

# **Are Population Issues Mainstreamed into Climate Change Policies and Action in Nigeria? Evidence from a Systematic Review of Some National Climate Change Documents**

**By**

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## **Introduction (Description of Topic)**

The just concluded 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 28) reaffirmed that climate change remains one of the most pressing challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It also reaffirmed the multiple dimensions and complexities of the climate change challenge. Population climate linkages and interactions have been traditionally seen as critical to understanding climate change, developing robust climate policies and managing climate change issues (Population Matters 2022; Cohen 2010). This is often reflected in studies of these linkages and many national and multilateral climate policy and action documents. However, it is not clear if population factors are sufficiently integrated or mainstreamed into national climate change policies and actions to ensure effectiveness in addressing population related climate change challenges. This is important for a number of reasons. One, Population and climate have a two-way relationship: population factors contribute to climate change while climate change has strong implications for populations. Two, this two-way relationship is complex, non-linear and multidimensional, involving multiple population and climate factors and outcomes. This has significant implications for effective mainstreaming of population factors into national climate policies and actions.

## **Population and Climate Policies in Nigeria**

The import and intensity of population factors for climate change can and does vary with country. For Nigeria, with an estimated population of over 220 million, high fertility and consequent high growth rate, population remains a core socio-economic, environmental and climate policy issue. This is recognized in the country's main climate policy document: the National Population Climate Change Policy of Nigeria (DCC 2020). The document acknowledges that rapid population growth rate is a major driver of climate. It also acknowledges that the country's population is one of the most vulnerable underlying the need for effective mitigation, adaptation and resilience building strategies. Apart from the National Policy on Climate Change, Nigeria has produced a number of sector specific and inter sectoral climate policy and action documents. This includes climate change policy documents related to sectors like agriculture, health, gender, etc with important population related dimensions. The country has also produced documents on climate actions related to mitigation and adaptation in recognition are explicitly stated or implied in other National Climate change documents.

However, beyond this statement of recognition and intent it is not clear if population factors and the various dimensions of population climate linkages including the impact of population on climate change and vice versa are effectively covered and mainstreamed in the Nation's climate change policy documents. This points to gaps in the study and knowledge of the population content and status mainstreaming of population factors into climate policy in the country, and highlights the need for systematic analysis of these policy documents This study is motivated by this need. Its objectives are to determine:

- i. the 'population' content of national policy documents in Nigeria and they cover the multiple dimensions and ramifications of population climate change linkages in the country
- ii. If policy provisions have been emplaced to address challenges arising from the contribution of population factors to climate change in the country
- iii. if they include strategies and actions to tackle the effect of climate change of the population

### **Theoretical Focus**

This study relies on the concept of mainstreaming to explicate issues related to effective integration of population factors into national climate change policies. As a concept mainstreaming is founded on the rationale and strategies designed to ensure policies and programmes do not overlook factors or elements critical to their success or effectiveness. The concept has been best developed in the field of gender studies and policy where it relates to moves to ensure that women issues and needs are effectively taken care of in policies and programmes (Daly 2005; Walby 2005). It has also been applied to policies related to HIV/AIDS control, poverty alleviation and the environment. For Climate change, mainstreaming has also become a strategy to ensure that effective consideration is given to climate change issues in policies and plans of government, private sector, etc (Braunschwieger and Putz 2021). Climate Technocrats, researchers and policy analysts have shown interest in the mainstreaming of climate change into routine policy, planning and implementation activities of national and subnational governments, NGOs and private business entities (Lebel et 2012;.). In all of these areas the concept aided the identification of existing policy content, gaps in the coverage of key policy and implementation factors and application of strategies to ensure effective coverage. In this study mainstreaming will provide the conceptual backdrop for implementing a review of climate policy and action documents in Nigeria to determine their population content and ascertain if key dimensions and ramifications of population climate linkages in the country are covered.

### **Data and Research Methods**

This study applies a two stage desk review methodology comprising: i) an input-data/literature/document search and retrieval component, ii) a review process component and iii) an output component showing various results produced (Figure 1). The study is being conducted at the Department of Population Studies, National Population Commission. One of the mandates of the Department is to provide research based evidence for the development of 'population sensitive' climate policies and action and 'climate sensitive' population policies in Nigeria. At the first stage of the study a general/global online literature search and retrieval was implemented followed by a review of the retrieved literature (Table 1). The search was based on criteria related to the study questions and objectives and implemented with various general and specialized search engines like Google. The selection of search criteria, engines sites, and publications was further facilitated and enhanced by iterative application of expert knowledge and artificial intelligence (AI) applications. This led to two outcomes: the identification of key issues and perspectives on population climate and the development of a population climate linkage framework highlighting key paths and factors.

Both outcomes provided crucial input for implementing the national review at the second stage. The online search at this stage was based on objectives and criteria targeted at retrieval of Nigeria's national climate policy and action documents (Table 1). General search engines like Google were also used at this stage, however particular attention was paid to the websites of the Country's Federal Ministry of Environment and Department of Climate Change. The search criteria includes 'national climate change documents', Department of Climate Change (DCC) publications' and 'sectoral climate

change documents in Nigeria’. This search yielded a number of National climate policy documents. Selection of documents to be reviewed and appraised for mainstreaming of population and population climate change content was based on availability, date, and the need to cover different dimensions of climate change, and climate policy and action, namely: mitigation, vulnerability, impact, adaptation and resilience. Some of the documents were listed on the DCC website but could not be accessed. Other documents like the National Policy on Climate Change had different versions- only most recent was reviewed.

The mainstreaming review and appraisal was implemented through: i) internal (Ctrl F) search of the PDF format of the selected documents for the key word: population, to yield the number of times each document mentioned the word; ii) contextual reading of each mention to identify the number of relevant mentions. Relevant mentions includes those that are linked to the contribution of population factors change (like size, composition/characteristics, and resource use) to climate and/or the impact of climate on population, climate change mitigation, vulnerability adaptation and resilience. This includes mentions in the body of the documents text but excludes mentions outside the main body of the documents like in the table of contents, references, foot notes and appendixes.

To enable a more robust assessment of the population content and mainstreaming of population climate linkages in the documents, Ctrl F based key word searches were also applied to climate change related key words ‘mitigation’, ‘impact’, ‘vulnerability’ and ‘adaptation’ and ‘resilience’ to yield the number of times each was mentioned in each documents. This was followed by the determination of the number of relevant mentions. Identification of relevant mentions was made possible by contextual reading. Contextual reading helped in identifying when the mention of each of the terms is related to population.

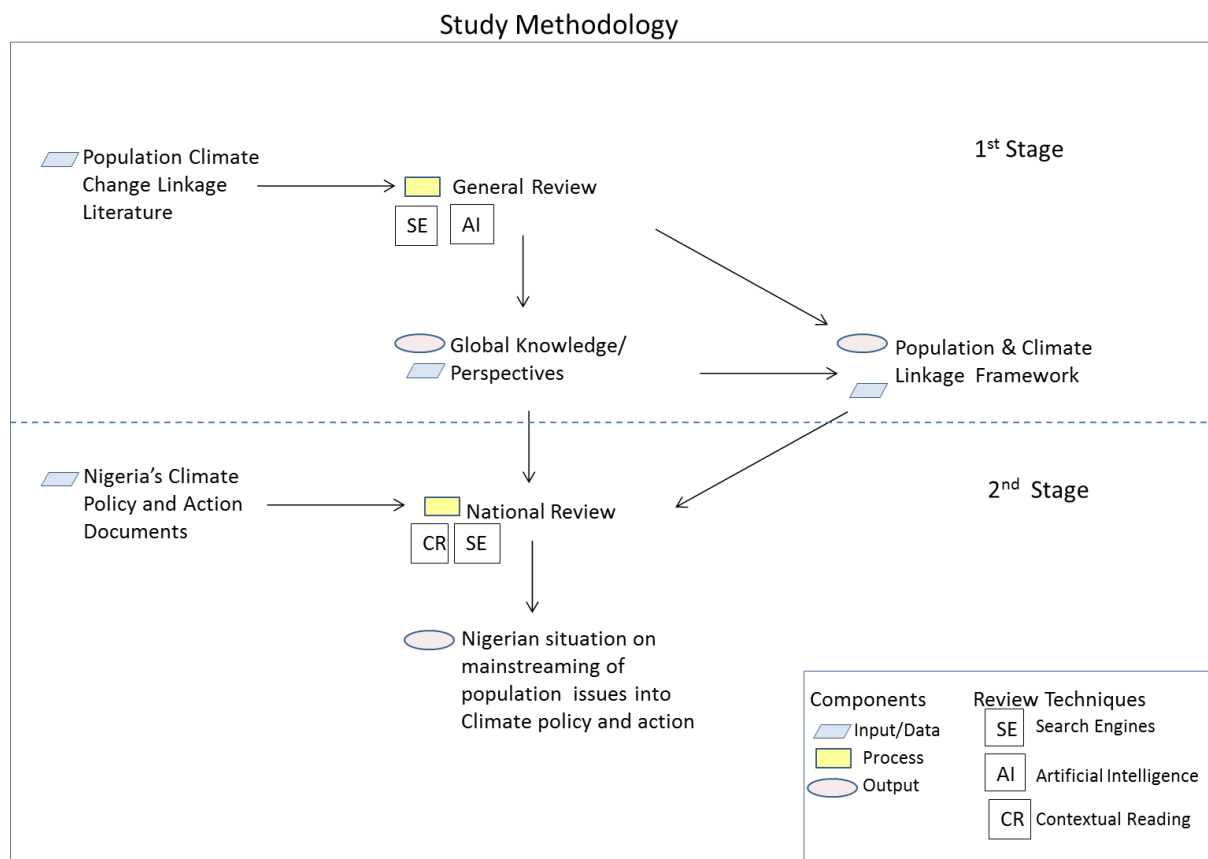


Table 1: Proposed Study Search Objectives and Criteria

Stage	Search Type	Search Objective	Search Criteria	Search Sub Criteria
1 <sup>st</sup>	Internet	To access and review the literature on population climate change linkages to identify key issues and perspectives	Population and Climate Change	-Role of population factors in climate change
				-Impact of climate change on population
				-Population and climate change vulnerability
				-Population and climate change adaptation
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Internet	To access and review Nigeria's National Climate Change Policy and Action Documents	Climate Policy Documents in Nigeria	-National policy on climate change Nigeria
				-National climate change adaptation documents
				-National climate change mitigation documents in Nigeria
				-Sectoral action plans for climate change in Nigeria
	Offline 'Ctrl F' Search of Climate policy documents	To determine the population content of Nigeria's climate policy and action documents	Population	-Population
			-Mitigation	
			-Impact	
			-Vulnerability	
			-Adaptation/Resilience	

### Expected results

The research is expected to highlight knowledge and perspectives on the linkages between population and climate change. It will demonstrate a methodology for desk review of national documents to evaluate mainstreaming of population into climate policies and action. This would enable the development of framework for understanding for the linkages. The study will show key climate policy and action documents in Nigeria. It will show the population content of the documents and the status of mainstreaming of population factors into Climate policy and actions in the country.