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EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PASTORALISTS TRANSNATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE MECHANISMS IN WEST AFRICA

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Abstract

One of the most pressing issues facing current generation across the Africa continent is the effects of climate change that necessitate the movement of pastoralists from dry land to green land areas especially during dry season. This movement often affect the farmers and destroy their agricultural produce. This has attracted a lot of condemnation both at national and international levels owing to the bloody violence and extreme behaviour of the pastoralists while searching for green land areas to feed their livestock. It is not gainsaying that West Africa, as a sovereign region, has unanimously launched a careful campaign to curb the existing crisis of farmers and herdsmen because of their respective economic values. While the response of West Africa region to combat the crisis has been applauded; the lackadaisical attitude by the security personnel manning each country's borders across the region remains problematic. To this end, this paper, while adopting analytical research methodology, seeks to analyse how climate change is affecting transnational economic activities of pastoralist across borders in West Africa region and mechanisms to curb conflicts between herders and farmers The paper argues that there are serious and continuous strategies to curb the spread of transnational movement of pastoralist in the various borders across West Africa region. The paper contends that the available strategies to curb transnational movement of pastoralist are not adequate across our borders as a result of lack of political will on the part of government which remains the ultimate challenges. The paper recommends

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inclusion and enforcement paradigm of the existing legal framework within West African states (ECOWAS) on mechanism to maintain farmer and herdsmen relationship and sustenance of their respective economy values.

Keywords: Climate Change, Pastoralists, Transnational Economic, Sustainable Mechanism

1. Introduction

Nomadic pastoralists are livestock breeders who specialise in the valorisation of a range of resources which can be more or less variable and unpredictable depending on the extent of local climatic variability.[1] In West Africa, pastoral systems and their economies extend beyond the Sahel, through transhumance practices, the livestock market, youth mobility, the provision of feed inputs, the issue of agricultural fertility and questions of political regulation[2]. Climate change is the primary important factor that necessitates transnational movement of the pastoralist in order to sustain their livestock[3]. Science has made enormous efforts in understanding climate change, its causes and help to develop a strong understanding of the current and potential impacts that will affect people today and in the future.[4] In the scheme of livestock production in West Africa, the cross-border transhumance constitutes a very important aspect. Besides the fact that it sustains Sahelian herds, it contributes to the sub-regional integration and the supply of livestock products to the increasingly important urban centres in the south.[5] On the other hand, it raises problems because of the often bloody conflicts it causes. West African Sub-regional institutions[6] have

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[1]W A Ahmed-Gamgum, 'Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria: Another Dimension of Insecurity,' (2018) 3 (1) *Journal of Public Administration and Social Welfare Research.*

[2]U Alaribe, 'Herdsmen/Farmers' Clashes: Abia Police set up Conflict resolution committees,' <https://.www.vanguardngr.com> herdsmen farmers-Clashes-Abia-police –set Conflict-resolution-committees> accessed 5 May 2021.

[3] A Mohammed and Y T Baba 'Herdsmen-Farmers Conflicts and Rising Security Threats in Nigeria,' (2019) 7 *Peace, Conflict and international Intervention Studies.*

[4]Ibid.

[5] S D Tion and V M Terwase, 'Herdsmen/Farmers Crises in Nigeria: The Role of Librarians in Resolving Crises,' (2019) *Journal of Library Philosophy and Practice* Digital Common @ University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1-16.

[6] ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS2, etc.), Non-Governmental Organizations (i.e. SNV, IUCN, VSF, etc.

tried through various studies and meetings, to establish the foundations for a more sustainable practice of this cross border mobility.

The analysis of cross-border transhumance suggests that the challenges it faces are primarily its ability to adapt to climate change and environmental degradation, among others. Thus, In this regard, the following factors contribute to the transnational movement of the pastoralists: A reduction of surface water resources and quality; reduction in available forage; changes in the composition of grass species with occasional appearance of non-consumable species.; reduction in grazing areas mainly because of population growth; a change in the epidemiological map with the onset of diseases and increased activities of mining leading to decrease in grazing areas[7] While driving cattle across regions sometimes, destruction of crops occur and becomes a source of conflict between farmers who claim customary right over land and herdsmen who are regarded as strangers and this brought conflicts of interest on land in some places. Though, the primacy of livestock rearing to economic sustainability and food security in West Africa cannot be overemphasised. As a result, some national authorities in West African region separate are as to be known as grazing routes and reserve. This did not solve the problem because herdsmen deliberate move out of grazing paths into cultivated lands to uproot crops for their livestock and there was no compensation as required by law to customary land owners[8] Nevertheless, they coexisted and from time to time traditional rulers come in aids to adjudicate and ensure that whoever found guilty paid compensation/damages to the affected person[9].The clashes between farmers and nomadic pastoralists have taken new dimension and becoming more volatile in nature. In many areas across West Africa region, the crises have not been adequately explained, considering the extent of the violence involved. It is against this backdrop that this paper discusses the conceptual

[7] S A Shehu, 'The Menace of Cattle Rustling and Banditry in North-West Nigeria: A Case Study of Katsina State,' (2017) 7 (6) *IOSR Journal of Research & Method in Education*, 40-47.
[8] Ibid, 43.
[9] E Gbaka,, 'Managing Conflict between Farmers and Pastoralists in Benue State, Nigeria. Peace Trends,' (2014) *Centre for Sustainable Development an Education in Africa*, 1-3.

analysis of climate change, investigates the effect of climate change that necessitate transnational movement of nomadic pastoralists, existing crisis with farmers which contribute to the security challenges facing the West African region and the move towards settling and preventing future crises by the concerned authorities. It suggests that the pastoral crisis has increasingly become a regional contagion in West Africa and requires collective, interlocking and transnational approach in order to maintain and sustain their economic values.

2. Conceptual Analysis on Climate Change

Climate change has been defined as any change in climate over time whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. Similarly, climate change as a long term alteration in global weather patterns such as increases in temperature and storm activity,[10] often linked to the potential consequence of rising levels of heat trapping gases known as greenhouse gases which retain the radiant energy provided to the earth by the sun in a process known as the greenhouse effect.[11] Greenhouse gases occur naturally and without them, the planet would be too cold to sustain life. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1700s, human activities have added more of these gases into the atmosphere.[12]

Today, Climate scientists around the globe monitor atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and create forecasts about their effects on global temperatures.[13] They gather information about climate systems and use this information to create and test computer models that simulate how climate could change in response to changes on earth and in the atmosphere.[14] The main cause of recent climate change is the release of greenhouse gases, particularly, carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as a result of human activities such as fossil fuel combustion and land use

[10] M D Manstrandrea and S H Schneider, 'Global Warming'. Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia (2009).

[11] D Bachelet, et al 'Climate change effects on vegetation distribution and carbon budget in the United States. Ecosystems' 4 (3): 164185 (2001).

[12] Inter -governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (1996b). Climate Change. Impacts, Adaptations, and Mitigation of Climate Change: Scientific and Technical Analyses. Second Assessment Report of the IPCC 1995. In: Watson, R., and others (eds). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[13] I A Sodangi and A U Izge, 'Climate Change: Causes and Effects on African Agriculture' <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232186127> access 23 April 2021.

[14] Ibid.

change.[15] According to the Australian Greenhouse Office, the world depends on fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas for 80% of its energy needs.[16] Therefore, that makes it very hard to switch from fossil fuels to any other forms of energy because we depend on fossil fuels to a large extent.[17]The emission of greenhouse gases has increased dramatically from the industrial revolution, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels for energy, agriculture, industrial process and transportation. Greenhouse gases released by human activities trap outgoing infrared radiation within the Earth's atmosphere, enhancing the natural greenhouse effect and resulting in anthropogenic ally induced global warming. This increase in temperature leads to other observable effects on the climate system, such as more frequent, intense and protracted extreme weather events, with increasingly detrimental impacts upon societies.[18]

Ozone layer depletion is another cause of climate change when the atmosphere becomes impure due to the release of dangerous gases or repellents from industries, exhaust pipes of vehicles, air conditioning devices and refrigerators. These materials emit substances such as carbon monoxide hydrocarbons, smoke, dust, nitrous oxide and sulphur oxide which deteriorate the ozone layer.[19]

In addition, the energy of water supply is commonly perceived that climate change has a negative impact on water quantity and quality as well as drinking water treatment.[20] However, some issues such as, geographical locations, local water resources and water technologies that could potentially influence the effect of climate change on drinking water supply are still unsettled.[21] Climate change is caused by a number of factors, including deforestation, ozone layer depletion, increased CO2, and greenhouse gas emission into the atmosphere. As a result of all these human

[15]'Overview of US Greenhouse Gases Methane Emissions,' United States Environmental Protection Agency U.S., <https://www.epa.gov> accessed 22 May 2021.
[16]Global Climate Change: Effects' NASA Global Climate Change and Global Warming: Vital Signs of the Planet. Jet Propulsion Laboratory / National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 15 June 2008.
[17]Ibid.
[18]R K Jameel, 'Climate Change: Causes, Effects, and Solutions,' (2016) <http://spark.parkland.edu/ah/164> accessed 22 May 2021.
[19]I A Sodangi , A U Izge and Y T Maina, 'Climate Change: Causes And Effects On African Agriculture,' (2011) 3 (3) *Journal of Environmental Issues and Agriculture in Developing Countries.*
[20] Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Conservation Implications of Climate Change: Soil Runoff from Croplands. SWCS: Ankey, Iowa, USA. (2003) <http:/ www.swcs.org/docs/climate%20change-final.pdf>accessed 12 May 2021.
[21]W Mo, et al 'Understanding The Influence of Climate Change On the Embodied Energy of Water Supply,'

interference with nature climate change and its effect on the creature is sacrosanct and we must prepare to face its challenges.

3. Effects of Climate Change on Pastoralists Transnational Movement

Climate change has affected many aspects of our planet. One aspect that has been greatly affected by climate change is the weather. As a result, Pastoralists movement from their states of origin during the driest season of the year, returning north only in the rainy seasons.[22] Pastoralists move due to challenges facing them such as decrease in rainfall, accessibility to quantities of forage (especially after a bad rainy season) or search for quality grass harvest residues, insufficient water for their livestock during the dry season, the avoidance of damage to the fields during the rainy season, decision to abandon areas affected by animal diseases, search for mineral licks (salt cure), the desire to reduce the risk of livestock loss through theft; the avoidance of intertribal conflicts, gene research to improve herd productivity, insecurity associated with the proliferation of weapons of war and banditry among others.[23]

In West Africa, it happens in the dry season and does not correspond to a strict plan for its modalities, its organisation and its frequency. It corresponds to cattle movements of big magnitude (north-south and south-north return). They walk distances of several hundreds of kilometres and frequently go beyond the borders of their country of origin. This type of transhumance concerns above all the cattle that require more important quantity and quality forage than goats or sheep.[24] In the dry season, the first leg of the transhumance route is rather comprised of strategic points such as streams, grazing areas, markets, salt licks, fords, etc. which pastoralists are trying to reach. They do not follow a precise track since the fields are not cultivated in this period.[25]

Similarly, Climate is the primary important factor for agricultural production and any significant change in climate on a global scale is likely to impact on local agriculture. Climate change could be particularly

(2016) 95 Water Research Science Direct, 220-229.

[22] H Hernes, 'A climate strategy for Africa towards environmentally sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa' AFTES Post UNCED series. Paper No. 10 World Bank. (1998). <http//www.worldbank.org/afr/findings/english/find120.htm> accessed 12 May 2021.

[23] Ibid.

[24] L Ringius, 'Climate change in Africa - Issues and Challenges in Agriculture and Water for Sustainable Development,' CICERO Report, 1996.

[25] Ibid.

damaging to countries in Africa, being dependent on rain-fed agriculture and under heavy pressure from food insecurity and often famine caused by natural disasters.[26]

Causes of conflicts between nomadic pastoralists-peasant farmers can be broadly segmented into three.[27] First, recurring violent conflicts between these two groups of land users have been attributed to climate change and environmental security. The security implications of climate change in Africa gained currency following debates by the African Union (AU), the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Scholars in the field of environmental security see causal links between environmental scarcity and violence. However, some political ecologists have rejected this simplistic argument that environmental scarcity precipitates violent conflicts, because of inadequate reference to complex empirical realities. Rather than being the source of conflict, they conceptualised the environment as a theatre in which conflicts or claims over property, assets, labour and the politics of recognition play themselves out.[28] The implications of climate change on the livelihoods of pastoralists are not yet well understood. Some say the pastoralists will be the first to lose their livelihoods as pastures and water points will dry up, while others argue that they are best able to adapt to climate change, because the pastoral livelihood strategies are designed to react to the scarcity and variability of natural resources and to deal with difficult and uncertain agro-ecological conditions and environments. It therefore pertinent to state some crises caused as a result of transnational movement of pastoralist due to the effect of climate change on their livestock within West African states.

4. Overview of Farmers-Herdsmen Clashes

West African transhumant pastoralists and sedentary peasant farmers have long coexisted in mutually supportive relationships that have also witnessed contentious encounters. They have had established practices of mutual trade and production relations that allow herders' cattle to fertilise

[26] I A Berbesi, 'Methane Leakage from Evolving Petroleum Systems: Masses, Rates and Inferences for Climate Feedback,' (2914) 387 *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 219.
[27] Mo, (n. 21), 220-229.
[28] Ibid.

the farmers' land and related resources. However, population growth and increasing commodity production have led to the expansion of agriculture by peasant farmers and other investors which always causes violence between these two groups of land users and same has been attributed to climate change and environmental security.

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has remained the most preeminent resource-use conflict in West Africa.[29] Though, Farmers/Fulani conflicts have a very long history. Herder-farmer conflicts are complex products of both structures and processes and cannot be explained solely in terms of either.[30] The increase in cultivated areas causes the gradual disappearance of grazing areas because of their reduction and suffering from pastoral over exploitation. Crops encroachment on pasture lands and field's cultivation around pastoral streams, the scarcity of space where the animals can graze and the degradation of the latest grazing areas are largely reducing the quantity and quality of the fodder still available.[31] For instance, the violent crises between Fulani herdsmen and sedentary farmers in Nigeria do not constitute an alien phenomenon in Nigeria. The context of herdsmen and farmers relations in Nigeria dates back to when Fulani people began to feel insecure in their place of origin and began the search for solutions outside their place of origin. The conflicts stated amongst the non-Fulani farming communities when Fulani arrived in their community and engaged in activities that point to attempts to dislodge the local community. Culturally, Fulani herdsmen are nomad livestock breeders and in pre-colonial times, their place of origin was the Sahel and semi-arid areas of Futa-Jalon Mountains in West Africa. But as a result of threat posed from climatic changes and population growth, herdsmen were forced to move to the savannah and tropical forest regions of Southern West Africa and far northern Nigeria. So, the situation has been in existence for decades which has resulted in the extensive loss of lives and property.[32] The recent crises

[29]R S Adisa, 'Land-Use Conflict Between Fanners and Herdsmen Implications for Agricultural and Rural Development in Nigeria,<http://www.intechopen.com/books/ruraldevelopment-contemporary-issues-and-practices/land-use-conflict-betewenfarmers-and-herdsmen-implications-for-agricultural-rural-development-in Nigeria> accessed 12 April 2021.

[30]M Moritz, 'Understanding Herder-Farmer Conflicts in West Africa: Outline of a Processual Approach,' (2010) 69 (2) *Human Organization*, 138-148.

[31]International Crisis Group Herders against Farmers: Nigeria's Expanding Deadly Conflict. Brussels: International Crisis Group. (2017).

[32] A Mohammed, 'The Cost and benefit of Nigeria's Peace Mission in Sierra Leone,' (2012) 9 (II) *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 393-403.

between pastoralists and farmers in rural communities have been attributed to the influx of foreign cattle breeders from Niger, Cameroon and Chad to the North-West states which run from Benin Republic and Niger through Sokoto, Zamfara, Borno and Kwara states, terminating in the South-West.[33]

The second route generally more symmetrical when juxtaposed with others in the North-East which runs from Niger, Chad and Cameroon Republics through Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Jigawa, Kano, Plateau, Nasarawa and terminates in the Niger-Benue Basin. This is the route that poses threat to peace between farmers and the pastoralists in the north central and adjourning states in the South-East.[34]Thus, the constant crises have threatened the security of the state, reduced its economic productivity and deepened food crisis in Nigeria and West Africa at large.

Others attributed the crises to herdsmen expanding from the traditional grazing routes into the agricultural land which in turn always results into crises over access to pasture. The escalation of the crises have made many international observers including the United States to consider herdsmen as one the most dangerous group because they move transnational without any specific destination save, where it is convenient for their livestock to feed.[35]

The nomadic pastoralists new dimension of bearing sophisticated weapons of war to terrorise farmers and either as a result of lack of attention or they deliberately allow their cattle to stray, trample on the crops and forcefully eat up farm crops of farmers, they also contaminate streams which serves as source of water for human consumption. Hence this leads to outbreak of diseases in many communities. The pastoralists engage in raping women, abducting and killing farmers. Their tactics for large scale violent attacks on villages and towns is to come in 100s to attack at night when people are asleep and carting away valuables. It is also reported that they have taken kidnapping and arm robbery activities on the highways.[36] Traditionally, when conflicts occur, tension is raised and to resolve the conflict, farm owners reported the cases of conflict to their traditional rulers and the police. Where a herdsman or men are confirmed to have been responsible for example, the destruction of crops such herdsmen are fined

[33]E Gbaka, 'Managing Conflict between Farmers and Pastoralists in Benue State, Nigeria,' (2014) 2 (3) *Peace Trends: Centre for Sustainable Development an Education in Africa*, 1-3.
[34]Ibid.
[35]Shehu, (n. 7), 40-47.
[36]Ahmed-Gamgum, (n. 1).

to pay compensation. But it came to a time when farmers refuse the idea of collecting compensation because they do not want to be living on compensation because it lacks life sustenance component. Farmers believe that their crops are as important to them as cattle is important to the herdsmen. As such, they have requested herdsmen to stop courting trouble by taking their cattle away from farmlands.[37] Due to the increasing violent attacks on human life, there is often a revenge mission between youth in the affected areas and the Fulani herdsmen or their cattle are killed and eaten or left to rot and where there is bush burning which is to the advantage of farmers and disadvantage of grazers.

It therefore appears that there is no consensus among both groups as to the causes of the violent conflicts between herdsmen and farmers. Though, it is clear from the above that both groups contribute to the conflict between them such as inadequacy of grazing resources, increasing crop cultivations and poor management of the existing grazing reserves have resulted in a significant reduction in available livestock feed resources.[38] It therefore calls for the intervention and reaction of the concerned authorities to wade in and provide lasting solution in order to curb the existing crises between the two groups and sustain their respective economic values.

5. Mechanisms to Curb Herdsmen and Farmer Conflicts

Nomadic pastoralism is a very important livestock production strategy in West Africa where the practice has spanned several centuries. It is also a veritable source of food security in the region. Transhumant pastoralists have remained an integrating factor in a culturally diffused and disparate region like West Africa. Since this paper focuses on transnational movement of nomadic pastoralist in West Africa as a region, the concerned authorities is ECOWAS has a body and step been taken by the national authorities within West African region. As part of its recognition of the pre-eminent place of livestock production in food security and economic sustainability in West Africa. ECOWAS has created the enabling environment for livestock breeding through the formulation of harmonious regulations on transhumance within the Community. Among others, the

[37] E Ugwu, 'Tension in Abia Community as Herdsmen Insist on Choosing Grazing Area (2017) <https://www.thisday.com/index.php/2017/09/23/tension-in-abiacommunity-as-herdsmen-insist-on-choosing grazing-area> accessed 12 April 2021.

[38] Gbaka, (n. 330), 1-3.

ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol of 1998,[39] the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Goods and Persons in West Africa, the Regulations of Transhumance between ECOWAS-Member States of 2003, the ECOWAS Strategic Plan for the Development and Transformation of the Livestock Sector and the 2005 ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP). All these have been ratified by the member-states of the Community. According to Article 3 of the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol, 'all animals of the bovine, caprine, cameline, equine plus asinine species shall be allowed free passage across the borders of all member-states, under the conditions set out in this Decision.' Also, Article 5 of the Protocol further states that all transhumance livestock shall be allowed free passage across points of entry into and departure from each country on the condition that they have the ECOWAS International Transhumance Certificate.

Certificate is issued by the livestock department through the local administrative authorities in the country of origin. The certificate contains details on the composition of the herd, the vaccinations given, the itinerary of the herds, the border posts to be crossed and the final destination. The aim of the certificate is to enable authorities to monitor the herds before they leave the country of origin; to protect the health of local herds; and to make it possible to inform the host communities of the arrival of transhumance animals. Similarly, the ECOWAS Strategic Plan for the Development and Transformation of the Livestock Sector in West Africa also helps on the creation of a favourable environment for the development of the livestock sector.[40] This includes the promotion of intra-regional trade in animal products, provision of security and facilitation of trans-border movement of livestock. The foregoing provisions of ECOWAS Transhumance Protocols notwithstanding, the complexity of pastoralism in West Africa is such that nomadic pastoralists have leveraged the general ineffective enforcement of these protocols to perpetrate acts of criminality in the sub-region.[41] Thus, the protracted attacks often launched by armed herdsmen on various

[39]Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS Decision A/DEC.5/10/98 Relating to the Regulation on Transhumance between ECOWAS Member-States, reached at the Twenty-First Conference of Heads of States in Abuja, 31 October 1998.

[40]N Chikodiri and E Chukwuemeka, 'Nomadic Pastoralism and Human Security : Towards a Collective Action against Herders-Farmers Crisis in Nigeria (2019) The Political Economy of Migration in Africa held at African Heritage Institution, Enugu, 10 <https://www.africanportal.org> accessed 22 May 2021.

[41] Moritz, (n. 30), 138-148.

communities have endangered human security in the sub- region.[42] The attacks, which often assume a scorched earth approach, have engendered an unprecedented humanitarian crises; thereby making the area a leading storehouse of one of the worst humanitarian conditions in Africa.[43]

In the same token, Nigeria Government as one of the leading actor within West Africa states regard the peace and unity of Nigeria and of West Africa in general as paramount and non-negotiable. As such, they take measures to ensure that this is achieved, for example section 17 (3)[44] (a) requires the State to make policies to ensure that (a) all citizens without discrimination on any group whatsoever have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunities to secure suitable employment. This indicates that herdsmen and farmer are to be protected to move around to practice their business in accordance with the law of the State. Thus just as the herdsmen and indeed any other group of persons have a right to migrate to any part of the country, the law does not allow the destruction of host communities life, culture, household property and land. Some other measure taken to avoid blooding clashes between these two groups is the ban on open grazing[45] and proposes federal government support for states to create ranches under the 10 years national livestock transformation plan (NLTP).[46]

Other African states have also taken steps at national level to support and prevent nomadic pastoralist clashes with the farmers, for instance, Mauritania and Chad pastoralists are allow to be represented in government in order to protect their rights; Côte d'Ivoire the government has been supportive of pastoralists by creating a livestock development agency; and Niger where the government created pastoral and agricultural zones by drawing a cultivation land limit for them.

Non-Governmental Organisations and international institutions have been more conciliatory and constructive in their reaction to the clashes between these land users. The noticeable ones among them are the British

[42] Mercy Corps The Economic Costs of Conflict and the Benefits of Peace: Effects of Farmer- Pastoralist Conflict in Nigeria's Middle Belt on State, Sector, and National Economies. (2015).
[43] M Moritz, 'Changing Contexts and Dynamics of Farmer-Herder Conflicts across West Africa,' (2006) 40 (1) *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 1-40.
[44] Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) s. 17.
[45] http://thenationonlineng.net/open-grazing-prohibition-law-will-end-herders-farmers-clashes
[46] Y Ali, 'Federal Government Support for States to Develop Ranches'. The Nation Newspaper (Nigeria) www.thenationonlineng.net 17 May 2021.

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[46] Y Ali, 'Federal Government Support for States to Develop Ranches'. The Nation Newspaper (Nigeria) www.thenationonlineng.net 17 May 2021.

Council, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Nigeria Reconciliation and Stability Project (NRSP), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and so on have also focused on post-conflict reconciliation and peace building, improving early-warning and strengthening relations between communities and security agencies. Some of these bodies have encouraged herders-farmers' dialogues through various local initiatives

However, lack of political will by the government of ECOWAS member-states and other adjoining countries to commit to effective regional trans-border cooperation has affected the region from achieving its goal of preventing farmer and herdsmen crises. This has exacerbated the vulnerability of the countries concerned. Thus, it was observed that this non-committal stance of some member-states can be attributed to the imbalance in the effect of insecurity on their various domestic economies.[47] The capacity of the regional bodies to effectively coordinate strategies aimed at promoting human security is severely undermined. While insecurity in West Africa affects economic activities and development in the short term, no country in the region is completely immune from the long-term effects of undermining the national security of their respective states.[48] Despite the steps been taken by the affected authorities both at regional and national level across West Africa countries, the crises between farmers and herdsmen are yet to be solved.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Climate change is a problem that is facing our planet and it has progressed a lot after the industrial revolution. The emission of greenhouse gases has accelerated the progress of climate change and made our weather more intense, thereby necessitate the transnational movement of nomadic pastoralists across West African countries.[49] The security challenges emerging from the farmers-herdsmen conflicts have worsened security conditions across the region. Escalating conflicts among two groups could

[47] R Adibe, et al, 'Energy Hegemony and Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea: Rethinking the Regional Trans-Border Cooperation Approach, (2019) 46 (160) *Review of African Political Economy* <https://www.tandfonline.com> accessed 22 May 2021.

[48] Ibid

[49] O O Ofem, and I Bassey, 'Livelihood and Conflict Dimension among Crop Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in Yakurr Region of Cross River State,' (2014) 5 (8) *In Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences MCSER Publishing, Rome-Italy.* ISSN 20392117 (online) ISSN 2039-9340

potentially generate more bloodshed on even wider scale unless drastic measures and the task of ending the violence are pushed up as the regional priority ladder. Failure to respond by taking decisive and effective measures would allow the region to continue sliding into increasingly deadly conflict arena.

Despites all the efforts been taken by the ECOWAS at regional level and the existing rules and regulations, the challenges remain largely undiminished, requiring and required more dedication from all governments across west Africa countries. Fully implementation of ECOWAS policies and regulations alone on transnational movement of pastoralists as earlier discussed above would play prominent solving pastoralist and farmer crises, if the national leaders within the region are ready to implement it. The member-states of ECOWAS should work together, taking immediate steps to shore up security for both peasant farmers and herders, funding of the security sector in the most affected areas, strengthening conflict-resolution mechanisms and initiating longer-term efforts to reform livestock management practices, address negative environmental trends and curb trans-border movements of both cattle rustlers and armed herders. Grazing reserves need to be properly gazetted and customary owners paid adequate compensation when land is acquired from them to avoid the taking over of land by force.

At national level, the various governments should be clearly and specifically make budgetary provisions for ranches development, enforce the ban on open grazing, International agencies should come to the aids of concerned States Governments by partnering to facilitate the provision of amenities like fencing materials for farmland and ranches.[50] Both herdsmen and farmers should stop making hate speeches because hate speeches encourage anger and destroys unity. Whoever engage in making hate speeches should be brought to book. The herdsmen and famers should bear in mind that actions that lead to distrust is bad and should be abandoned. Therefore, plans for reprisal violent attacks on the whole towns and villages in the case of two groups should be discouraged in order to avoid continuous violence being perpetrated and to sustain peace, unity and the

[50]C E Mark, R F Michael and J F Tariton, 'Agriculture: Steps to Sustainable Livestock,' www.nature.com/news/agriculture.steps -to sustainable -livestock-1-14796 accessed 6 April 2021. Ahmed-Gamgum (n. 1).

targeted economy development across West Africa communities.

On the whole, the regional and national government across ECOWAS states need to sincerely collaborate to implement the above recommendations as suggested maintaining peace and unity and sustaining the expected economic values across the region.