

# Environmental Determinants of Public Policy: A Multidimensional Analysis of Influencing Factors and Dynamics

Welson Amgbiri Ereake<sup>1</sup>, Michael Effiong Ukpog<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Public Administration, University of Uyo. <sup>1</sup>ORCID ID: 0009-0000-6900-7305

\*Corresponding Author: Welson Amgbiri Ereake

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21871647>

| Article History                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Abstract                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Original Research Article                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><i>The well-articulated past and future of public policy will never mean anything unless it is translated into practice. The realization of policy goals is more influenced by the interplay between these internal and external environmental factors as well as the processes through which implementation occurs. Nigeria is a classic example of this problem, where huge energy has been spent on policy making but implementation always seems to be an ongoing challenge. In this context, the research investigated the environmental influences on public implementation of policy, and whether these factors subsequently affect policy outcomes. The nature of the research was descriptive and theoretical underpinnings were provided by Systems Theory, developed by David Easton in 1945. An explorative literature review was conducted, whereby data were collected from secondary sources, such as journal articles, textbooks and the appropriate internet materials. The results showed that environmental context is inherently tied to the formulation and implementation of public policy, which means policies are not nearly as effective without catalysts from the environment. It also found that most learned about implementation challenges due to a lack of comprehension of the policy environment and how it works. As such, the study recommends that policy makers and implementers should strive for an in-depth understanding of the surroundings within which policies function, promote good governance where accountability is maintained as well as transparency, and with visionary, disciplined, transformative and selfless leadership to translate policy objectives into concrete and sustainable outcomes.</i></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Public Policy, Policy Environment, Environmental Determinants, Policy Dynamics, Governance Factors.</p> |
| Received: 08-06-2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Accepted: 15-07-2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Published: 10-08-2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> Ereake, W. A., &amp; Ukpog, M. E. (2026). Environmental determinants of public policy: A multidimensional analysis of influencing factors and dynamics. <i>UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</i>, 2(8), 39-46.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Introduction

Public policy has existed along political systems since their inception and continues to be a vital tool for the government as it responds to a societal need or otherwise address a public concern. This provides a medium for overcoming obstacles in various areas by converting governmental priorities to operational programs and decisions. Whether from popular elections, dynastic inheritance, or military coup d' tat, rule is largely about deciding what the government does, how it acts and in whose interest its choices ultimately serve (Onyishi 2010).

Public policy does not exist in a vacuum. Instead, it is developed, deployed and assessed against a backdrop of continuing flux in decision environments that are moulded by political, economic, social, cultural, legal and

institutional currents. As a result the environment within which policy makers operate has an important effect on the scope, contents and course of public policies. In this context, societal values, public expectations, and citizens' aspirations arise and are then filtered into policy choices via the political process. This reality demonstrates the increasing interest that scholars take in the ecological view of public policy, rationality and public benefit-maximising policies.

As noted by Obi, Nwachukwu and Obiora (2008), the context in which policy actors operate significantly affects their values, attitudes, preferences and behaviour so that it has an important stake in both formulation and implementation of policies. This makes public

policymakers as many products of the political and socio-economic environments in which they operate. Policy outcomes are decisively determined by environmental variables—social, economic, political, legal, cultural, religious, geographical and technological factors. Public policies are developed and enforced in the context of these intersecting landscapes; thus policymakers must navigate their complexities to enhance effectiveness. In this context, the research assesses certain environmental forces responsible for public policy formulation and enactment in Nigeria so that policymakers may be better equipped with an awareness of what these determinants are to increase positive outcome of policies towards greater national development.

### **Concept of Public Policy Environment**

Caimey (2017) describes the public policy environment as a combination of multiple interacting elements that shape policymaking: actors, institutions (rules, both formal and informal), networks, ideas, and contextual factors or events. Lee (2025) frames the public policy environment as the complex set of factors, stakeholders, and conditions—including political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and stakeholder influences—that impact the development, implementation, and outcomes of policies. The environment of public policy refers to the external and internal contexts within which public policies are developed and implemented. It includes a range of actors, institutions, socio-economic structures, political forces, and cultural elements that interact with and impact the policy-making process. Geographical: it can be physical, Historical, legal or political. Policy ecology is different kinds of factors that affects the policy directly or indirectly. Religious practice, environment and land if you wish to call it so and its natural resources, history etc. These elements play a significantly large role and affect the policy processes. We may call it the ecology of such a policy to see it.

It follows that every government intervention to tackle the grievances of its citizens or meet public demands is a product of some circumstances and determinants in the environment where it operates. Public policy, as Eminue (2005) observed, is neither developed nor executed in a vacuum but rather within the context of the social, political and economic reality. Such context, often described as the policy environment, describes both internal and external features surrounding government decision making and implementing policies (Allen 2011). Consequently, it is more useful to think about public policy results when taking an ecological view of policy processes in recognition of the role played by environmental conditions on that process. Eneanya (2010) too contends that the outcome of policy does not essentially depend upon attempts at rationalising

its formulation and implementation over a political process but on the overall environmental forces driving national state formation.

### **Components of the Public Policy Environment and their Influence**

Such policies are authoritatively decided at the governmental level but are a result of multiple pressures and stimuli including political settings, interest-group behaviour, economic conditions, structures in the executive branch, historical-political developments (policy legacies), actions from influential elites in strategic positions as well as socio-cultural context and existing situational factors. All of these determinants combined to lead to the structuration and implementation of the public policy in a political system. Basically, public policy environment has two main dimensions: the domestic policy environment that includes national internal dynamics and trends, and the external policy environment which refers to international and transnational condition influencing government policies (Ugwuanyi & Chukwuemeka, 2013).

#### **Domestic Public Policy Environment**

**Domestic Policy Environment:** Domestic policy environment is the internal circumstances and conditions of a nation that directly influence or affect public policy formation and implementation. These aspects are specific to every country and originate from back home problems that the government has to step in. This is a range of geographical, demographic, social, economic and political variables that affect policy choice and outcomes. However, geography - the size of the country, human and natural resource endowment, climate and topography among others - play a major role in public policy relevance. According to Semiu (2016), these have informed major policy actions in Nigeria owing to its land mass and a vast array of natural resources which has shaped the tenets for revenue allocation such as equity and derivation. The concentration of crude oil resources in the Niger Delta has accounted for the constitutionally enacted allocation to oil-producing states of 13% derivation revenue, and not others in the federation quota, such as Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Ondo and Ebonyi.

#### **Corruption**

Corruption continues to be one of the principal barriers for achieving efficient implementation of public policy. While a large number of public policies are well-conceived and backed with budgetary allocations, the implementation often faces however the major hurdle of diversion and misuse of public resources. Consequently, the anticipated gains of these policies seldom get to their intended recipients, which further aggravates poverty and underdevelopment in Nigeria. Some of the instances are, in

Vanguard Editorial (2015), more than ₦100 billion was expended on poverty alleviation programmes over a five year period without any positive impact and increase in poverty levels. In like manner, Oyovbaire (2007) states that funds set aside for policy implementation are often diverted for personal use. Often, state resources are diverted to public programmes. Semiu (2017) also observed that the National Poverty Eradication Programme, designed to give youths a monthly stipend of ₦3,000 for being unemployed was undermined by corrupt political actors who registered nonexistent employees and increased benefit amounts by identifying party loyalists and their cronies instead of qualifying youths on this scheme reducing its success.

### **Political Environment**

The political environment consists of governmental institutions and procedures, political ideologies, party systems, leadership patterns, power relations; all of which have a significant impact on public policy formulation and implementation. However, political culture has an important influence over policy outcomes, and may more than anything reflect citizens' attitudes, beliefs and orientations towards the political system and its institutions. As noted by Oguejiofor (2004) and Makinde (2005), there tends to be weak public participation in processes of policy development and implementation, characterized by slow but not unresponsive time for action, leaving policy performance beleaguered. Conversely, participant political culture spurs citizens to participate in government which tends to lead to better policy formulation and implementation.

Over the recent past, growing political consciousness by Nigerians has facilitated greater civic engagement in governance, as government seeks to formulate and implement policies that more effectively meet citizens needs and desires. With increased public participation in matters of policy thus, the Nigerian government has been increasingly more responsive and accountable to its citizens (Ebienfa & Parki, 2013). In addition, political ideologies are still determining policy priorities by shaping how governments stance on policies related to social welfare, economic development and public service delivery. Similarly, political will and vision can help implement those policies through good political governance; while on the contrary, ruling in weakness or dictatorship undermine participatory decision making, and targeted policies by focusing regimes survival rather than the real public need.

### **Economic Environment**

National income, inflation, unemployment, public debt and the level of economic development together form economic conditions which play an important part between the determination of public policy and its working out. An

economy that is stable and productive gives governments the capacity to raise the revenue necessary for developing and implementing effective public policies. Since almost all government policies involving financial commitments will benefit from having adequate monetary resources where used or spent to successfully achieve the policies, this naturally calls for an assurance on providing sufficient and competent finances (Bassey, 2020). Nothing incapacitates budgets better than a shortage of funding — even if the policy itself is efficient and well-founded. Moreover, the structure of a country economy influences policy results in the long-run as well. Numerous developing nations run on monoculture economies that rely almost solely on one commodity for export earning purposes. Nigeria and Algeria depend heavily on petroleum, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire bear cocoa while The Gambia depends almost entirely on groundnuts. Eminue (2009) adds that this dependency links these economies to oscillations in global commodity prices, leading to erratic foreign exchange revenues and undermining development planning and the efficacy of public policies.

### **Social and Cultural Environment**

The social environment includes demographic traits, social networks, cultural practice and behavior, norms and values, public opinion or ideas that are current in society (in the knowledge economy), movement/cultural opportunity structure - all of which impact on public policy creation and emergence. Social variables such as ethnicity, religion (Anderson-1979), state of origin and both the Federal Character Principle and zoning arrangements have been found by Okereke (2003) and Eminue (2009) to be arguably more influential determinants upon policy decisions in Nigeria. These elements, because they are meant to entrench national unity and fair representation of various groups in the country, are often factored into public sector appointments, contract awards, scholarship awards and even allocation of developmental projects across different regions of the country.

For instance, Nigerians are often obliged to prove their state of origin, local government area, clan or ward in practice for purposes of fairness, equity and even seating public office holders at the centre. It is designed to ensure that no region of origin or ethnic group dominates public appointments and resource allocation. This led to recruitment into the civil service being based on a concept known as "ethnic balancing" which is an attempt to square like with like, or merit with the need for groups to be equally represented. As Eminue (2009) observes, this can sometimes take the form of allowing for ethnic concerns to be considered alongside competence in an attempt at inclusivity. So social factors are still very much part and

parcel of public policy decisions as in, merit is just one of the determinants.

### **Geographical Environment**

Geographic factors represent the natural and physical technical aspects of a particular country that have an effect on how public policy is designed and executed in diplomatic relations dealing. In Nigeria, this include land area, natural resource endowment (availability of mineral resources), climate and topography. The extent of a country's territory has important policy implications because it relates to agriculture productivity, self-sufficient in food, equitable distribution of resource and planning for development. Landmass is another indicative criterion employed in determining the revenue shares between different levels of government within a federal system such as Nigeria. Likewise, the natural resources such as crude oil, gold and agricultural products open more economic options enhancing policy development and implementation.

The fact that crude-oil resources are concentrated in the Niger Delta region has largely justified the earmarked 13% derivation fund for oil-producing states from the Federation Account, as is commonly found in Nigeria. Climate variables also play a role in policymaking since areas affected by desertification necessarily will need longer term development plans than rain forest regions which can sustain more or less year round agriculture. Similarly, the geography of a state—mountainous, coastal, island, peninsula, plain or landlocked—has implications for infrastructure investment strategy and agricultural policy priorities as well as other public policies. As a result, geographic features continue to play an important role as key factors in the design and execution of policies.

### **Demographic Environment**

Demography factors which include size, age structure, density and growth of the population are determinants of public policy (Polium, 1998). Government planning and the assignment of public resources for various sectors are conditioned by population size. Population, for example, is a criterion employed in demarcating electorates and determining how many seats each district will have in the National Assembly. They are also the basis for federal revenue allocation, as states with larger populations generally receive more funding than those with smaller populations. This go some way in explaining why Kano State accounts for a bigger slice of the federal purse than Cross River state. Likewise, most of the basic social services like health, education, water supply and electricity are determined by size. Equally important is the distribution of age as this determines how many people have been trained, or will be economically active and can contribute

to national wealth generation and thus economic productivity.

### **Legal Environment**

The legal environment refers to the constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations, judicial interpretations, and rule of law that guide policy development and execution. Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (as amended) serves as the supreme legal framework for policy direction. For instance, the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy in Chapter II guides public policy on social welfare, education, health, and environmental protection, even though they are non-justiciable. This often limits enforceability and accountability in policies such as free education or social welfare. Courts in Nigeria influence public policy by interpreting laws and resolving disputes. For example, the Supreme Court rulings on resource control and revenue allocation between the Federal Government and Niger Delta states (e.g., Attorney-General of the Federation v. Attorney-General of Abia State, 2002) shaped fiscal policies and oil revenue distribution. Nigeria's legal environment emphasizes human rights protection, which informs policies on freedom of information, gender equality, and anti-corruption. The Freedom of Information Act (2011) enhanced transparency and accountability in governance by compelling public institutions to release information upon request, thereby strengthening democratic policy processes.

### **Institutional Environment**

This refers to the constitution, legal frameworks, judicial institutions, bureaucracy, and intergovernmental relations. The institutional environment encompasses government bodies, regulatory agencies, political institutions, and administrative mechanisms through which public policy is formulated and implemented. The National Assembly influences policy through law-making, oversight, and budget approval. For example, debates over fuel subsidy removal (2012 and 2023) were shaped by legislative resistance and advocacy, which in turn affected government fiscal policies and social programs.

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) are central to policy implementation. For instance, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) drives health financing policies, while the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) regulates telecommunications, shaping digital policy and expanding mobile connectivity. Agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) have influenced policy directions in public sector accountability and international relations (e.g., Nigeria's compliance with global anti-money laundering standards). Nigeria's federal



structure often leads to policy conflicts between the federal and state governments. For instance, education and health policies, such as the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, have faced challenges due to varying state-level commitments, affecting nationwide outcomes.

### **Technological Environment**

The technological environment plays a critical role in shaping public policy in Nigeria, as it influences governance processes, decision-making, service delivery, security, economic regulation, and citizen engagement. Technology can either facilitate the achievement of policy goals or create new challenges that require policy adjustments. Technological advancements have transformed governance and the delivery of public services. Nigeria has increasingly adopted digital tools to make government operations more transparent and efficient. Example, introduction of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) by the Federal Government has helped reduce ghost workers in the civil service by linking salary payments to biometric verification. This demonstrates how technology influences public policy on accountability and financial management.

Technology has also become central to electoral processes in Nigeria, compelling policymakers to adjust electoral laws and practices. Example, The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV) introduced during the 2023 general elections shaped policies on electoral integrity, voter accreditation, and result transparency. However, technological failures and cybersecurity concerns also forced policymakers to reconsider regulations for improving trust and infrastructure in future elections. With the rise of digital technologies, Nigeria faces cyber threats such as hacking, online fraud, and misinformation. These challenges have compelled the government to design policies to safeguard national security and individual privacy. Example, the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act of 2015 was enacted to tackle online fraud, identity theft, and cyberattacks. Additionally, the Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023) reflects how global digital trends influence domestic policy to protect citizens' data and regulate how institutions use it.

### **Attitude/Behaviour of Policy Makers**

Public policy is primarily affected by the engagement of implementers, their attitudes while executing it. However, as Kech (2014) notes, this is more than just a "political will of implementers," and that policy implementation is contingent on whether public officials have a commitment to pursuing policy ends. Weak or negative signals from electeds or appointed officials about a policy often result in weak implementation —or the abandonment of

implementation completely. Akinwumi (2010) states that well structured policy is often stunted by political elites who capture most of the power and confines the decision makers and block implementation. A positive example can be found in Nigeria's energy sector—In its formative years, it has seen significant financial investments in excess of \$10 billion over the last few decades even with no more than ~2,000 megawatts of electricity generation. Likewise, one-time Kogi State Senator Dino Melaye alleged that President Muhammadu Buhari's first tenure was made impossible due to political forces preventing the successful implementation of key policies (Premium Times, 2018).

### **External Public Policy Environment**

External environmental determinants: These are external influences that come from outside the borders of a country to influence this country public policy decision making and implementation. Global system factors [domestic environment] These arise from the international environment. Examples of these include global economic situation, external debt, international public opinion, globalization, dependency and unequal exchange and unpredictable events in the global system (Egonmwan, 2000). Globalization — the increasingly broad-based economic, political, cultural, and financial integration of nations — means that events in other parts of the world have more impact on policy decisions here. Take the emergence of global terrorism over regions in Asia, Europe, and Africa which have made most nations alter their security and defence strategies. Consequently, in Nigeria this has translated to increased estimates to fortify the armed forces and combat security or terrorism-related menaces (Abubakar, 2013; Guardian Editorial, 2015).

Another key reason for external debt being an important determinant of public policy is that it has a direct impact on what capacity a government has to finance development programmes. Countries with high external debt service burden are often woefully constrained in devising and executing policies for effective domestic public policy. This was the case with Nigeria too, up until 2005 when President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration negotiated debt relief from the Paris Club, London Club, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and G8.

Nigeria had received a US\$18 billion debt relief package, almost a 60% discount on its external obligations or ~US\$30 billion in total disallowed costs, as per the terms of the deal that was finalized on 18 July 2005. This gave government respite to plan corrective fiscal measures in favour of priority sectors like education, health, agriculture and water supply by writ public policies that could save the diverted resources from the previous regime devoted to debt servicing. However, things were not the same for

Nigeria as Semiu (2017:47) contended that Nigeria external debt obligations exercised profound influence on foreign policy priorities, forcing her to adjust her policy orientation in line with the dictates of international creditors and development organisations.

Another crucial external influence on public policy making is international public opinion. In this regard, there is increasing expectation that governments develop policies tailored within the framework of internationally accepted standards, norms and values. According to Abubakar (2013), Nigeria's public policies must be based on principles of human rights, rule of law, good governance, transparency, sound budgetary practices and financial accountability for the country to earn international credibility in its aspirational goals both at home and abroad.

### **Policy Dynamic Interactions and Feedback Loops**

The public policy environment is not static; rather, it is characterized by dynamic interactions and continuous feedback loops among political, economic, social, technological, and global factors. Public policy scholars increasingly emphasize that policy environments are complex adaptive systems, where change in one domain can trigger ripple effects across others (Cairney, 2012; Sabatier and Weible, 2014). This interconnectedness underscores the need for policymakers to approach governance as a holistic and iterative process rather than a linear one.

Political decisions often serve as catalysts for economic transformation. For instance, fiscal and monetary policies introduced by political actors can shape investment patterns, inflation rates, and employment opportunities (Dye, 2017). These economic outcomes then reverberate through the social environment by influencing income distribution, access to services, and social cohesion. Similarly, social dynamics—such as demographic changes, civil movements, or shifts in cultural norms—can feed back into the political sphere by reshaping electoral preferences, policy agendas, and institutional legitimacy (Easton, 1965).

Technological innovation is another driver of policy-environment interactions. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and automation disrupt traditional labour markets and challenge regulatory frameworks (Dunleavy *et al.* 2006). These disruptions often compel governments to recalibrate economic and social policies, such as retraining initiatives, labor protections, and digital inclusion strategies. In this way, technological advancements both influence and are influenced by public policy decisions.

Global events, including wars, pandemics, and climate crises, further highlight the feedback loops within policy environments. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic

reshaped global political priorities, redefined economic capabilities, and exposed structural inequalities in healthcare and social protection systems (Fukuyama, 2020). Governments worldwide responded with policies such as lockdowns, stimulus packages, and vaccination programs. These policies, in turn, reshaped social trust, political legitimacy, and economic resilience.

Policies themselves also generate long-term feedback into their environments. Education policies provide a classic illustration. By expanding access to schooling and skills development, governments can enhance social mobility, strengthen the workforce, and promote economic growth (Hanushek and Woessmann, 2020). Over time, this contributes to political stability, as upward mobility reduces grievances and enhances civic participation. Conversely, poorly designed policies may exacerbate inequality and instability, creating adverse feedback effects.

### **Effects of Poor Understanding of Environment of Public Policy on Governance: Nigeria in Perspective.**

In Nigeria the limited understanding of the environment for public policy making and poor implementation capacity has had dire consequences on governance and national development. Policymakers often need to decide under uncertainty, lacking comprehensive knowledge of the long-term impact of their decisions. As a result, some austerity measures have increasingly loaded costs on low income people. Deregulation has also increased electricity tariffs and stamp duties — the poorest families spend a greater share of their income on essential services compared to higher-income households due to fuel price increases. These types of policies have frequently not adequately account for socio economic realities of particularly vulnerable groups.

Nigeria has also had a history of difficulty in implementing wealth taxes such as luxury taxes to ensure the rich are fairly taxed, compounded by inconsistent policy implementation which causes many domestic and foreign investors to shy away. Poor implementation, meanwhile, has undermined investor confidence, damaged the country's international reputation and contributed to reduced capital inflows. Moreover, ongoing fluctuations of government has also diminished the trust into savings and investments due to decreasing value of financial assets in a longterm perspective, partly as a result of economic insecurity. Thus, policy inconsistency has emerged as one of the greatest impediments to continued or sustainable economic growth and development.

Low comprehension of the environment for public policy and inefficient approaches to implementation have also raised the cost of governance, hampered foreign investment and diminished the country's ability to gain external help.

Such limitations have been a major factor behind the ongoing developmental complications, characterized by growing external debt, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and social insecurity or unrest. A continuing crisis in the Nigerian power sector highlights this dilemma: successive governments have been unable to supply reliable electricity despite large investments. The electricity shortages that result have raised the cost of business, closed manufacturing firms and reduced foreign direct investment.

Another significant impact is the build-up of public debt resulting from failed development initiatives. The money allocated or borrowed for infrastructure has often been squandered in abandoned or poorly managed projects with little economic return. This has exacerbated poverty and constrained access to basic services including safe drinking water and sanitation (Okonjo, 2017). In addition to that, for the purpose of reversing these trends, policymakers should focus on effective implementation mechanisms, inclusive economic policies and development programmes that favour the reduction of poverty, recovery and equitable distribution of income. In the absence of real reform to how policies develop and are adopted, future public policy is likely to suffer from the same limitations that have plagued so many previous state efforts.

### **Theorizing the Imperative of the Environment to Public Policy**

A theoretical perspective would best explain the environment as an important factor in public policy formulation and implementation. In this study is used David Easton Systems Theory (1965), that saying every political systems in a possible environment background of social, the political system, economic and culture and religion. The environment, so this theory tells us, produces outputs in the political system as requests for demands and support. Demands are what individuals and groups (the public) expect from the government in terms of assisting their needs on issues important to them, while support includes citizens' behavioral compliance with laws, paying taxes due, and acceptance of decisions or policies made by government.

The amount of support a political system gets indicates how much it is accepted as legitimate and authoritative by citizens. These requests make their way through the political system, getting converted into something like outputs namely laws, policies, regulations, decisions and resolutions. Easton noted in addition to the outputs, there is a feedback mechanism whereby its effects on the environment generates further demand creating political change. Thus, the nature of public policy-making is perceived to be cyclical and dynamic in which environmental changes bring new demands for policy response from government resulting in additional outputs.

## **Conclusion**

Public policies try to solve social issues and are deeply conditioned by their contexts of formulation and implementation. As a result, policy-makers need clear insights into the environmental factors that drive policy making in different phases of the policy cycle. In the study two broad dimensions of the public policy environment were recognized: (1) domestic environment and (2) external environment, along with principal factors related to each. The study also showed that poor understanding of the policy environment and poor implementation capacity tended to raise the cost of governance, deter investment or reduce the predictability of foreign aid and humanitarian assistance. Secondly, weak policy implementation by the government and low appreciation of policy ecology continues to see many developmental challenges persist; such as high external debt, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, insecurity, social unrest etc.

## **Recommendations**

- i. There is need for proper mastery of the environment under which public policies are formulated and implemented.
- ii. There is a need for transformational, disciplined, visionary, selfless, and sacrificial leaders who have the ability to transform their goals and visions into reality not minding the cost involved.
- iii. There should be accountability and transparency in public policy formulation and implementation. Citizens and civil society organizations should demand accountability for government policy/ programmes.

## **References**

1. Abubakar, J. (2013). "Fixing the National Security", <http://yadingeria.wordpress.com/2013/04/01/fixing-the-national-security/> accessed February 23 2018.
2. Akinwumi, F. (2010). "Nigeria: Challenges Facing Nigerian Health System" Daily Independent, Lagos, 6 May 2010, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201005070239.htm>, accessed January, 2018.
3. Allen, F. (2011). *Public Policy Analysis: Themes and Issues*, Port Harcourt: Shapea Publishers.
4. Anderson, J. (1979). *Public Policy Making: An Introduction*. New York: Praeger Publisher.
5. Cairney, P. (2012). *Understanding public policy: Theories and issues*. Palgrave Macmillan.
6. Cairney, P. (2017). *Policy Concepts in 1000 Words: The Policy Process*. [Blog post]. Retrieved from

<https://paulcairney.wordpress.com/2017/07/11/policy-concepts-in-1000-words-the-policy-process/>

7. Dunleavy, P., Margetts, H., Bastow, S., and Tinkler, J. (2006). *Digital era governance: IT corporations, the state, and e-government*. Oxford University Press.
8. Dye, T. (1975): *Understanding Public Policy*, Engle Cliffs, New Jersey Prentice Hall, Inc.
9. Dye, T. R. (2017). *Understanding public policy* (15<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson.
10. Easton, D. (1965). *A system Analysis of Political Life*. New York: John Wiley
11. Easton, D. (1965). *A system Analysis of Political Life*. New York: John Wiley
12. Easton, D. (1965). *A systems analysis of political life*. Wiley.
13. Ebienfa, K.I. and Paki, F.A.E. (2013). The Nigeria State and the Politics of Public Policy Implementation, *Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 3, 1-14.
14. Egonman, J. A. (2000). *Public Analysis: Concepts and Applications*, Benin City: S.M.O.Aka and Brothers Press.
15. Eminue, O. (2009). *Public policy analysis and decision-making*. Lagos: Concept Publication Limited.
16. Eminue, O. E. (2005). *Public Policy and Decision Making*, Lagos: Concept Publication Limited.
17. Eneanya, A. N. (2010). *Policy Research, Analysis and Effective Public Policy Making in Nigeria*, Lagos: Concept Publications Ltd
18. Fukuyama, F. (2020). The pandemic and political order: It takes a state. *Foreign Affairs*, 99(4), 26–32.
19. Guardian Editorial (2015). “The Nigerian Military and Politics”, *Editorial*, 17 February, <http://guardian.ng/opinion/editorial/the-nigerian-military-and-politics>.
20. Hanushek, E. A., and Woessmann, L. (2020). Education, knowledge capital, and economic growth. In S. Bradley & C. Green (Eds.), *The economics of education* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 171–182). Academic Press.
21. Kech, Z.K. (2014).” China Overwhelmingly Supports Death Penalty for Corrupt Officials”, *The Diplomat*, <http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/china-overwhelmingly-supports-death-penalty-for-corrupt-officials/andpoliticalsystem>.
22. Lee, S. (2025, May 24). Policy Environment Essentials: Understanding the Context for Effective Policy Analysis. NumberAnalytics. Retrieved from <https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/policy-environment-essentials>
23. Makinde, T. (2005). Problems of Policy Implementation in Developing Nations, *Journal of Social Sciences* 11, 63-69.
24. Oguejiofor, J.O. (2004). “Philosophy and Question of Good Governance in Africa” In J.O.Oguejiofor (Eds) *Philosophy, Democracy and Responsible Good Governance in Africa*, Enugu: Delta Publication Limited.
25. Okereke, D. (2012). Remote, Immediate Causes of Crimes, Insecurity and Instability in Nigeria-politics-Nairaland <http://www.nairaland.com/1027585/remotimmediate-causes-crimes-insecurity>.
26. Okereke, O. (2003). *Public Policy Analysis and Decision Making*. Abakaliki: Willyrose and Appleseed Publishing Company.
27. Okonjo, I. (2017 ). Buhari’s Economic Policies “opaque, archaic”, *Nigerian Premium Times*.
28. Onyishi, T. (2010). The Policy Process: An Overview of Concepts and Procedure. In: Onah, R. C. and Oguono, C. N. (ed.) (2010). *Readings in Public Administration*. Nsukka, University of Nigeria Press.
29. Oyovbaire, S. (2007). *The Crisis of Public Policy in Less Developed Countries*, Accra: Albergad Publishing House.
30. Polium, N. (1998). *Population and Global Security*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
31. Premium Times (2018). [www.premiumtimes.ng.com/news/headlines/356695](http://www.premiumtimes.ng.com/news/headlines/356695). Accessed: March 15, 2020.
32. Semiu, A. B. (2017). Foreign Loans: Again another Trap? , *The Punch*, August 22, 8.
33. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended.
34. Ugwuanyi, B.I. and Chukwuemeka, E. O. (2013).Obstacles to Effective Policy Implementation by Public Bureaucracy in Developing Nations: the Case of Nigeria,*Singaporean Journey of Business and Management Studies*, 1(8), 34-43.
35. Vanguard Editorial (2015). “My generation has Failed”, <http://www.vanguardng.com/2015/01/generation-failed-jonathan/January 10,2015>