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Nigeria's Transition to a Green Economy: A Roadmap to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Nigerian's transition to a green economy is a crucial step towards achieving sustainable development and reducing the country's environmental footprint. This transition requires a deliberate shift from a fossil fuel-based economy to a carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable development pathway. Using doctrinal research methodology, this paper explored the opportunities and challenges for Nigeria to transition to a green economy while promoting sustainable development. The findings of this paper revealed that the transition to a green economy could create new job opportunities and stimulate economic growth. However, the paper also identified several challenges that must be addressed, including limited awareness and understanding of green economy concepts, corruption and inadequate infrastructure to support sustainable development. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves government, private sector, civil society, and international organizations working together to create an enabling environment for a successful transition to a green economy in Nigeria.

Keywords: Green Transition, Challenges, Opportunities, Legal Framework and Sustainable development

1. Introductionklu

Nigeria is committed to a national policy on the environment that ensures sustainable development based on proper management of her natural resources in a manner which meets the needs of the present and future generations. This requires balancing her human needs against the potential that the environment has for meeting them.[1]

The Nigerian policy, which recognizes the intrinsic link between the well-being of all Nigerians and the urgent need for sustainable development, aims at providing the necessary concepts and strategies to guide concrete actions and procedures that will propel Nigeria towards an era of social justice, self-reliance, and environmental conscious resource development.[2] The period between, 1989 when the policy was formulated and the present day has been marked by intense legal, administrative, judicial and legislative efforts to combat harmful environmental practices and mitigate the detrimental impact of human activities on the environment. Consequently, the judges of Nigeria's superior courts have delivered decisions granting Nigerians to seek redress for violations of their individual and communal environmental rights, to the extent that the issue of locus standi is no longer a barrier to environmental rights.

Furthermore, federal legislators have enacted and amended outdated laws, promoting sustainable development. The problems associated with sustainable development in the 1988 Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) have been addressed in the recent 2007 National

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[1] EDA Aina and NO Adedipe ed.,*The making of the Nigerian Environmental Policy* (Ibadan: University Press, 1991) 313- 329 for a full text of the Federal Republic of Nigeria National Policy on the Environment, 1989

[2] Ibid.

Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act and other Acts.

The recent Executive Order 009, now being streamlined by our National Legislature aims to make Nigeria Open Defecation Free (ODF), which is encouraging. If implemented, it will enhance Nigerian health standards, positioning Nigeria alongside countries like United States of America and India that have achieved Open defecation free (ODF).

In the landmark case of *Centre for Oil Pollution Watch v Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation,*[3] Justice C.C. Nweze, held that:

> *In simple term, therefore, this narrow and rigid conception of locus standi means that it is only a person who have suffered a specific legal injury by reason of actual or threatened violation of his legal rights or legally protected interest who can bring an action for judicial redress. In effect, this rule with regard to locus standi thus postulates a right – duty pattern which is commonly to be found in private law litigation.*

However, this conception of law has evolved, particularly in Environmental claims and issues. This, in the writer's view, it would be a significant gap in our public legal system if a pressure group like the federation or even a single public spirited taxpayer were prevented by outdated technical rules of locus standi from bringing the matter to the court's attention to uphold the rule of law and halt the unlawful conduct. It is not, in the writer's opinion, a sufficient answer to say that judicial review of the actions of officers or departments of central government is unnecessary simply because they carry out their functions. While they are accountable to parliament for their efficiency and policy, parliament is not the sole judge of their actions' lawfulness. The court is the ultimate arbiter of justice, responsible for ensuring the legality of their actions.[4] This decision exemplifies judicial activism by the Nigerian Supreme Court, safeguarding the Nigerian environment and promoting sustainable development.

Sustainable development is founded on the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic, technological environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainable development, however, refers to a holistic approach that integrates tools and strategy for achieving sustainable development. This approach harnesses financial, environmental, social and technical means to address various challenges, including poverty, global warming, acid rain, pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, climate change among others.[5] Indeed, transitioning to a green economy is crucial for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria.

2. Green Economy

Green economy is an economy that is low carbon emission, resource efficient, socially inclusive and innovative. It is an economy that results in improving human wellbeing and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.[6]A green economy

[3]Suit No. SC 319/2013 delivered on 20th July, 2018

[4] Ibid at p. 13

[5]MA Quaddusi,'Relationship between Environment and Sustainable Economic Development' available online at <https://www.scientificworldinfo.com/2019/03/relationship-between-environment-and-sustainable-development.html> accessed on 12th January, 2023.

[6] A ADENIKINJU, 'Green Economy for Sustainable Development: Policies, Regulations and Challenges', <https://energy.gov.ng/papers/NES%202022%20Green%20Economy%20and%20Sustainability%20Development.pdf> accessed 5 June 2024.

aims to reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities and to promote sustainable development without degrading the environment. It is closely related to ecological economics but has a more politically applied focus. Transitioning to a green economy is not about "greening" certain selective areas of the economy alone but setting a new system with its green market, green institution, green regulations and green behaviors.[7] It is based on the principles of sustainability, which means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

As such, Sustainable development is therefore understood as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[8] It involves using natural resources in a way that can be maintained and supported over time, considering the needs of future generation.[9] Sustainability here speaks of the capacity to ensure a stable and enduring outcome. In a broader sense, sustainability is equivalent to continuity or the ability to continue a process without termination. Sustainability is compatible with the existence of the universe and represents the ability to maintain a stable outcome. The transition to a sustainable state is predictable, but the form or state that is sustainable can be modified through intelligent or systematic intervention during the course of evolutionary process.[10] Sustainability is based on the processes, objects or matter. Sustainability is incompatible with a constant increase or decrease in the amount of matter. Instead, sustainability exists at the balance point between competing forces of growth and decline. A steady increase in the amount of matter leads to the depletion of the surroundings resources that support it or the exhaustion of the source that provides the increase, while a steady decrease in the amount of matter leads to its eventual depletion.

In bioprocesses, sustainability is compatible with a steady state.[11] It is often understood as asking, "what impact does this new development have on the planet's ability to sustain life and ecosystems over time?"[12] A dictionary definition of sustainability is, "The quality of not harming the environment or depleting natural resources, thereby supporting long-term ecological balance." However, when considering process development, this definition should be broadened to include all aspects that could potentially shorten the commercial facility's lifespan and return on investment, such as social, economic and operational factors.

As the new system is developed, process sustainability must encompass a comprehensive evaluation of the following factors, in addition to environmental considerations: long-term changes in existing technology; long-term availability of the feeds and catalysts, long-term cost and availability of utilities; long-term waste and by-products disposal; and long-term operability and maintainability of the process facilities.[13]

The widely accepted definition of sustainable development as stated in the Brundtland Report is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future

[7] Ibid.

[8] L I Nwokike, 'Sustainable Strategies for Waste Management in Nigeria. A Legal Appraisal' being a dissertation for the award of PhD in Law, Faculty of Law, NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria (2021) 9

[9] BA Garner, *Black's Law Dictionary*, (11th edn. United States of America: Thomson Reuters, 2019) 1749

[10] Liu Shijie in Bioprocess Engineering (2nd edn, 2017) available online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/sustainable-development> accessed on 4th January, 2022

[11] Ibid.

[12] See Joe M Bonem in Chemical Scale Up, 2018 available online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/sustainable-development> accessed on 4th January, 2022

[13] Ibid.

generations to meet their own needs.[14] While this definition is somewhat vague and open to interpretation, it has proven enduring and provides an aspirational goal for many. However, it offers little guidance on how to achieve sustainable development or assess progress towards it.[15]

By implication, sustainable development is a holistic approach that integrates economic, social and environmental considerations to ensure a balanced and equitable distribution of resources. It also requires a long-term perspective, taking into account the potential impacts of present actions on future generations. By contextualizing the definition of sustainable development, we can better understand the principles that underlie it, such as intergenerational equity, social justice and environmental stewardship. These principles guide our actions and decisions, ensuring that development are both sustainable and responsible.[16]

Sustainable development is therefore founded on the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic, technological environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainable development, however, refers to a holistic approach that integrates tools and strategy for achieving sustainable development. This approach harnesses financial, environmental, social and technical means to address various challenges, including poverty, global warming, acid rain, pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, climate change among others.[17]

3. The Relationship Between Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development

Environmental degradation is a significant obstacle to achieving sustainable development. The natural environment provides essential services, including air and water purification, soil formation and climate regulation, which are crucial for human well-being and economic growth. However, human activities like pollution, deforestation among others are damaging the environment.

Moreover, the writer's deliberate choice to use environmental degradation instead of environmental pollution id driven by the broader implications of the former, which encompasses not only pollution but also environmental contamination and decline in environmental quality. This terminology preference is essential to avoid perpetuating the mistake made by even seasoned environmental protection experts, such as Barry Commoner, who limited environmental deterioration to pollution alone.[18]

The expression 'environmental degradation' as has been asserted is a broad expression encapsulating environmental pollution and decline in environmental quality. The comprehensive scope of environmental degradation then must of necessity appropriate and accommodate the elements of both environmental pollution and decline in environmental quality;[19] as shown below:

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[14] Sustainable Development, 'https://www.iisd.org/mission-and-goals/sustainable-development', accessed 5 June 2024. K Saba Abdul Rasheed, 'After Rio what Next' in *Environmental Law and sustainable Development in Nigeria*. M Agomo and O Adewale (ed., Lagos: NIALS and British Council, 1994)

[15] See WJ Rankin in Treaties on process metallurgy: Industrial Processes, 2014, Ibid

[16] L Atsegbua, et al, op.cit at 69

[17] MA Quaddusi,'Relationship between Environment and Sustainable Economic Development' available online at <https://www.scientificworldinfo.com/2019/03/relationship-between-environment-and-sustainable-development.html> accessed on 12th January, 2023.

[18] B Commoner, 'The closing circle,' quoted in E H Heinks, *Environmental Law and Policy: Cases and Materials* (New York, 1974) p. 44

[19] AK Usman, *Environmental Protection Law and Practice* (Ibadan: Ababa Press Ltd, 2012) p. 56

3.1. Environmental Pollution

Environmental Pollution has been defined as 'the introduction by man into the environment of substances or energy liable to cause hazards to human health, harm to living resources and ecological system, damage to structures or amenity or interference with legitimate use of the environment.[20] Another definition of pollution, similar to the above, is: 'the direct or indirect introduction, as a result of human activity of substances, vibrations, heat or noise into the air, water or land, which may be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment, resulting in damage to material property or impairing or interfering with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.[21]

There are two points worthy of note regarding the above definitions of environmental pollution. First, the definitions imply that human beings are the sole and exclusive agents of environmental pollution. However, there are instances where environmental pollution may appear to originate from natural sources. For example, random gas emission from rocks and sediments can cause radioactive environmental pollution, leading to cancer and leukemia in humans. Similarly, volcanic eruptions release volcanogens like volcanic ash and dust into the atmosphere, seemingly causing environmental pollution.[22]Against this background, the above anthropocentric definitions may be vulnerable to criticism for being lopsided, biased snd narrow in scope, particularly from proponents of the chaos theory.

Be that as it may, it appears that the anthropocentric character of the definitions is informed by the Gaia hypothesis. According to this hypothesis, the earth is a self-regulating system, able to maintain the climate, atmosphere, soil and ocean composition in a stable balance favourable to life. Left alone, the earth, if it pollutes itself by natural processes, will cleanse or purify itself through other natural processes, utilizing negative feedback mechanism.[23]

This, according to proponents of the Gaia hypothesis, is what the water cycle exemplifies. The implication of the hypothesis, therefore, is that nature is not capable of permanently polluting itself through phenomena such as random gas emissions or volcanic eruptions. The only source of environmental pollution, therefore, remains human activity, as humans often act in discord with the natural order expounded by the Gaia proponents.[24]

The second point is that the definitions consider anthropocentric, biocentric and ecocentric perspectives. Being framed in this way, they align with the underlying philosophies of environmental protection that are prevalent today. For environmental pollution to be deemed to have occurred, it is not sufficient that the environmental medium in question has been contaminated in some way; rather, it must be demonstrated that this contamination has exceeded a critical threshold, rendering it harmful and deleterious to human health, animals and plants. Then determination of Pollution in an environmental medium by a polluting substance or energy is often influenced by various environmental factors, such as the state and character of the environment at the time of the polluting activities.

For instance, while the discharge of a poisonous and noxious industrial effluent into a large, free-flowing river may not necessarily lead to the pollution of the river, the same quality of effluent

[20]Art. 2 (2) of E.G. Council Directive 1996
[21]See Regulation 2 of the Pollution Abatement in Industries and Facilities Generating Wastes Regulations
[22]KT Pickering and S Beckwith, *An Introduction to Global Environmental Issues,* (London:Routledge,1994) p 166
[23]Ibid. p. 9.
[24] Ibid

when discharged into a small brook or river may lead to pollution that could be deemed a public nuisance. This highlights the importance of considering the specific environmental context and variables in determining the impact of polluting activities.

3.2. Decline in Environmental Quality

Decline in environmental quality refers to environmental deterioration, including phenomena such as extinction of animal and plant species, desertification, ozone layer depletion and global warming, among others. In fact, all instances of environmental pollution constitute a decline in environmental quality, since the ultimate consequences of any environmental pollution is a decline in environmental quality. The reverse, however, is not necessary true. Not every decline in environmental quality leads to environmental pollution. For instance, it is inconceivable to equate desertification or extinction of animal and plant species (forms of environmental decline) with environmental pollution. Thus, while every case of pollution invariably results in a decline in environmental quality, a decline in environmental quality does not necessarily lead to pollution.

The foregoing explains why environmental sustainable development focuses on practices that can sustain the environment for both present and future generations, whereas environmental degradation refers to activities that diminish the value of the environment, not only in the present but also for future generations.

4. Sustainable Development in the Context of Green Economy

The five principles of green economy which underpin sustainable development are:

a. The Wellbeing Principle

A green economy promotes inclusive prosperity, prioritizing people's wellbeing and happiness. This people-centred approach focuses on generating comprehensive wealth, encompassing human, social, physical and natural capital, to support wellbeing. It invests in sustainable natural systems, infrastructure, knowledge and education, offering opportunities for green livelihoods, enterprises and jobs. This principle balances collective action for public goods with individual choices, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future.[25]

b. The Justice Principle

The green economy promotes equity within and between generations fostering an inclusive and non- discriminatory environment. It ensures fair sharing of decision-making benefits, and costs, avoiding elite capture and prioritizing women's empowerment. The green economy aims to reduce disparities and promote equal opportunities and outcomes, striking a balance between human well-being and the preservation of wildlife and wilderness. With a long-term perspective, it creates sustainable wealth and resilience that benefits future generations while addressing today's poverty and injustice with urgency .especially supports women's empowerment.

Grounded in solidarity and social justice, the green economy strengthens trust, social ties and human rights, supporting the rights of workers, indigenous peoples, minorities and sustainable development. It empowers micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, social enterprises and sustainable livelihoods, ensuring a fast and fair transition that leaves no one behind. By covering

[25] 'The Five Principles of Green Economy', <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-and-resources/the-5-principles-of-green-economy>accessed 5 June 2024.

its costs and innovating in social protection and reskilling, the green economy enables vulnerable groups to drive transition and build a more just and equitable future.[26]

c. The Planetary Boundaries Principle

The green economy safeguards, restores and invests in nature, recognizing its diverse values. An inclusive green economy acknowledges and respects nature's multifaceted contributions, including its functional values (providing goods and services that underpin the economy), cultural values (underpinning societies) and ecological values (underpinning all life). It understands the limited substitutability of natural capital with other forms of capital and applies the precautionary principle to avoid loss of critical natural capital and exceeding ecological limits. The green economy invests in protecting, growing and restoring biodiversity, soil, water, air and natural systems, innovatively managing these systems by embracing their properties, such as circularity and aligning with local community livelihoods that depend on biodiversity and natural systems.[27]

d. The Efficiency and Sufficiency Principle

The green economy is designed to support sustainable consumption and production patterns. An inclusive green economy is characterized by low-carbon emissions, resource conservation, diversity and circularity. It adopts innovative models of economic development that address the challenge of achieving prosperity within planetary boundaries. The green economy recognizes the need for a significant global shift to limit natural resource consumption to physically sustainable levels, ensuring we remain within planetary boundaries. It acknowledges a 'social floor' of basic goods and services essential for human wellbeing and dignity, while also recognizing excessive 'peaks' of consumption that be addressed. The green economy aligns prices, subsidies and incentives with true costs to society, implementing mechanisms like the 'polluter pays' principle and incentivizing inclusive green outcomes that benefit those who deliver them.[28]

e. The Good Governance Principle

The green economy is guided by integrated, accountable and resilient institutions. An inclusive green economy is evidenced-based, relying on interdisciplinary norms and institutions that combine sound science, economics local knowledge for adaptive strategies. It is supported by institutions that are collaborative and coherent and integrated across sectors and governance levels, with adequate capacity to perform their roles effectively, efficiently and accountably. This economy requires public participation, prior informed consent, transparency, social dialogue, democratic accountability, and freedom from vested interests in all institutions – public, private and civil society – to ensure enlightened leadership and societal demand. It promotes devolved decision-making for local economies and natural resource management while maintaining strong, centralized standards, procedures and compliance systems.

The green economy builds a financial system that prioritizes wellbeing and sustainability, serving society's interest safely. This economy represents a universal, transformative change to

[26] Ibid.
[27] Ibid.
[28] ibid

the global status quo, requiring a fundamental shift in government priorities. Achieving this change is challenging but necessary to realize the Sustainability Development Goals.[29]

5. Policy and Regulatory Framework on Green Economy

Nigeria has several policy frameworks aim at transitioning the economy to a green economy:[30] The National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria 2021-2030 assists the country in achieving its goal of meaningfully contributing of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce the socio-economic impacts of adverse effects of climatic change. The medium-term outcome is to achieve a resilient socio-economic environment that promotes sustainable development and reduce emissions of GHGs. [31]

The National Policy on the Environment aims to ensure environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources for sustainable development'. Its strategic objective is to coordinate environmental protection and natural resources conservation for sustainable development.[32] Thus, Nigeria has developed policy frameworks and regulations to advance environmental conservation and sustainable development. The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) ensures adherence to environmental laws.

At the same time, the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP) seeks to increase the share of renewable electricity in Nigeria, from 13% of electricity generation -mainly met by large hydro- in 2015, to 23% in 2025 and 36% by 2030.[33] Moreover, the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency aims at setting out a framework for action to address Nigerians challenge of inclusive access to modern and clean energy resources, improved energy security and climate objectives and recognising the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities. This National Policy provides for improving energy supply across the country and utilisation of renewable energy sources, moving from the consideration that rural areas are remote and have a low demand density and depend on off-grid energy solutions, as the economies of on-grid deployment do not favour rural electrification. [34]

6. Benefits of a Green Economy Transition in Nigeria

Nigeria's transition to a green economy offers numerous benefits, including reduced environmental pollution, improved soil, water and air quality, and enhanced environmental well-being. By adopting green economy principles, Nigeria can mitigate global warning, biodiversity loss, deforestation, desertification and resource depletion, thereby protecting the earth and its wildlife from destruction. Additionally, green economy has the potential to drive economic

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[29] Global Legal Perspectives to a green transition and renewal energy: The Prospects and Challenges to developing countries. Available online at<https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-and-resources/the-5-principles-of-green-economy> accessed on 30/11/22

[30] Such as National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria 2021-2030, National Policy on the Environment (Revised 2016) Renewable Energy Master Plan 2005,, National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy 2015, e.t.c

[31] 'Nigeria: National climate change policy 2021-2030',<https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/nigeria-national-climate-change-policy-2021-2030> accessed 6 June 2024.

[32] V I Fagorite and I Malo, 'Paving the way to a green economy in Nigeria', <https://businessday.ng/opinion/article/paving-the-way-to-a-green-economy-in-nigeria/accessed> 6 June 2024.

[33] 'Renewable Energy Master Plan', <https://www.iea.org/policies/4967-renewable-energy-master-plan>accessed 6 June 2024.

[34]https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC211220/#:~:text=This%20National%20Policy%20aims%20at,activities%3B%20declaring%20energy%20efficiency%20as> accessed 6 June 2024.

growth by establishing new markets for biofuels and renewable energy resources, attracting international investments and boosting domestic sales.

This transition can position Nigeria as a leader in the global green economy, creating new opportunities for sustainable development and prosperity. The creation of more industries in a green economy in Nigeria will lead to a significant increase in employment opportunities, which in turn will foster a more stable society. As people's economic security grows, so will their sense of wellbeing and peace. Moreover, the emphasis on green technologies will elevate agricultural industries to a dignified position, driving innovation and the development of specialized skills. This, in turn, will reinforce Nigeria's position as a leader in the global green economy, attracting foreign investment and further solidifying its economic and environmental gains.

7. Challenges of Transitioning to a Green Economy

Transition to green economy is a complex and time consuming process that demands constant vigilance and effort. While the outcome is worthwhile, the journey is fraught with challenges. There is limited awareness and understanding of green economy concepts among policymakers, businesses and the general public. Moreover, insufficient funding and investment in green technologies and infrastructure may hinder the transition. Nigeria's infrastructure is largely inadequate, making it difficult to support sustainable industrialization. As such, limited access to green technologies and innovation hinders the transition.

Perhaps, the costs of goods and services may be prohibitively high due to the establishment of new green industries and the development of innovative technologies. Green and environmentally friendly products are often more expensive than their conventional counterparts, making them less accessible to the masses.

Furthermore, the creation and development of new educational disciplines require highly educated faculties, extensive research and significant investments, which can be a heavy burden on government and taxpayers. The need for substantial funding, may lead to increased taxation, potentially straining the citizens' finances. Moreover, during the initial phase of green economy development, the risk of corruption and bribery among dishonest authorities may escalate, posing a significant threat to the transition process.

Environmental degradation stems from harmful activities such as deforestation, pollution, and overexploitation of natural resources also poses a problem. Furthermore, climate change looms large, bringing more frequent and intense weather events that can wreak havoc on communities and infrastructure.[35]

Despite these challenges, perseverance and dedication are essential to overcoming the obstacles and achieving a sustainable and prosperous green economy.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Sustainable development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation, can be achieved by nations embracing a green economy. This can be activated if sustainable development is really aspired by nations without degrading the environment and actually participate in the reduction of environmental risks and ecological scarcity. However, the pursuit of urbanization, development and industrialization often poses a threat to achieving sustainable development and a green economy. To reconcile this, it is crucial

[35] Fagorite and Malo (n 32).

to strike a balance between urbanization, development and industrialization on one hand, and sustainable development on the other. By achieving this balance, nations can ensure a holistic development that categorizes them as a developed economy while safeguarding the environment and resources for future generation. However, while desiring for these, it becomes imperative to strike a balance between urbanization, development and industrialization on one hand and sustainable development on the other hand as all of them are needed for nations to be called and grouped as developed economy.

The transition to a green economy is a vital step towards achieving sustainable development and based on the challenges facing Nigeria's transition to a green economy, the writer makes the following recommends:

a. Develop a comprehensive and National Green Economy Policy and Strategy that addresses the challenges and provides a clear roadmap for transition.

b. Establish a dedicated Green Economy Ministry/Agency to coordinate and implement policies, programs and projects.

c. Provides incentives, subsidies and tax breaks to encourage private sector investment in green technologies and infrastructure.

d. Establish a Green Fund to provide financing for green projects and initiatives

e. Develop a national Green Economy Monitoring and Evaluation framework to track progress and adjust policies and strategies as needed.

f. Integrate these programs and policies into its national laws and legislation, aligning with the country's development goals and priorities.

g. Adopt, adapt and adhere to international agreements that foster green economy principles.

h. Embrace and practice the principles of green economy, well-being, justice and planetary boundaries, which are essential for achieving sustainable development and diversifying Nigeria's economy.

i. Collaboration with international organizations and member nations to utilize sanctions and incentives, as necessary, to encourage compliance with green economy principles, promoting healthy competition and cooperation among nations.

By implementing these recommendations, Nigeria can overcome the challenges and successful transition to a green economy, achieving sustainable development and prosperity for its citizens.