



Enhancing Public Administration for Sustainable Environmental Strategies: A Framework for Effective Implementation in Nigeria

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Abstract

The adoption of sustainable environmental policies is required to address the urgent global issues posed by environmental deterioration and climate change. However, improving public administration procedures is necessary for these strategies to be implemented effectively. Nigeria needs a strong and effective governance framework because it is a developing country with many environmental issues. Nigeria may lessen the negative effects of pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change by adopting a sustainable strategy while fostering economic growth. In addition to emphasizing the value of stakeholder involvement, capacity building, and policy coherence, the suggested framework emphasizes the incorporation of environmental factors into public administration procedures. To implement sustainable environmental initiatives, this article provides a thorough foundation for improving public administration. The approach stresses the incorporation of environmental factors into policy creation, institutional capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and performance evaluation, drawing on existing research and best practices. Governments and public administrators can encourage sustainable growth, protect natural resources, and guarantee a better and more resilient future for upcoming generations by implementing this approach. Nigeria, as a developing nation with diverse ecological resources and environmental challenges, requires a robust framework to address environmental issues while ensuring long-term sustainability. The study draws upon existing literature, empirical evidence, and case studies (Curitiba, Brazil - Integrated Urban Planning; Copenhagen, Denmark - Renewable Energy Transition; Singapore - Water Management; and California, United States - Climate Change Mitigation) to highlight the significance of such a framework in Nigeria. Furthermore, this article underscores the need for collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to foster effective public administration for sustainable environmental strategies.

Keywords: Public Administration, Sustainable Environmental Strategies, Policy Development, Institutional Capacity Building, Stakeholder Engagement.

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1. Background

In recent years, the global community has recognized the pressing need for sustainable environmental strategies to address the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. Governments around the world are increasingly acknowledging the vital role of public administration in implementing and advancing sustainable environmental policies. Nigeria, as a populous and resource-rich country, faces unique environmental challenges that necessitate the development of effective strategies for sustainable development and conservation. Public administration plays a crucial role in the effective implementation of sustainable environmental strategies in any country. Nigeria, as a rapidly developing nation facing significant environmental challenges, requires a well-functioning public administration system to address these issues successfully. Sustainability is now at the top of everyone's agenda due to the rapid depletion of natural resources, environmental deterioration, and the effects of climate change. Effective public administration and governance techniques are necessary to realize sustainable environmental solutions. The implementation and enforcement of environmental policies and strategies depend heavily on public administration. Nigeria's rapid population expansion, industrialisation, and urbanization have made the need for sustainable environmental practices more pressing. In developing, executing, and assessing policies that address environmental issues, public administrators are essential. This article offers a framework for improving public administration procedures, making it possible to implement sustainable environmental plans successfully. Governments can create comprehensive policies, increase institutional capability, include stakeholders, and assess performance by using this framework, assuring the long-term viability of environmental programs. The goal of this article is to put out a thorough framework for improving public administration in Nigeria, with a focus on the successful execution of long-term environmental plans. By drawing on existing literature and best practices, this framework aims to guide policymakers, public administrators, and environmental practitioners in their efforts to address environmental issues and achieve sustainable development goals.

2. Objective

The objective of the study is to propose a comprehensive framework for enhancing public administration in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the effective implementation of sustainable environmental strategies.

3. Conceptual Clarification

Administration

Human activities depend on the concept of administration, therefore asking what elicits a wide range of replies from people. Because of this, different academics have defined the terms differently depending on how they interpret them. The word's etymology, which shapes the concept's academic definition, must be taken into account before going any further with the idea. "*ad-ministrare*" was the source of administration. While "*ministrare*" implies to manage, "*ad*" means to serve. Now that the notion has been defined, it is necessary to look at various scholarly explanations of it.

According to Simon (1950), administration is the fulfilment of common objectives through the efforts and collaboration of the organizations involved. This suggests that administration is defined as a type of cooperative human action or the outcome of a particular group's cooperative

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conduct. As a result, the first important element of this definition is "cooperative". Here, the word "cooperative" refers to an understanding between parties engaged in a certain activity. Every time a coordinated effort is required to complete an activity, cooperation is required. In the absence of this, there is anarchy, which compromises the achievement of established objectives. This brings us to the second component of the definition, the particular objective or purpose. This is an important factor that calls for cooperation. Every administration's goal defines and directs human activity. It serves as the rudder of all governance. Wherever there are groups of individuals working together, there must be a common objective. The idea of goal-setting is fundamental to administration; whenever people come together, it must be with a specific objective in mind. To achieve this objective, cooperation is invariably required. Thus, administration cannot dispute these two factors.

The main function of administration is to lead a group of individuals toward a temporary agreed objective. It is an inclusive procedure that combines human contributions to produce the desired outcome. The institution's primary source of inspiration and drive that drives it to achieve its goals is administration. In the words of Henderson, administration is the arrangement of men and materials in the rational carrying out of purposes (Marume, 2016).

According to a different definition, administration is viewed as a high-level human endeavour that depends on the reasonableness and collaboration of those concerned (Waldo, 1955). In addition to reiterating the idea of cooperative human effort, this definition also incorporates "rational action" as a new element of administration. In this context, rational action refers to logical decisions made with consideration for how they will affect other desired goals. According to McCanny, who is mentioned by Marume (2016), administration is the organization and use of men and materials to accomplish a purpose. According to McCanny, management is the specialized field in which managers plan, coordinate, and successfully use both human and material resources to achieve certain goals. The main aspect stressed in this description is organization. According to Marume (2016), administration to Veig is a decided activity conducted in pursuit of a conscious aim. It is the methodical arrangement of events and the deliberate application of resources with the goal of bringing about the outcomes we desire while also halting advances that do not line up with our aims. It is the organization of labour and resources to achieve goals at the lowest possible energy, time, and financial expense.

A detailed examination of the definitions under investigation reveals that there is no single definition of the notion of administration; rather, each researcher examined it from a different angle and emphasized distinct key aspects of the idea. It is clear from the definitions that the idea of administration is based on a few premises. One, administration is an action or process; two, it incorporates predetermined goals; and three, it necessitates the cooperation of all parties concerned. As a result, without any of these, especially "purpose" and "collective or cooperative human efforts", the explanation of administration is lacking.

4. Efforts by the Government of Nigeria on Environmental Issues

According to Eneh (2011), the Nigerian government has made a number of attempts to address environmental issues. Following the 1972 Stockholm UN Conference on Human Environment, the 1992 UN Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, and the 1988 foreign company's dumping of toxic waste in Koko in Nigeria's Delta state, Nigeria established some national policies on the environment, including the Federal Environmental Protection Act and Environmental Impact

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Assessment Act as well as the creation of the Federal Ministry of Environment in 1999 to improve the varied environmental conditions. (Eneh, 2011).

The Nigerian government has implemented regional and national programs to address the problems caused by environmental degradation. Ifeanyi (2002) claims that regional environmental policies and their clauses include the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act Cap 10 Article 24, which declares that "All Peoples shall have the right to a General Satisfactory Environment Favourable to their Development." Environmental protection is also covered under a number of parts and subsections of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Section 20 of the Constitution of Nigeria states that "The State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest, and wildlife of Nigeria," "The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development," and "In furtherance of the social order, exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons, other than the goal of the community s shall not be permitted."

5. Theoretical Framework

Collective Action (Public Goods and Theory of Groups)

It is taken for granted that assemblages of people with collective interests are anticipated to act on behalf of their collective interests, as single individuals are regularly anticipated to act on behalf of their interests. Harold (1939) points out that "associations exist to fulfil purposes which a group of men have in common". MacIver (1932:147) made it explicit by saying that "every organization presupposes an interest which its members all share"; Bentley (1949:211) also notes that "there is no group without its interest"; also, Cattell (1955:115) says "every group has its interest"; Olson also opines that:

"The view that groups act to serve their interests presumably is based upon the assumption that the individuals in groups act out of self-interest. If the individuals in a group altruistically disregarded their welfare, it would not be very likely that collectively they would seek some selfish common or group objective. Such altruism, is, however, considered exceptional and self-interested behaviour is usually thought to be the rule, at least when economic issues are at stake; no one is surprised when individual businessmen seek higher profits when individual consumers seek lower prices. The idea that groups tend to act in support of their group interests is supposed to follow logically from this widely accepted premise of rational, self-interested behaviour. In other words, if the members of some group have a common interest or objective, and if they would all be better off if those objectives were achieved, it has been thought to follow logically that the individuals in that group would, if they were rational and self-interested, act to achieve that objective" (Olson, 2009:2)

Be that as it may, it is not given that even if all the members of a group are rational, unless, it is a very small group or there is a form of coercion or some special mechanism (some form of incentives apart from the common goal) to monitor that they act in the interest of all, they will still not willingly act to actualize that collective or group interest. Taking the "national state" as an example, patriotism or nationalism is a non-economic organizational allegiance and it is taken

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that the state is supposed to be economically beneficial to its citizens (law and order) but despite “the force of patriotism, the appeal of national ideology, the bond of a common culture, and the indispensability of the system of law and order, no major state in modern history has been able to support itself through voluntary dues or contributions. Philanthropic contributions are not even a significant source of revenue for most countries. Taxes, compulsory payments by definition, are needed” (Olson, 2009:13). Since the state is under compulsion to provide common, collective or public goods; although, the state provides uncommon, non-collective and non-public goods in some instances and sells the goods as much as private firms.

6. Methodology

The paper uses case studies, actual data, and current literature to demonstrate the value of such a framework in Nigeria. The data gotten from secondary sources were analysed using descriptive methods.

7. Case Studies

In this part, case examples are presented that show how public administrations around the world have improved sustainable environmental practices. The case studies demonstrate how cutting-edge legislation, symbiotic relationships, and strong governance can all be used to advance environmental sustainability objectives. Each case study is examined and debated, with an emphasis on the crucial elements that made it successful.

Curitiba, Brazil's Integrated Urban Planning

Curitiba, the capital of Brazil's Paraná state, is well known for its creative and effective use of integrated urban planning. In this case study, Curitiba's innovative urban planning initiatives are used to analyze the city's experience in putting sustainable environmental measures into practice. Curitiba has made tremendous advancements in social fairness, waste management, green areas, and transportation by using an all-encompassing and holistic approach. This case study examines the essential components and variables that made Curitiba's integrated urban planning successful, providing helpful advice for other cities looking to improve sustainability in their urban surroundings. The process of urban planning in Curitiba started in the late 1960s, a time of significant population increase and the problems that came with it, such as traffic congestion, air pollution, and a lack of suitable infrastructure. In response to these urgent problems, the municipal government, led by Mayor Jaime Lerner, set out on a revolutionary journey to create a creative and sustainable urban plan (Lerner, 1997).

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Curitiba has established itself as a global standard for environmentally friendly public transportation. In order to offer inhabitants quick, dependable, and reasonably priced transit options, the BRT system blends exclusive bus lanes, strategically placed stations, and effective fare collection technologies. The BRT system enhanced accessibility throughout the city, decreased air pollution, and reduced traffic congestion. In Curitiba, mixed-use development was prioritized along with the construction of small, walkable neighbourhoods. The city developed zoning restrictions that promoted efficient land use and prevented sprawl by encouraging high-density construction along transportation routes. This strategy resulted in a bustling city centre, shorter commutes, and the preservation of green space. Recycling and garbage minimization are given priority in Curitiba's cutting-edge waste management system. The city established a network of recycling centers and introduced an incentive program that offers bus tokens and food vouchers in exchange for recyclable materials.

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Additionally, the city implemented an efficient waste collection system, minimizing the environmental impact of waste disposal (World Bank, 2019).

Curitiba gave the development and preservation of green areas top priority, resulting in the creation of a vast network of parks and gardens across the city. These green spaces are used for recreation, biodiversity preservation, and flood control, among other things. The city of Curitiba is dedicated to protecting the environment, as evidenced by its programs like the "Green Exchange" program, which rewards landowners for preserving and restoring green spaces.

The integrated urban planning process in Curitiba placed a strong emphasis on socioeconomic fairness, community participation, and public servant involvement. The city put in place a number of measures to involve locals in decision-making, ensuring that the urban planning projects took into account their needs and goals. The city of Curitiba's approach to social housing and dedication to inexpensive housing has helped to lessen socioeconomic disparities.

Copenhagen, Denmark's Renewable Energy Transition

Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, is well known around the world for its ambitious transition to renewable energy. In this case study, the adoption of renewable energy sources and the implementation of sustainable environmental policies are examined in Copenhagen. Copenhagen has made considerable strides toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging the development of renewable energy sources, and achieving its aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2025 through innovative policies, solid governance, and cooperative collaborations. The success of Copenhagen is examined in this case study, offering useful lessons for other cities around the world looking to make the switch to renewable energy sources and improve environmental sustainability (Hamann & Røpke, 2015).

Strong political resolve and long-term strategic planning have been the driving forces behind Copenhagen's transition to renewable energy. The city government, working with national authorities, has established ambitious goals and supportive policies, such as the Copenhagen Climate Plan, which details specific actions and deadlines for reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and deploying renewable energy sources. The district heating system that Copenhagen has put in place uses waste heat from power plants and other sources to heat and supply hot water to buildings all across the city. This technology has dramatically decreased energy consumption and carbon emissions in the residential and commercial sectors when combined with strict energy efficiency requirements and building standards.

Denmark, notably Copenhagen, has taken use of wind energy's potential as a significant renewable resource. Utilizing its geographic position and experience in the production of wind turbines, the city has made investments in onshore and offshore wind farms. Copenhagen's electrical needs are significantly influenced by wind energy, which also helps the city meet its goals for renewable energy. To optimize energy use, incorporate sporadic renewable energy sources, and improve grid resilience, Copenhagen has used smart grid technologies and energy storage options. Smart grid technologies promote a more effective and adaptable energy infrastructure by improving the management of electricity distribution, demand response, and the integration of electric vehicles. To lessen its reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles, Copenhagen has made sustainable mobility options, like cycling and public transportation, a priority. The city's extensive cycling infrastructure, along with incentives for electric vehicles

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and the expansion of its public transportation network, has resulted in a significant modal shift, reducing congestion, air pollution, and carbon emissions (European Environment Agency, 2017). Copenhagen's shift to renewable energy has been helped by effective public-private partnerships and engaged citizens. Innovation, information sharing, and financial investment in renewable energy projects have been enabled through cooperative efforts between the local administration, enterprises, academic institutions, and community organizations. A sense of ownership and dedication to sustainability objectives has been cultivated through the involvement of citizens through awareness campaigns, rewards, and participatory decision-making procedures.

Singapore's Water Management

Singapore, a tiny island country with few water resources, has put in place a unique water management system that has won praise from all around the world. This case study analyzes Singapore's water management practices and focuses on the creative approaches and measures taken to ensure water security, advance sustainability, and lessen the effects of water scarcity. Singapore has turned from a water-scarce metropolis to a leader in sustainable water management through a combination of technology improvements, effective governance, public awareness initiatives, and strategic planning. This case study examines the significant factors and programs that have aided Singapore's development, offering insightful information for other water-scarce regions looking to improve their water management techniques (Wong, 2009).

Singapore has adopted a diverse water supply strategy to cut back on its dependency on outside sources. The city-state today depends on four main sources of water: desalinated saltwater, locally caught water, highly purified reclaimed water known as NEWater, and imported water from Malaysia. This diversified portfolio of water resources improves resilience and reduces vulnerability to outside forces like geopolitical unpredictability and climate change. To reduce water loss, Singapore's water distribution system uses cutting-edge technology and effective infrastructure. Leaks may be quickly found and the distribution of water is optimized with the help of smart water networks that employ sensors and real-time monitoring. In order to improve water security and efficiency, the city has also made significant investments in underground reservoirs and water storage facilities.

Singapore was the first country to employ recycled water, also known as NEWater, as a sustainable and safe water source. The highest quality requirements are ensured by cutting-edge purification techniques like numerous stages of filtration, reverse osmosis, and UV disinfection. Technologies for desalination are also used to access seawater resources, providing a crucial additional source of freshwater. Singapore places a high priority on demand management and water conservation measures. Water conservation has been made possible by public awareness campaigns, water-saving projects, and effective water fixtures in homes and workplaces. Responsible water use has been further encouraged by the implementation of water price mechanisms that accurately reflect the worth of water (Public Utilities Board, Singapore [n.d.]). To increase the amount of rainfall captured, Singapore has devised thorough catchment management plans. The city-state collects rainfall and avoids flooding by using a vast network of canals, reservoirs, and drains. Singapore improves water penetration, lowers runoff, and fosters biodiversity by incorporating green spaces like parks and gardens into its water management system. In the field of water, Singapore has promoted a culture of investigation, invention, and cooperation. Innovative technologies like membrane filtration and sophisticated water treatment

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techniques are developed through collaboration between governmental organizations, academic institutions, and commercial businesses. Singapore's ongoing development in water management methods is also facilitated by international collaborations and knowledge-sharing efforts.

California, United States' Climate Change Mitigation

California, which is located on the country's western coast, is now a leader in the fight against climate change. This case study examines California's experience with putting comprehensive environmental solutions into practice in order to address the problems caused by climate change. In terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, moving to clean energy sources, and supporting sustainable practices, California has achieved significant progress. This has been made possible by a combination of creative regulations, policies, and cooperative actions. Insightful information is provided for regions and governments wishing to bolster their efforts to mitigate climate change by this case study, which looks at the essential components and initiatives that have made California successful.

Ambitious legislative and regulatory frameworks have served as a guide for California's attempts to mitigate climate change. The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), passed in 2006, established a cap-and-trade system and laid the groundwork for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Later legislation, including Senate Bill 32, bolstered emission reduction goals even more by highlighting the state's dedication to long-term sustainability objectives. The move to clean and renewable energy sources has been led by California. Strong renewable portfolio criteria that the state has put in place mandate that a sizeable part of the electricity generated comes from renewable sources. The transition to a clean energy economy has been sped by supportive policies including net energy metering, financial incentives for solar installations, and adoption programs for electric vehicles (California Air Resources Board, 2018).

The cap-and-trade program in California is a market-based approach for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. It establishes a market for trading emission allowances and places a cap on the overall emissions from sectors that are subject to regulation. This strategy supports investment in greener technologies while giving firms financial incentives to cut emissions. California has launched a number of efforts to encourage sustainable mobility because it recognizes the major contribution of the transportation sector to greenhouse gas emissions. Incentives for zero-emission vehicles, investments in charging infrastructure, stricter vehicle emissions regulations, and support for active forms of transportation like cycling and walking are a few of these. Energy-efficient building, appliance, and equipment standards are strictly enforced in California. The state's Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards promote sustainable building practices, including improved insulation, efficient lighting, and the integration of renewable energy systems. These standards have contributed to significant energy savings and reduced carbon footprint in the built environment (The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2019).

California aggressively works to advance initiatives to mitigate climate change with other states, countries, and international organizations. California engages on joint projects and shares best practices to combat climate change on a larger scale through programs like the Western Climate Initiative and the Under2 Coalition.

8. Discussion

Nigeria has made significant progress in establishing environmental governance structures, including the creation of regulatory agencies and the formulation of environmental policies and

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laws. However, the implementation and enforcement of these policies have often been inadequate due to various institutional and capacity-related challenges. These include limited stakeholder engagement, weak coordination among government agencies, insufficient financial resources, and a lack of technical expertise.

Numerous case studies and empirical data can be looked at to support the proposed framework. For instance, good public administration for long-term environmental policies can be learned from successful initiatives like the rehabilitation of the Ogoni land region, the deployment of renewable energy projects, and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. These instances emphasize the significance of institutional capacity building, stakeholder involvement, and policy implementation in obtaining favourable environmental results. Environmental Governance in Nigeria. Policy development is a crucial stage in promoting sustainable environmental strategies. Public administrators should integrate environmental considerations into policy formulation processes. This involves conducting rigorous environmental assessments, analyzing potential impacts, and identifying suitable mitigation measures. By aligning policies with international agreements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, governments can ensure that environmental concerns are prioritized in decision-making.

Institutional capacity building is essential for the effective implementation of sustainable environmental strategies. Public administrators should foster interdepartmental collaboration, streamline administrative processes, and develop specialized environmental expertise within government agencies. This can be achieved through training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and the establishment of dedicated environmental units. Strengthening institutional capacity enables efficient coordination and implementation of environmental initiatives across various sectors.

Meaningful stakeholder engagement is crucial for the success of sustainable environmental strategies. Public administrators should actively involve various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, local communities, academia, and the private sector, in decision-making processes. This inclusivity promotes transparency, ensures diverse perspectives, and enhances public support for environmental policies. Through partnerships and collaboration, stakeholders can contribute their expertise, resources, and local knowledge, resulting in more effective and locally tailored environmental initiatives.

Robust performance evaluation mechanisms are necessary to assess the effectiveness of sustainable environmental strategies. Public administrators should establish clear indicators and targets to monitor progress and measure the impact of environmental policies. Regular evaluation enables evidence-based decision-making, identifies areas for improvement, and promotes accountability. It is essential to develop monitoring and reporting frameworks that consider social, economic, and environmental aspects to ensure a holistic evaluation of sustainability outcomes.

Framework for Enhancing Public Administration

A comprehensive framework for enhancing public administration in Nigeria for sustainable environmental strategies as proposed by the study. The framework consists of the following key components:

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Policy Integration and Coherence: To ensure effective implementation, environmental considerations must be integrated into all sectors of public administration. This requires mainstreaming sustainable environmental practices into various policy domains, such as agriculture, energy, transport, and urban planning. Policy coherence should be achieved by aligning environmental objectives with social, economic, and developmental goals.

Policy Formulation: Effective policy formulation is a crucial step in establishing sustainable environmental strategies. It involves the identification of key environmental challenges, setting clear goals, and developing appropriate regulatory frameworks. To enhance public administration, Nigeria needs to engage relevant stakeholders, including environmental experts, scientists, community leaders, and representatives from the public and private sectors. Through inclusive and participatory processes, policies can be formulated that reflect the diverse needs and concerns of different stakeholders. Public administration plays a critical role in policy formulation. According to Ite (2020), a well-structured public administration system enables the development of comprehensive and coherent environmental policies that address key challenges such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change. Public administration plays a pivotal role in policy formulation and implementation, which are crucial for sustainable environmental strategies. Okunola, A., et al. (2019) note that public administrators are responsible for conducting research, collecting data, and analyzing environmental trends to inform policy decisions. Through evidence-based policymaking, public administrators can design comprehensive strategies to tackle environmental challenges, such as renewable energy development, land-use planning, and waste management.

Institutional Capacity Building: Building institutional capacity is essential for the effective implementation of sustainable environmental strategies. This involves strengthening government agencies responsible for environmental management, providing adequate resources, training personnel, and improving coordination among different departments. Additionally, partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, and international agencies can enhance technical expertise and knowledge-sharing in addressing environmental challenges.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging stakeholders is vital for successful environmental governance. Nigeria can benefit from inclusive platforms that involve communities, civil society organizations, indigenous groups, and the private sector in decision-making processes. Public consultations, public hearings, and environmental impact assessments should be integrated into policy formulation and implementation to ensure transparency, accountability, and ownership of environmental initiatives. Public administration facilitates stakeholder engagement and participation, which are essential for sustainable environmental management (Oyedele, 2021). Engaging civil society organizations, local communities, and other stakeholders in decision-making processes improves policy legitimacy, encourages public support, and promotes the adoption of sustainable practices (Adebayo & Orji, 2019). According to Umar, A., et al. (2021), public administrators can engage various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, local communities, and businesses, to ensure a participatory approach in environmental decision-making. Collaboration among these stakeholders facilitates knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and the integration of diverse perspectives, resulting in more sustainable and inclusive environmental strategies.

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Capacity Building, Resource Allocation and Technical Expertise: Strengthening the capacity of public administrators and policymakers is crucial for implementing sustainable environmental strategies. Training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms should be established to enhance technical expertise and build the necessary skills for effective policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Adeleke, O., et al. (2022) argue that public administrators can prioritize training programs and capacity-building initiatives for environmental professionals, policymakers, and enforcement agencies. Additionally, they allocate financial resources, establish funding mechanisms, and coordinate international assistance to support sustainable environmental initiatives.

Institutional Framework for Environmental Governance: Adedeji, A., & Olanrewaju, A. (2020) argue that a strong institutional framework is essential for effective environmental governance. Public administration acts as the backbone of this framework, providing the necessary structures, policies, and regulations to guide sustainable environmental strategies. The government, through public administration agencies, can establish environmental management bodies, develop legislation, and enforce compliance with environmental standards.

Financing Mechanism: Adequate financial resources are essential for implementing environmental initiatives. Nigeria should explore innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships, green bonds, and international funding opportunities. Effective budget allocation and financial management systems should be established to ensure the efficient utilization of resources.

Effective Implementation: Effective implementation is the cornerstone of sustainable environmental strategies. Nigeria needs to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. This includes developing robust monitoring systems, establishing penalties for non-compliance, and promoting public awareness and education about environmental responsibilities. Public administration plays a critical role in policy implementation. Effective implementation of these policies requires efficient administrative processes, robust coordination among relevant agencies, and the provision of necessary resources (Ogundele, 2022). Furthermore, collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector can enhance resource mobilization and leverage diverse expertise for effective implementation.

Enhancing Institutional Capacity: Okoli and Pawar (2019) argue that a strong public administration system is vital for sustainable environmental management. Enhancing institutional capacity through competent administrative bodies and regulatory frameworks is crucial in Nigeria. This involves improving the expertise, skills, and knowledge of public officials to effectively implement and enforce environmental policies and regulations (Agbola, 2021).

Resource Mobilization and Allocation: Public administration plays a pivotal role in resource mobilization and allocation for environmental initiatives. Adequate financial resources, as well as the efficient allocation of funds, are necessary to implement sustainable environmental strategies effectively (Sule & Folarin, 2020). Public administrators are responsible for budget planning, resource allocation, and monitoring the utilization of funds for environmental projects.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability: Effective public administration ensures robust monitoring, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms for sustainable environmental strategies.

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Regular monitoring and evaluation enable the assessment of policy effectiveness, identification of implementation gaps, and adjustment of strategies as needed (Aliyu et al., 2021). Public administrators must establish accountability frameworks that hold relevant actors responsible for their environmental actions or inactions. Oyedepo, T., et al. (2021) suggest that public administrators can establish monitoring frameworks, collect and analyze environmental data, and regularly evaluate the impact of implemented strategies. Transparent reporting and accountability mechanisms hold stakeholders, including government agencies and private entities, responsible for their environmental actions and ensure the continued effectiveness of sustainable environmental strategies.

9. Conclusion

Enhancing public administration for sustainable environmental strategies is imperative for Nigeria's long-term development and the preservation of its natural resources. The proposed framework emphasizes the integration of environmental considerations into public administration processes, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and policy coherence. Achieving sustainable environmental strategies requires the enhancement of public administration processes. This article presented a comprehensive framework that emphasizes the integration of environmental considerations into policy development, institutional capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and performance evaluation. By adopting this framework, governments and public administrators can effectively implement sustainable environmental strategies, leading to the preservation of natural resources, mitigation of climate change impacts, and promotion of sustainable development. A concerted effort to enhance public administration processes will pave the way for a healthier and more resilient future for both current and future generations. Collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector is crucial to foster effective public administration and achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Recommendations

This study provides recommendations for enhancing public administration in Nigeria to effectively implement sustainable environmental strategies. Recognizing the critical role of public administration in promoting environmental sustainability, this study proposes a comprehensive framework to improve the implementation of environmental policies, programs, and initiatives. The recommendations derived from this study will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, public administrators, and stakeholders in Nigeria's quest for sustainable development.

1. Establish a dedicated department or agency within the government at all levels with the mandate to oversee environmental issues, coordinate policies, and ensure effective implementation.
2. Develop and implement capacity-building programs to enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of public administrators involved in environmental management and policy implementation.
3. Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing between government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and relevant stakeholders to build a comprehensive network of support.

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4. Review and update existing environmental laws to align with international best practices, incorporating provisions for sustainable development and climate change adaptation.
5. Establish clear guidelines and regulations for environmental impact assessments, waste management, pollution control, and resource conservation.
6. Encourage public participation in the formulation and review of environmental legislation to ensure inclusivity and transparency.
7. Promote interdepartmental coordination to ensure that environmental considerations are mainstreamed across all relevant policy areas.
8. Develop mechanisms for integrating sustainable environmental strategies into national and local development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, agriculture, energy, transport, and urban planning.
9. Establish monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of policy implementation and identify areas for improvement.
10. Allocate adequate financial resources to support the implementation of sustainable environmental strategies.
11. Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of environmental sustainability and their role in supporting it.
12. Establish robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress in the implementation of sustainable environmental strategies.

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