

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN NIGERIA\*

**Abstract**

*Environmental Impact Assessment is a tool designed to identify and predict the impact of a project on the living and non-living things. As a consequence of the illegal dumping of toxic wastes in Koko, in the former Bendel State, in 1987, the Nigerian Government promulgated the Harmful Wastes Decree which provides the legal framework for the effective control of the disposal of toxic and hazardous waste into any environment within the confines of Nigeria. This was immediately followed by the creation of a regulatory body, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) in 1988. FEPA is charged with the overall responsibility of protecting and developing the Nigerian environment. To put this into action a National Policy on the Environment was developed. This is the main working document for the preservation and protection of the Nigerian environment. States and Local Government Councils were also encouraged to establish their own environmental regulatory bodies for the purpose of maintaining good environmental quality as it applies to their particular terrain. The tool helps to interpret and communicate information about the impact, for the project site. If necessary, it is possible to study various alternatives and provide solution so as to abate/mitigate the negative consequences on human and environment. The researcher examined the environmental impact assessment and therefore focuses on the problems conflict, natural resources constraints, effluent discharges etc. that can pose challenge to the viability of a project. The researcher also examines how the project could cause harm to people, their property and livelihoods or to other nearby developments. After identifying the potential problems proceeds also to identify measures that must be incorporate into the project design at an early stage in order to minimize or remove completely the problems identified. One of the objectives is to improve the suitability of the projects within its proposed environment and lead to a more efficient use of resources than if remedial measures were to be introduced after impacts have occurred. The researcher adopted doctrinal approach wherein he consulted several books, and internet materials etc. It is our finding that it is only by incorporating into the project design at an early stage in order to minimize or remove problems identified that we can attain sustainable development. It is our finding that despite all the efforts put in place by the environmental impact assessment, there are several examples of incidents where the impact on the environment is not accounted for and has deviated from the ground reality. In conclusion, we recommend that government bodies, project developers, and other stakeholders of the society need to come forward to make stronger policies to enhance sustainable development.*

**Keywords:** Environmental Impact Assessment, Pollution, Nigeria, Critical Analysis

**1. Introduction**

As a consequence of the illegal dumping of toxic wastes in Koko, in the former Bendel State, in 1987, the Nigerian Government promulgated the Harmful Wastes Decree which provides the legal framework for the effective control of the disposal of toxic and hazardous waste into any environment within the confines of Nigeria. This was immediately followed by the creation of a regulatory body, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) in 1988. FEPA is charged with the overall responsibility of protecting and developing the Nigerian environment. To put this into action a National Policy on the Environment was developed. This is the main working document for the preservation and protection of the Nigerian environment. States and Local Government Councils were also encouraged to establish their own environmental regulatory bodies for the purpose of maintaining good environmental quality as it applies to their particular terrain. Environmental Impact Assessment was first introduced in the USA under the Environmental Policy Act. Since then, it has evolved and a variety of offshoot assessment techniques have emerged (focusing for example on social, biodiversity, environmental health and cumulative effects and risk) acting as a broader impact assessment toolkit.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) emerged on the international scene in the Stockholm Conference as one of those important international and domestic legal techniques for integrating environmental considerations into social economic development and decision making process. It was however, the US that first established it in its national law, the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Since then, it has been progressively adopted in many other jurisdictions. Meanwhile, prior to its implementation into binding legal instruments, non-binding instruments at the regional and global levels endorsed EIA.<sup>1</sup> In addition, there are numerous references to EIA in Agenda 21<sup>2</sup> which endorses the need for individual, groups and organization to participate in EIA procedures.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>In 1989 a European Community (EC) Directives on EIA introduced broadly uniform directive on the environment see EEC Directive 851/337 of July 1988 official Journal of the ECI.175.7.85. Quoted in the Worika IL, Ibid, P. 234.

<sup>2</sup> For instance. Principle 17 of the Rio Declaration and Principles of the 1978 UNEP Draft Principles of conduct

<sup>3</sup> We Para. 7.41 (6) and 8.4.

The concept was tersely defined in the EIA Act as an ‘assessment of the environmental effects of a project.’<sup>4</sup> Further, the Espoo Convention<sup>5</sup> sees EIA as a national procedure for evaluating the likely, impact of a proposed activity on the environment. It shields more light on this by attempting a definition of ‘impact’, as:

any effect by a proposed activity on the environments including human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interactions among these factors; it also includes effects on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors<sup>6</sup>

Principle 17 of the Rio Declaration also provides that 'Environmental Impact Assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority: It was further defined as;

A process which attempts to identify and predict the impact of legislative proposals, policies, programmes, projects and operational procedures on the biogeophysical environment and on human health and well-being. It also interprets and communicates information about those impacts and investigates... means for their management<sup>7</sup>

Environmental Impact Assessment is the assessment of the environmental consequences of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action. In this context, the term, ‘environmental Impact Assessment’ is usually used when applied to actual projects by individuals or companies and the term ‘strategic environmental assessment’ (SEA) applies to policies, plans and programmes most often proposed by the organs of state.<sup>8</sup> It is a tool of environmental management forming a part of project approval and decision-making.<sup>9</sup> Environmental assessments may governed by rules of administrative procedure regarding public participation and documentation of decision-making, and may be subject to judicial review.

The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision makers consider the environmental Impacts when deciding whether or not to proceed with a project. The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) defines an environmental impact assessment as: ‘The Process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being take and commitments made.’<sup>10</sup> Environmental Impact Assessments (BIAS) are unique in that they do not require adherence to a predetermined environmental outcome but rather they require decision makers to account for environmental values in their decisions and justify those decisions in light of detailed environmental studies and environmental Impacts<sup>11</sup>

## **2. The Aims and Nature of EIA**

Environmental Impact Assessment is a management tool for officials, managers and policy makers who take important decisions about major development projects<sup>12</sup>. It is a process used for predicting the environment consequences of a proposed major developmental project (such as a factory, a hydro-electric project, a large dam and associated irrigation project, developing a harbor, etc), and planning the appropriate measures to reduce adverse effects<sup>13</sup> An EIA, therefore focuses on the problems, conflicts, natural resources constraints, effluent discharges, etc. that can affect the viability of a project. It also examines how the project could cause harm to people, their property and livelihoods or to other nearby developments. Experience over the years has demonstrated that many otherwise viable major economic development projects have turned out into major disasters because sufficient account was taken of their relationship with the surrounding environment. Some have proved unsustainable because of unanticipated resources depletion, public opposition, unforeseen cost escalation or damage to natural resources by effluents, etc. After identifying the potential problems, the EIA proceeds to also identify measures that must be incorporated into the project design at an early stage in order to minimize or remove completely the problems identified. The overall objective is to improve the suitability of the project within its proposed environment and lead to a more efficient use of resources than if remedial measures were to be introduced after impacts have occurred. In this way then, an EIA is much an economic, engineering and environmental feasibility study. It is now regarded as a *sine quo non* in the design and execution of viable and sustainable economic development projects. Accordingly, the process of EIA plays an important role in the overall process of environmental management. It may, for example, be involved in the various levels of environmental planning such as in the preparation of environmental

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<sup>4</sup> See section 63(1) of EIA Decree 1992

<sup>5</sup> I.e. the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context 1991, Art 1 (VI) thereof. The Espoo Convention is the first multilateral agreement to lay down detailed rules, procedures and practices for transboundary environmental impact assessment, albeit on a regional basis.

<sup>6</sup> Art I (Vii)

<sup>7</sup> O. Ajai, ‘Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development’ in *NCLP Vol. 2 & 3*, 1 A. Ayua (edn.). Pub. by NIALS, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> J.A. Mackinnon, et al (2018) *The Application of science in Environmental Impact Assessment*.

<sup>9</sup> H. Charles, Eccleston, (2011) *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Best Professional Practice*

<sup>10</sup> R.W. Caves, (2004) *Encyclopedia of the City*, P.227.

<sup>11</sup> Principles of Environmental Impact assessment Bests Practice’, *International Association for Impact Assessment*, 1999. Archived from the original on May 5, 2012 and Retrieved September 15, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Imovbore and Adegoke, *op cit*

<sup>13</sup> C.A. Omaka, *Principal and International Environment Law*, 2012 Lions Unique concepts, (Enugu: Nigeria)

management plans. Apart from the usual practice of evaluating the impacts of a single project, or the total impact from all project in an area.<sup>14</sup> An example of such an approach is the cumulative impact Assessment.<sup>15</sup>

### **3. The Legal Framework for EIA in Nigeria**

Prior to the establishment of the FEPA, there were sectoral environmental regulations with various significant responsibilities relating to environmental protection and improvement. Also in existence were commissions with advisory capacity in environmental matters and environmental NGOs. Due to various activities and the complex combination of interdependent operations of the oil industry it, more than any other sector, adversely affects the environment. In the oil industry DPR adopted remedial, though inadequate, enforcement tools which included compliance monitoring and the issuing of permits/licences. Studies indicated the extent of devastation the oil industry has caused to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and cultural and historical resources. This, coupled with the community's dissatisfaction and agitation, especially in the Ogoni and Ijaw homelands, reinforced the need for the sector to plan, protect and enhance prudently the environmental resources for a better environment. For the first in Nigeria there was established a legislative frame work for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)<sup>16</sup>. Prior to the promulgation of this Decree (now an Act of National Assembly<sup>17</sup>), for example, the department of petroleum Resources required operators in the oil and gas sector to carry out EIA under guidelines prepared by its Environment and safety Department. These guidelines were, however, not binding but mere administrative codes of Procedures. However, many of the multinationals carried out more comprehensive EIA of their activities regardless of these guidelines due to the culture and directives of their parent companies in North America or Europe. Again, the Federal Ministry of Works also created a unit to undertake EIA of its construction activities. Needless to say, apart from lack of expertise and resources one could not expect much from a Judge in his own cause since this Ministry was the main organ responsible for initiating approving or carrying out the preponderant portion of developmental activity, which tend to have serious adverse effect/impact on the environment<sup>18</sup>. An authoritative assessment of the scenario before the promulgation of the EIA Act was made by the Head of the Environmental Impact Assessments Division, while assessing the concept of EIA:

The EIA culture in the country has been most flimsy. Most project proponents who conducted EIA studies did so from parochial perspectives which were informed by the disciplines of the coordinators of the studies... many developers who should have applied the process of EIA due to the nature of their activities at avoided doing so since it was not legally apart of their project requirements.

### **Critical Assessment of the Legal Framework**

A badly drafted legislation may be worse than no legislation at all, either because it encourages undue litigation or because it unduly compels the courts to embark on judicial legislations in order to ensure that effect is given to otherwise otiose and redundant provisions. The EIA Act appears to have been drafted by laymen without the input or any sort of vetting by professional legal draughts men. This is apparent because of the unlaywerly<sup>19</sup> style of language, vague, ambiguous and meaningless provisions contained in some parts of the enactment. Again, the wrong cross-referencing in parts of the statute is unpardonable.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, it should be noted that the Act does not also contain any s. 12 as it jumped from s. 11 to s. 13. This may however be a typographical error.<sup>21</sup> Despite the poor drafting and wrong cross reference (e.g. s.56), the whole idea of protecting Nigeria's environment against foreign investors who are insensitive to the preservation and protection of Nigeria's environment is worthy of commendation. Probably, if the few multinational companies operating in Nigeria, especially in the oil industry were made to fulfill this condition before commencement of their operation, the blatant pollution of the Nigeria's environment by these companies could have been averted.

### **Definition Issues**

'Environment': The Act uses in inaptly arrow definition of the word, environment which is confined to biophysical parameters. In effect, socio-economic impacts may only be assessed as an indirect consequence of biophysical effects of project. This much is clear from the definition of 'environmental assessment' and 'environment effect' in the Act. 'Environment effect' includes 'any change the project may cause to the environment... and includes any effect of any such change as health and socio-economic conditions.<sup>22</sup> Since the relevant effects to guard against are significantly adverse environmental effects. It follows that the direct socio-economic and cultural effects of a project on local communities and human beings are not relevant and need not be assessed.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, if the effect on the biophysical environment is minimal the project can be approved even though it has disastrous socio-economic, aesthetic or cultural effects on local communities. This is unacceptable because the basic belief is that the environment exists for man and not vice-versa. Furthermore, the

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>15</sup> Imovbore and Adegoke.

<sup>16</sup> Decree No. 86,1992s

<sup>17</sup> See generally Imovbore and Adegoke, *Op cit*

<sup>18</sup> O. Ajai, 'Environmental Impact Assessment and sustainable Development' *NCLP*. 2 and 31A, Ayua (ed) NIALS Publication, p. 12

<sup>19</sup> Conducted that the law was promulgated under a military regime, and rightly called a Decree, it was necessary to let legal drafting experts to properly vet this all I important legislation.

<sup>20</sup> And the very poor grammar used in many provisions considering the fact that the statute is almost a verbatim copy of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act passed in June 23,1992 and available in draft form since June, 1990 (one year before FEPA draft)

<sup>21</sup> See s. 63(1)

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>23</sup> G. F. Gibson, 'The New Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: Possible Responses to its Main Deficiencies, 2 *J.E.L.* p. 223 @ 230; Also see Dodle, 'The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: new uncertainties, but a step in the Right Direction 4 *J.E.*...pg 59@ 84.

parameters chosen, i.e. health and the socio-economy are too narrow.<sup>24</sup> They ought to be expanded to include things such as cultural and aesthetic parameters also.

*'Likely to cause significant adverse environment effect'*: Does 'significant' qualify 'adverse' or 'environmental effect...? If it qualifies 'environment effect' it will follow that only environmental effect that is significant and adverse need to be guarded against. An effect may be insignificant yet highly adverse, say on socio-economic.

*Project*: The Act limits the EIA process to projects. This however is contrary to the requirements of Article II of the Biodiversity Convention<sup>25</sup>, which requires a party to introduce appropriate arrangements to also assess its programmes and policies. The Act does not allow for timely assessment of the cumulative effects of many projects. Therefore, it was better that the process extends to policies, plans and programmes. If they are inappropriate, they have a greater potential for greater and widespread damage over time and space to the environment. It is for example, possible for a deleterious policy to continue in place, while individual projects continue to be approved until irreversible damage is done to the environment. Section 63 (1) defines 'project' as a physical work that a proponent proposes to construct, operate, modify, decommission, abandon or otherwise, carryout, or physical activity that a proponent proposes to undertake or otherwise carry out. The use of the word 'physical' certainly excludes anything involving mental activity, so that, clearly, policies, programme and plans are not surreptitiously subject to assessment under the Act.<sup>26</sup> The definition also limits the scope of an EIA to an individual project and not to a group or series of related projects. This, as pointed out earlier, is a shortcoming that needs to be redressed.

### **Main Features of the Act (Environmental Impact Assessment Act**

The EIA Act, which came into force on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1992 is divided into three parts, part I deals on general Principles of EIA and is divided into 13 sections (1-13). Part II deals on environmental assessment of projects and is divided into 46 sections (14-56), while part III, which deals on miscellaneous, has 5 sections (60 - 64). The Act has one scheduled made in pursuance to S. 13, listing 19 mandatory study activities. Section I of the EIA Act provides that the part of the EIA is to incorporate environmental considerations in decision making by relevant government authorities and to encourage free dissemination of information relating to the environmental Impact of activities to relevant interested parties and the public generally. The Act also seeks to ensure that all activities by all persons are subjected to environmental consideration at the commencement of project, identification and planning in order to inculcate an environmental ethics in all citizens, person and institutions in the country. In other words, projects likely to cause serious adverse environmental impacts must be subjected to EIA. The Act established a framework or checklist that will make for rigorous EIA. It specifies therefore the minimum content<sup>27</sup> of EIA and stipulates that assessment should be detailed as the severity of the impact requires. In other words, the more severe the impact, the more detailed the study should be. Two items in the minimum content of EIA deserve commendation. Item (g) for instance requires 'an indication of whether the environment of any other state or local government area or areas outside Nigeria is likely to be affected by the proposed activity or its alternatives'. It is imperative to note that this provision shows the foresightedness of the drafters of the Act in recognizing that problems of environmental pollution transcend states and national frontiers, thus incorporating the concept of the limited sovereignty in respect of the environmental pollution adopted in the Rio de Janeiro Conference of 1992.<sup>28</sup> For example, Principle 2 in the Rio Declaration states that: 'States have in accordance with the charter of the united Nations and the Principles of international Law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources Pursuant to their own environmental policies and developmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limit of National jurisdiction'.

### **4. Where is an Assessment Required?**

Section 2 (2) of the Act states that environmental Impact Assessment is compulsorily required whenever the 'extent, nature or location of a proposed project or activity is such that is likely to significantly affect the environment'.<sup>29</sup> Also an EIA, must be carried out in respect of project listed on the mandatory study list. Again, EIA is also to be carried out in respect of projects that have a transboundary impact, and where FEPA is of the opinion that (a) a project is likely to cause adverse environmental effects that may not be mitigable, or (b) where public concerns demand that EIA be carried out. For the avoidance of doubt, S. 2 (4) of the Act, provides that all the agencies, institutions (whether public or private) except exempted by the Acts, shall before embarking on the proposed project apply in writing to the Agency for the necessary EIA. It is worthy to note that section 15 of the Act dispenses with the need of an EIA in the following cases:

- a. (a) Where the project is on a list of projects which in the opinion of the President of Nigeria have minimal environmental effects
- b. (b) Where the project is to be carried out during national emergency and temporary measures have been taken by government
- c. (c) Where the Project is in the interest of public health and safety.

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<sup>24</sup> Even Order Legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act1969 of the United States are not as narrowly drawn as the Canadian Act. See 42 U.S.C.S. 4321.

<sup>25</sup> See Cap 1 above

<sup>26</sup> O. Ajai *op.cit* @ 27

<sup>27</sup> S.4(a) & (h) of EIA Act

<sup>28</sup> See also Principle 71 of Stockholm Declaration: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2996 (XXVii) 1972

<sup>29</sup> See also S. 14 of the Act.

*Mandatory Project:* This project entails that EIA must be conducted in accordance with the conditions set out in the Act or any regulation made thereunder. Those projects which are listed in the scheduled to the Act fall within the requirements of the Act. Nineteen areas are listed which requires assessment<sup>30</sup> there are, Agriculture, Airport, drainage & Irrigation, land reclamation, fisheries, forestry, industry, infrastructure, ports, Resort and relational development, water treatment, mining act and disposal, water supply mining Act also set out procedure for assessment, petroleum, power generation and transmission, quarries, transportation etc.

### 5. Stages of the EIA Process

EIA has 5 main stages. If an EIA is required, an Environmental Assessment Impact Report will be written and submitted with the application for development consent. The public will have the clients to comment. This makes sure you are given a chance to be involved in decision making

S/N	Stage	What Is Involved
1	Screening	Deciding if an EIA is required or not
2	Scoping	Deciding what needs to be covered in the Assessment and reported in the EIA Report
3	Preparing the EIA Report	The EIA report has to include the likely significant environmental effects of the development.
4	Making an application and consultation	The EIA report and development application must be published (including electronic advertisement) interested parties and the public must be given an opportunity to give their views on it.
5	Decision making	The EIA Report and any comments made on it must be taken into account by the competent authority before they decide whether to give consent for the development. The decision notice had to be published <sup>31</sup>

### 6. The Roles of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and sustainable Developments

Environmental Impact Assessment have three roles; legal, educational and policy-making. The legal role ensures that development Projects such as housing estate, a road/bridge or some such construction project has a minimal impact on the environment in its entire life cycle - i.e., during design, construction, use, maintenance, and demolition. Many Countries now have laws stipulating that unless an EIA study is carried out particularly for large infrastructural projects permission for construction will not be granted by the local authority. The educational role is equally important to educate everyone involved both Professionals and users. There is need to look at all the daily actions as eventually and cumulatively affecting the environment. This includes our daily choices, where a delicate balance between financial and environmental considerations needs to be made automatically without thinking. The role of Policy - making or creating decision support systems is extremely important. El A helps to judge the potential threat of any development or natural hazard so that effective, enlightened policies towards the sustainability of the former or the mitigation of the later can be determined.<sup>32</sup>

### 7. Sustainable Development

The United States first convened countries to address the global environment at the 1972 UN conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. The Stockholm Conference highlighted the international aspects of emerging environmental challenges and legitimized the environment as an area for international cooperation. Sustainable development was defined by the Brundtland report as development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to the report, one of the factors which sustainable development must overcome is environmental degradation, but it must do so without foregoing the needs of economic development, social equality and justice.<sup>33</sup> Sustainable development has also be described in terms of the pattern of structural changes in natural and man-made capital stock (including human capital and technological capabilities), which ensures the feasibility of at least a minimum socially desired rate of growth in the long run<sup>34</sup>

### 8. Conclusion and Recommendations

The importance of Environmental Impact Assessment has become more evident in the present world, our climate and environment are in jeopardy due to man-made actions. There several examples of incidents where the impact on the environment is not accounted for and has deviated from ground reality. It provides certain favours to the individuals or agencies with a vested interest. To stop these tendencies and sure our environment, government bodies, project developers, and other stakeholders of the society need to come forward to make stronger policies and critically analyze implications on the ground for improvement in the EIA evaluation process. EIA should be more inclusive towards public hearings and participation to consider public knowledge to resolve social and environmental consequences. If any development happens

<sup>30</sup> Section 13 of the EIA Act

<sup>31</sup> [http:// www mygov. Scot](http://www.mygov.scot) accessed on 16 -1- 2023 at 10:47am.

<sup>32</sup> Conference paper on the role of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). in *Environmental Performance of filing stations*, in Kaduna metropolis, Nigeria December 2012.

<sup>33</sup> [http://en Wikipedia org/Wiki/Sustainable development](http://en.Wikipedia.org/Wiki/Sustainable%20development) assessed 17-01-23

<sup>34</sup> C. A. Omaka, *Handbook on Environmental Law* at p. 13

in the forest or marine area, to save natural flora and fauna. This study found that failure to incorporate and institutionalize EIA into a project and the production Process at the onset generally results in higher costs when the impact has already occurred. It was found that, in order to achieve and pursue sustainable development, environmental impact assessment must be strictly adhered to. It was also discovered that it is pertinent at the planning stages of industrial or other major development projects to establish procedures to monitor environmental health impacts of the facilities as they are put into use. This is because so many industrial processes are available for the production of particular goods. In these production processes, some, no doubt, are environmentally more acceptable than others. More so, the study revealed that the application of environmental impact assessment procedures enables the state to examine all the options critically and select those that are environmentally most acceptable. It was found that Environmental Impact Assessment Act is a step in the right direction but it appears to be too badly drafted and significantly flawed in its conceptual design and administrative framework to ensure sustainable development in Nigeria. The study revealed that the Environmental Impact Assessment Act does not also contain any section 12, as it jumped from section 11 to section 13. Economic growth achieved in a way that does not consider, the environmental concerns, will not be sustainable in the long run. The following measures are important: Industries/developers should be assessed with regards to environmental impact of their projects at any given period. All projects should be subjected to environmental impact assessment in order to enhance sustainable development. Environmental Impact Assessment should be made compulsorily to all kinds of developmental Project in order to prevent the higher costs involved at the period of correcting the impact when it has already occurred. Finally, there is need for annual audit of environmental Performances of all kinds of developmental Project in Nigeria.