil spills world-wide have occurred in Nigeria (Niger/Delta) (Cayford: Africa Today: April/June 1996 cited in Ekiyor, 2007).

2. **Gas Flaring:** Gas flaring in the numerous oil fields in Nigeria has resulted in environmental degradation, devastation of forests and respiratory diseases. Nigeria has been noticed to have one of the worst situations of gas flaring in the world. No less than 76 percent of the total gas production in the oil fields of this country is flared.

The two cases discussed above on their own have further consequences of health negativity on the populace. Due to the problem of oil spillage and gas flaring, we now face various health problems in Nigeria. This is due to the fact that so many the consumable items that Nigerians consume are already contaminated. The water for instance is not properly secure, and there is either little or no move to check the sources of water Nigerians consume. Water is important to us if we are to live healthy. Good water is important to good health.

Lagos State is one of the thirty-six States in Nigeria and as country's Center of Excellency; it remains the pride of Nigeria federation. Since the beginning of democracy in May 1999, Lagos State has witnessed considerable changes feasible in virtually in all spheres of human endeavours such as environment, transportation, health, education, finance, urbanization, tourism, poverty alleviation, security, rule of law, and politics. Some political analysts have argued that these changes are largely in tandem with the philosophy of the present administration, which seeks to drastically turn around Lagos State into a model city for Africa, and world standard Mega City.

It is an acknowledged fact about Nigeria that Lagos played a prominent role in the development of Nigeria and the eventual attainment of independence in 1960. Apart from serving as the melting pots for all ethnic nationalities in pre-colonial and postcolonial Nigeria, the birth of what we now refer to as the Nigeria today was laid in the city of Lagos in 1914, when the Northern and Southern Protectorates were amalgamated with the Lagos Colony. This decision was made possible following the formal introduction of colonial rule into Nigerian territories in 1900 and particularly the cession of Lagos to the Queen's empire in London in 1861. Politically, Lagos stood out the annals of Nigeria's independence. The role of Lagos in the unification of African people against colonial and postcolonial imperialism has remained an indelible memory for many African people up-till today but the gains of political independence have not in any way favour Lagos State. Politics of post-independence, which was supposed to engender equity, fairness and equality in the sharing of

national incomes, was marred by military rule, corruption, mismanagement of public offices, foreign policy misdirection, economic quagmire, inflation, debt overhang, decayed infrastructures and violence. Because of the virtual collapse of democratic institutions, fundamental state policies were negligent of the sporadic growth of major cities in the country, including the city of Lagos.

By May 1999, Lagos was left in the shadow of itself with decayed infrastructures in places that used to serve as the seat of Nigeria's Federal Government. This was happening at a time when cost of maintaining urban populations was increasing without commensurate revenues to cater for the urban influx. The continuing movement of people into Lagos state for greener pastures had been stemmed by the proliferation of states across the lengths and breadth of the country. Thus, between May 29 1999 and May 29 2007, the administration that served Lagosians during this period was forced to introduce fundamental state policies to address the deteriorating human conditions in Lagos. New roads were constructed while the Lagos Central Business District, which used to serve as the seat of the Federal Government of Nigeria before the Federal Capital Territory was shifted to Abuja in 1991, was revisited with formidable urban renewal programmes. The administration was able to implement its free health care policies to a large extent but could address grey areas on Lagos urban renewal programmes.

On assumption of office in 2007, the present administration reassured Lagosians that Lagos State would be returned to its lost glory. In pursuance of the administration embarked on what could be regarded as unparalleled urban renewal programmes in the administration of Lagos since 1967 it was created. In the process, the State attracted global attention in terms of policies in a bid to meet up with the challenges of Lagos Mega City Status, and as well fulfil the administrative promises to Lagosians and Nigerians in general. Some of the administrative' policies include: 1. Zero-tolerance for Indiscipline in the state, 2. Adequate Security of Lives and Property, 3. Maximum use of Tax resources of Lagos State, 4. Urban Renewal and Environmental Protection through "Operation Green Lagos", 5. Public-Partnership Programmes in Health, Environment and Transportation Services, 6. Free Education Policy of Lagos State Government, 7. Modernization of the Services of the Informal Sector, 8. Expansion of democratic space for Lagosians through constituency meetings and the new rotational policy of the State House of Assembly, 9. Land Reforms, which include prompt issuance of Certificate of Occupancy to private individuals and as well as corporate organization, and 10. State Judicial Sector Reforms such as quick dispensation of justice by all cadres of members of Lagos Judiciary.

Within the short time of the administration, the Lagos State Government has been able to achieve a lot in the rebirth of Lagos. The administration's comments through the executive officer of the State give credence to this:

“The truth is that if we do not reclaim our State, we potentially stand the risk of losing it entirely. We have difficult choices to make, and the best choice we can make is to ensure that this State doesn't decay. In that process, there will be some discomfort, and what we are doing is to be building markets for them. But they will not be completed in one day. The part of the Tejuoso market that was burned then, works are going on there to provide two markets. We are back at Oyingbo market. So, it's work in progress. But we believe it's worth it and they will be the better for it” (see TELL May 26, 2008: 20).

Answering more questions from the correspondents of TELL Magazine on the achievements of the administration, the executive officer had this to say:

It is not a mega city project in that sense. A mega city is a matter of status arising from population density. The United Nations Classified city by states in excess of 10 million as mega cities and that status has consequences- urbanization, increased human density, increased vehicular density, increased need for security, water, power, markets, offices, accommodation, for efficient refuse management . But when the Federal Capital was moved (from Lagos to Abuja) the commitments that were made to continue support Lagos was not fulfilled. Therefore, it became an uphill task for the state to cope with the enormous infrastructure challenge that it had to contend with. Attempts were made by the last administration to bring this about, but the vehicle and the mode for implementing it was not resolved. Whereas, the federal government wanted a law, the state felt it could be achieved by agreement rather than creating another authority by federal law. One of the areas under the mega-city arrangement was sanitation, waste management, which is a matter for the local government and the state; transportation to a large extent, is a matter for the state (TELL May 26, 2008: 20).

Central to various developmental programmes in Lagos State is the issue of environmental sustainability which incidentally is goal seven (7) of MDGs. This paper examines how Lagos State fair in the various targets of MDGs that relates to environmental sustainability within the current leadership of the State. The remaining part of this paper had been sub-divided into five main sections. The first section consists of brief conceptual clarifications of some key concepts that are central to the paper. The

second section examines briefly historical antecedent and various environmental policies of Lagos State. In the third section, the adopted methodology was explained, while various findings were presented in the fourth section and the findings were discussed and recommendations were made in the fifth section. These sections were presented accordingly in the next part of the paper.

Conceptual Clarifications

Environment

Before defining environmental sustainability, it will be necessary to talk in part about environment. According to Akinbode (2002) environment is the totality of the places and surroundings in which we live, work, and interact with other people in our cultural, religious, political and socioeconomic activities for self fulfilment and advancement of our communities, societies or nations. It is within this environment that both natural and man-made things are found (Obabori et al, 2009).

Environmental Sustainability

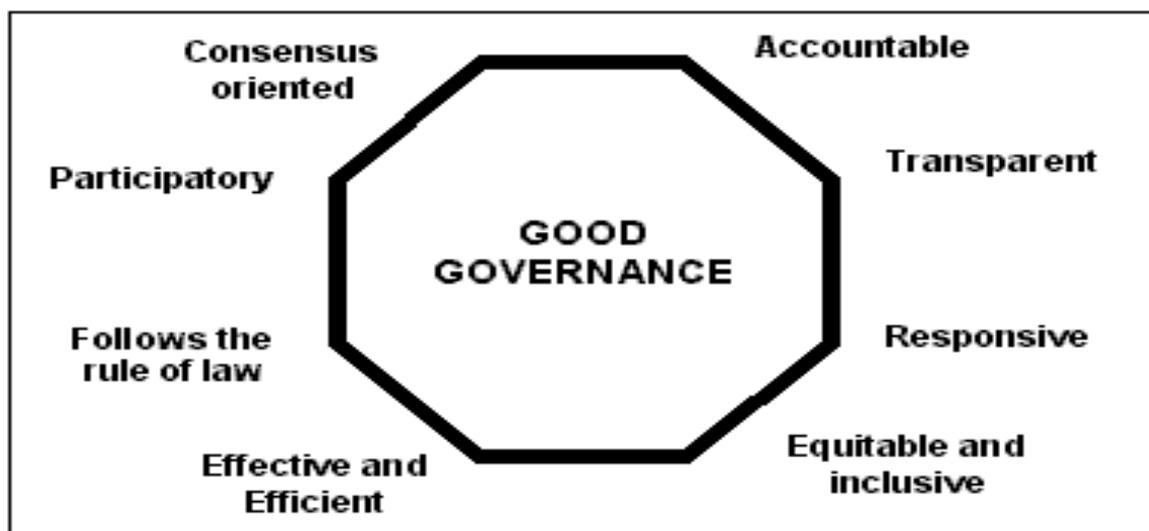
According to Atilola (2012), environmental sustainability is defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987) as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their needs. Sustainable Development has also been defined as a process of social and economic betterment that satisfies the needs and values of all interest groups, while maintaining future options and conserving natural resources and diversity (IUCN, 1980 cited in Atilola, 2012).

Good Governance and Government

According to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) the concept of "governance" is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Simply put "governance" means: the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance. Since governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented, an analysis of governance focuses on the formal and informal actors involved in decision-making and implementing the decisions made and the formal and informal structures that have been set in place to arrive at and implement the decision.

Government is one of the actors in governance. Other actors involved in governance vary depending on the level of government that is under discussion. In rural areas, for example, other actors may include influential land lords, associations of peasant farmers, cooperatives, NGOs, research institutes, religious leaders, finance institutions political

parties, the military etc. Before a government can be referred to as good governance there are certain lay down rules to be followed. Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society (see UNESCAP, date not specify).



Source: UNESCAP

Historical Antecedent And Various Environmental Policies Of Lagos State

Historical and Development context of Lagos:

In the work of Ilesanmi (2010), the coastal city of Lagos, currently the fifth largest city in the world, is situated within latitudes 6°23'N and 6°41'N and longitudes 2°42'E and 3°42'E. Lagos is a port city made up of the mainland and a string of islands—Lagos Island, Ikoyi Island, Victoria Island and Iddo Island. The Mainland comprises Ebute-Meta, Ikeja, Surulere and Yaba. Lagos Metropolitan Area, or Greater Lagos, is a conurbation that has engulfed other towns - Mushin, Maryland, Somolu, Oshodi, Oworonsoki, Isolo, Ikotun, Agege, Iju Ishaga, Egbeda, Ketu, Bariga, Ipaja, Ajah and Ejigbo (Lagos State Government, 2011). The population of Lagos is currently estimated to be 12.1m, making it the 25th largest city in the world (City Populations, 2011). The population is expected to rise to 15.8m by 2025, making it the 12th largest city in the world. The two main vegetation types in Lagos are the swamp forest and lowland tropical forest. There is an abundance of creeks, lagoons, and rivers

As stated by Olokesusi (2011) Lagos originated as fishing and farming settlement on Lagos Island inhabited by the Aworis. Historical accounts show that Lagos first attracted the

Ijebus, who came to trade and were the earliest immigrants. By 1821, Lagos was acclaimed the most important slave port on the West African Coast. The British abolished slave trading and assumed control of Lagos colony in 1861. Under British rule, the colony was expanded and Lagos became the terminal of many routes. In 1906, Lagos was joined with the British protectorate of southern Nigeria. In 1914, when southern and northern Nigeria was amalgamated, it became part of the coastal colony of Nigeria. In 1954, most of the colonies were merged with the rest of Nigeria, but Lagos was made a separate federal territory. From the late 19th century to independence in 1960, Lagos was the centre of Nigeria planning ideas and movement. From independence until 1991, Lagos was the capital of Nigeria. The capital was then moved to Abuja, although some governmental departments remain in Lagos. Pre-independence era, Lagos served as the political and commercial nerve centre of the nation due to its coastline. The British colonialist found the coastline appropriate for export of goods from the hinterland of Nigeria, and also facilitated trade in slaves. Thus, they settled down first in Lagos before moving into other lucrative centres in the hinterland of the country. The colonial masters created a segregated area in Lagos for their residences. These areas were known as government reserved areas (GRAs), the name it still bears till today in places like Ikeja, Apapa, and Ikoyi. The GRAs consist of European-style housing, a hospital or nursing station, and other facilities such as educational, recreational, and religious facilities for the British colonials and the more prominent European trading community. The GRA formed an expatriate enclave, which was deliberately separated from the indigenous Lagosians areas, ostensibly to control sanitation and limit the spread of diseases such as malaria. It is evident therefore that the GRAs were characterized with decent urban planning and decent housing conditions (Alagbe, 2006).

State Legislations on the Environment in Nigeria

Many efforts have been made by the Nigerian state to remedy in order to tackle the challenges of environmental abuses. According to Ibaba (2010), environmental protection legislation in Nigeria dates back to the colonial period. The numerous environmental laws include: the Forest Ordinance (1937); the Water Works Act (1915); the Public Health Act (1917); (1958); the Petroleum Drilling and Production Regulation (1969); the Oil in Navigable Waters Act (1968); the Ministry Act (1969); the Associated Gas Re-injection Act (1979); the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) Act (1988). Similarly, the Federal Government created the National Resources Conservation Council (NRCC) in 1988, National Policy on the Environment in 1989, (Emeribe, 2000 cited in Ibaba, 2010), and recent National Policy on the Environment in 1998. Despite these legislations and policies on

environmental protection and conservation, environmental degradation has continued to worsen in the Nigeria. The widespread view blames this on the ineffective execution of environmental protection laws in the country. The World Bank (1995) identifies the lack of enforcement of environmental laws as one of the greatest problems of the Nigeria environment. Enforcement agencies lack the mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of industrial pollution with a view to controlling them. (Ibaba, 2010). The isolation of the environmental laws from the development programs and policies of the state, faults in implementation strategy or techniques, inadequate penalties for violation, the non-involvement of citizens in the formulation and execution of the laws, and the lack of a clear focus, are also seen as factors which have become obstacles to the proper execution of the laws.

The lack of enforcement of environment laws is seen as the most fundamental cause of the inability of the legislations to promote the sustainable exploitation of natural resources in the Nigeria. The nature of the Nigerian state is that which has been described by the idea of renter state. This is the situation whereby the political office holders make their illicit gains by accumulating wealth from the natural resources of the state. They do this by not really caring about what happen to the citizenry in the process of their actions. Many have argued that, the problem of Nigeria is not really problem of policy formulation, but the Nigerian state problem is that of policy implementation. Though experts are consulted to formulate the policy but corrupt practices within the political state will not allow the implementation of this policy to be properly exhibited. On this note is the reason for good governance in order to have sustainable environment. The present writer is not alone on this argument on the nature of the Nigerian politics. Some scholars of social and environmental development have earlier pointed out this fact. As stated in the works of Aaron (2006); Ekekwe (1986); Ake (2001), politics in Nigeria is seen as a means of accumulating wealth. The consequence is the privatization of the State and its subsequent use for the pursuit of private interests. The result of this is the neglect of both the environment as well as the citizens of the state. Thus, the provisions of environment laws create gaps which weaken enforcement standards and regulations that could be contravened as being loosely specified and vaguely defined (Adibe and Essaghah, 1999).

Environmental Problems in Lagos

Lagos state as one of the largest city in the work certainly faces daunting environmental problems that are compounded by the daily influx of over 6,000 people in search of a better life. These problems include dumping of often toxic industrial waste,

ineffective solid waste management, insufficient sanitary infrastructure; soil, air and water pollution; flooding, ocean surge, insecurity, and limited access to basic infrastructure and municipal services. The use of direct labour in executing environmental projects also created employment opportunities, thus reducing the poverty level which has been shown to be inextricably related to environmental degradation (Oduwaye and Lawanson, 2007).

Methodology

Documentary which is a secondary source of data was used to generate data on environmental sustainability of Lagos State. Most of these secondary data were from different ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) that are working in the areas of environment in the State. These MDAs are: Lagos State Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Lagos State Water Corporation, Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Lagos State Ministry of Rural Development, and Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority (LASURA). Methods of data analysis utilized in the paper are descriptive and comparative in nature. In doing the analysis, various data elicited from the MDAs were pooled together and analyzed using both narrative and descriptive analysis techniques.

Findings

The presentation of findings was structured around the MDGs targets on environmental sustainability. In all, there are three targets as stated by the United Nations on goal seven of MDGs which focussed primarily on environmental sustainability of the State. These are target 11, 12 and 13 respectively. Each of these targets will be critically examined and the position and efforts of Lagos State to attain the goal will be determined.

Target 11: *Integrate the principles of sustainable development into the state policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.*

Central to the issue of sustainable development within the context of environmental resources is the issue of the proportion of land covered by forest in a given geographical setting. According to Table 1, the proportion of land area in Lagos State covered by forest decreased between 1990 and 2006. Specifically, the figure fell from 30% in 1990 to 15% in 2006. This decline in the land covered by forest may not be unconnected with population growth, urbanization and agriculture. But the State government has taken conscious steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals target of 20% forest area by 2015 in the State. Recent data from 2008 revealed steady and consistent increase in the proportion of area covered by forest in the State. Specifically, the proportion increased from 15% in 2006 to 16% in 2008 and 18% in 2011. The available data suggest that the target is achievable provided the State sustain its efforts towards the attainment of the target.

Table 1: Proportion land covered by forest in Lagos State

Year	Percentage
1990	30
1996	25
2001	20
2004	15
2006	16
2008	18
2010	18
2011	18

Source: Lagos State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, 2012

Target 12: Halve by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

It is truism that water is crucial to life in all ramifications. It is useful for agriculture, industry and sewerage all of which have direct impact on output and quality of life of the people. Likewise, it must also be noted that out that the absence of basic sanitation is equally disastrous to human existence. These essential two developmental needs constitute goal 13 of the MDGs. Thus, the effort to provide better and safe sanitation and water cannot but be overemphasised to every government that has the interest of the citizenry at heart. Available data from the State as presented on Table 2 reveal that the proportion of households with access to safe drinking water increased between 2008 and 2011. Specifically, between 2008 and 2011, the proportion of household with access to safe drinking water increased from 25% to 50%.

Table 2: Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water in Lagos State

Year	Percentage
2006	38
2007	30
2008	25
2009	30
2010	40
2011	50

Source: Lagos State Ministry of Economic planning and Budget, 2012

The proportion of people with access to basic sanitation also increased from 25% in 1990 to 65% in 2007 and to 80% in 2011 as presented on Table 3. The available data suggest that the State is making significant efforts to increase the proportion of household with access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and the achievement the target by the year 2015.

Table 3: Proportion of households with access to basic sanitation in Lagos State

Year	Percentage
1990	25
1996	28
2001	33
2004	50
2006	62
2007	65
2008	68
2009	71
2010	75
2011	80

Source: Lagos State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, 2012

Target 13: By 2015, To Achieve A Significant Improvement in the Lives of at Least 100 Million Slum Dwellers

Environmental experts had argued that because of the swampy and poorly drained soil of Lagos, as well as the rapid growth of population, Lagos witnessed the deterioration of its neighbourhoods, resulting in the emergence of slum communities whose number stood at 100 as at 2004. As presented by the agency in charge, the number increased from 100 in 2004 to 125 in 2009 and remains the same up till the present time. The additional 25 communities were identified by LASURA through satellite imagery in 2009. As presented on Table 4, there is consistent decrease in the proportion of urban population living in slums in Lagos. Specifically, the proportion decreased from 14.6% in 1996 to 13.5% in 1997. Subsequently, it decreased to 12.7% in 1998 and decreased significantly to 8.5% in 2006. Furthermore, it was found that the proportion of slum dwellers decreased from 7.9% in 2007 to 7.7% in 2008, and 7.5% in the year 2009. This suggests that the State Government has brought about a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers in Lagos State.

Table 4: Proportion of people living in slum in Lagos State

Year	Percentage
1996	14.6
1999	12.1
2001	10.6
2003	9.5
2004	9.0
2005	8.5
2006	8.1
2007	7.9
2008	7.7
2009	7.5

Source: Lagos State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, 2012

Discussion Of Findings And Recommendations

Environmental factors and sustainability are crucial to human development. In-fact, economic/industrial and technological development that are not environmentally sustainable are inimical to human survival. Lagos State is characterised by rapid urbanization with

various associated environmental problems. Considering the mega city status of Lagos, the State needs leaders that possess essential characteristics of good governance and identified by UNESCAP. The eight (8) major characteristics of good governance are that it is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society. The existing administration in the state is committed to good governance, this has been demonstrated in the leadership and governance style characterised by some of the elements of good governance. As presented above, the efforts of the State government in the areas of environmental sustainability are gradually yielding positive. As presented on the four tables above, if the current programmes and activities could be sustained, the State is more likely to achieve goal seven of the MDGs in the year 2015. In addition to this observation, the State government needs to consider the following recommendations in order to fast-track the achievement of the goal:

- For there to be sustained positive environmental sustainability in Lagos state, there must be a good policy put in place to harmonize environmental utility with the needs of both present and future generation. In this regard, Lagos state government must put in place programmes to achieve the above objective. Putting it differently, for Lagosians to enjoy environmental sustainability, this demands positive and realistic planning that balances human needs against the carrying capacity of the environment.
- Lagos state government must inculcate environmental concern into major economic decisions. Discussions on environmental sustainability should also take good attention of government of Lagos State just as do, other factors like transport, housing, generation of employment etc.
- In most cases, when major projects are being planned, resources for the replacement of valuable environmental resources which may be damaged due to interference with nature are not being planned along major projects. Lagos State government should ensure that environmental remediation costs are built into any development projects (major or minor). This will fast-track necessary adjustment whenever the need arise.
- According to the National Policy on Environment 1998, Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary for any project in Nigeria. Though this is documented, many of the contractors who work on projects follow the back-door methods in carrying-out

their activities without really following the due processes of carrying out environmental impact assessment in the projects' locations. The government of Lagos State should ensure that all projects contractors carry-out environmental impact assessment studies in the work locations before embarking on actual projects. The Lagos State government should make sure the reports of the assessments are sent at least ten working days before the commencement of the projects. This will allow for those who want to make complaints to do that before the projects commence. Also the source of each report must be genuine. The assessment must be carried out by competent personnel in the field of social and environmental research.

- Where there are serious threats as a result of a particular project on the environment, the government of Lagos State should use quick scientific action approach to combat whatever arising matter as a result of a particular project. By doing this, the government will be solving the problem of present generation and at the same time protecting available resources for future generation.

In conclusion, government of Lagos State should follow these suggestions religiously in order to have sustainable environmental development. This will allow the government to meet the environmental needs of this present generation and protect the resources for future generation.

References:

- Aaron, K.K. (2006), *Can a privatized State privatized? Insights and Experience from Nigeria's Privatization Programme*, Thedi Monograph No.1. Port Harcourt: Kemuela Publications.
- Adibe, E.C. And A.A.E. Essagha (1999), *Environmental Impact Assessment in Nigeria Volume 2*. Enugu: Immaculate Publications Limited.
- Ake, C. (2001), "The Political Question", in H.E. Alapiki (eds.), *The Nigerian Political Process*, Port Harcourt: Emhai Printing and Publishing Company.
- Akinbode, A. (2002): *Introductory Environmental Resource Management*. Ibadan: Daybis Limited.
- Alagbe, O. A (2006), "Combating the Challenges of Rise in Urban Slums in Cities in Developing World: A Case Study Of Lagos State". A Paper Presented at Covenant University, Ogun State. An International Conference on the Built Environment: Innovation Policy & Sustainable Development in Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. 24-26 January, 2006.

- Atilola, O (2012), *Climate Change and the Environment: Issues and Geo-information Challenges*. Working Week 2012: Knowing to Manage the Territory, Protect the Environment and Evaluate the Cultural Heritage. Rome, Italy, 6-10 May, 2012.
- City Populations (2011), *The Principal Agglomerations of the World*. Retrieved From [Http://Www.Citypopulation.De/World/Agglomerations.Html](http://www.citypopulation.de/world/agglomerations.html).
- Ejere O.D. (2003), “Sustainable Development. A Panacea to Environmental Pollution.” *Ambrose Alli University Law Journal*, 1(2): 79-93.
- Ekekwe, E. (1986), *Class and State in Nigeria*, Lagos: Macmillan.
- Ekiyor, H. (2007), “A Dynamism of Globalization on Culture: A Case study of Niger Delta of Nigeria” In *Globalization and African Development*. An Interdisciplinary, International Journal of Concerned African Philosophers, N0 4.
- Ibaba, S. I (2010), “Environmental Protection Laws and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta.” *Africana*. June 2010.
- Ilesanmi, A. O, (2010), “Urban Sustainability in the Context of Lagos Mega-City.” *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning* Vol. 3(10), Pp. 240-252, October 2010 Available Online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/jgrp>.
- Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget (2012) *Lagos State Millennium Development Goals-2011 Report*. Lagos: Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget.
- Obabori, A. O.; Ekpu, A. O. O. and Ojealoro, B.P. (2009): “An Appraisal of the Concept of Sustainable Environment under Nigerian Law.” *Journal of Human Ecology*, 28(2): 135-142 (2009).
- Oduwaye, L. and Lawanson, T. L. (2007). “Poverty and Environmental Degradation in the Lagos Metropolis.” *Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 11(1):36-70. Retrieved from http://www.unilag.edu.ng/Index.php?page=publication_viewresearch2&Sno=21&Pub=4236.
- Olokesusi F and Obioha E (2003), “Population Growth and Environmental Degradation: Implications for Good Governance in Imo State.” *International Journal of Governance and Development*, 1(1): 1-17.
- Olokesusi, F. (2011), *Lagos: The Challenges and Opportunities of an Emergent African Mega City*, Paper Presented at the NISER Seminar Series on 5 July, 2011.
- Population Reference Bureau (2012), *2012 World Population Data Sheet*, New York.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Online Journal* (Undated).
- World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), “*Our Common Future*.” Oxford University Press, Oxford.