

**TOPIC: Roles of Innovative
Technologies in combating
Climate-Driven
Environmental Crimes in
Nigeria**

AN OVERVIEW

- This paper explores how the intensity of climate change could cause resource scarcity, habitat destruction and environmental degradations.
- These deplorable conditions of the environment which were caused by climate change often leads to series of criminal and illegal activities such as illegal deforestation, oil theft, illegal mining, wildlife poaching, oil pollution and unregulated waste disposal.

THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The problem of this study is to investigate the roles which innovative technologies play in combating climate-driven environmental crimes in Nigeria

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- 1) To examine the impact of climate change on the rise of environmental crimes in Nigeria.
- 2) To identify the various types of innovative technologies (e.g., AI, satellite imaging, drone surveillance, GIS, blockchain) used to combat environmental crimes in Nigeria.
- 3) To propose strategic recommendations for enhancing technology-driven approaches to tackling climate-driven environmental crimes in Nigeria.

CRIME AS A DRIVER TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

- Environmental crime refers to criminal and illegal activities that degrade ecosystem, exploit natural resources and violate environmental laws and regulations.
- Climate change is an accelerating force behind various environmental crimes which haunts the society today, ranging from illegal deforestation, illegal mining, oil theft, wildlife poaching/trafficking and unregulated waste disposal.

ROLES OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

- In addressing this problem, we had to first look at the existing mechanisms and methods which are already in place. These existing mechanisms, how intense and functional are they towards tracking, monitoring and combating climate-driven environmental crimes in Nigeria.**

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- The two theories under theoretical framework are environmental criminology and rational activity theory.
- These theories believe that crime is opportunity based. This mean that before a crime is committed, a suitable target must be present. Suitable target here refers to valuable objects or vulnerable persons. For example forest, oil pipelines and endangered species.
- Both theories emphasize on where, when and how of the crime rather than who. This means that the theories are more concerned on adopting innovative technologies to help reduce criminal opportunities to improve environmental securities.

CONCLUSION

- Climate change is an accelerating force behind various forms of environmental crime in Nigeria. As climate-driven environmental crimes rise, there is an urgent need for improved enforcement strategies, technology-driven monitoring to enhance law enforcement effectiveness.

Recommendations

- The Nigerian government should invest in digital crime-fighting tools to enhance real-time monitoring of environmental crimes such as illegal waste disposal, oil spills, illegal mining and illegal deforestation for the safety of our ecosystem.