DOI: https://doi.org/10.52968/15061988
ISSN: 2805-3346

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Land Degradation in Nigeria: An Exploration of the Regulatory Framework for Land Resources Management in Ogun State

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria's infrastructure deficit has become acute because of the country's burgeoning population. The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, under labels such as Private-Finance Initiative (PFI) and Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), has been touted as the solution to the funding and other challenges confronting the country with regard to infrastructure development. This research sought to examine stakeholder experiences and perceptions on the benefits, abuse and challenges of deploying PPP for infrastructure procurement. The stakeholders investigated were in Lagos and Ogun States of Nigeria, although some of the experiences transcended the two states. Copies of the questionnaire were purposively administered to 115 professionals drawn from the built environment as well as from the legal and financial sectors of the Nigerian economy; the professionals were from the private and public sectors. Eighty-six (86) copies of the questionnaire were returned, with the data subjected to descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Ranking highest among the list of thirteen identified challenges investigated was 'political interference outside the agreed rules of running the PPP framework', while 'inability to initiate or package PPP projects' ranked least. The most significant form of abuse or disadvantage was 'embezzling of public funds and reinvesting in PPP as private-sector investor', while the least significant form of abuse was determination of the concession period. The inferential statistical analyses found no significant difference between both sectors in the assessment factors except in the matter of 'more careful approach in investing funds in infrastructure'. It is therefore recommended that there should be a continuous audit of stakeholder perceptions on various PPP issues that can form the baseline for impactful improvement and intervention in PPP projects.

Received: 16 October 2024

Revised: 29 June 2025

Accepted: 27 July 2025

Published: 6 November 2025

Cite article as: Fajobi, T. A. (2025). Land Degradation in Nigeria: An Exploration of the Regulatory Framework for Land Resources Management in Ogun State. *African Journal of Housing and Sustainable Development,* 6(1), pp. 3-12.

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Keywords: Institutional regulation, Land degradation, Land resources, Local actors, Nigeria

1.0 Introduction

Globally, the management of land resources for sustainable human development has been a herculean task. In Nigeria, inefficient management of land resources, leading to land degradation, has become a major environmental issue. Manifesting as deterioration in soil quality, deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity as induced by the activities of local actors, land degradation in the Nigerian context has been aggravated by the inefficient management of land resources. Xie, Zhang, Wu and Lv (2020) affirmed that about 75% of the world's land has been degraded, a situation

that not only hampers development but also threatens human existence in the face of prolonged droughts and extensive flooding. Some studies (e.g., Croitoru et al., 2020; World Bank, 2020) have estimated the cost of environmental degradation (CoED) in the Nigerian and Ghanaian contexts. Nigeria's CoED is estimated at US$9.7 billion, while that of Ghana's (CoED) is estimated at about US$6.3 billion, which is equivalent to 10.7% of that country's GDP for the year 2017. Clearly, therefore, land degradation is a real threat to development and human existence.

A study conducted in Efon Alaaye, Iseyin/Shaki, Udeni-Gida and Oke Ero in Ekiti, Oyo, Nassarawa and Kwara states respectively, a relationship was established between climate change and resource contestations in the context of resource scarcity, human migration and farmer-herder conflicts (Akinyemi, 2016). Ostensibly, the daily interactions of local actors, e.g., community leaders, farmers, local government and herders, with the land make them key stakeholders in the land-use and degradation processes. In the face of unwholesome activities due largely to inadequate land-use knowledge, conflict of interest and lack of functional regulations, these stakeholders have frequently impacted negatively on the land.

Despite the existence of several institutions with the responsibility of managing the country's land resources, e.g., the Federal Ministry of Environment, the National Environmental Standards and Regulatory Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and various state-level agencies, the effectiveness of regulatory interventions in Nigeria has often been compromised by various factors. According to Adegboyega, Oloukoi, Olajuyigbe and Ajibade (2018), land reclamation and other land-use practices in Lagos State have spawned various social and environmental, given the non-observance of best practices. The study found instances of lack of adherence to Environmental Impact Assessment reports in land reclamation exercises, leading to loss of forest cover and ecosystem depletion in the state. Consequently, Lagos continues to witness a vicious cycle of adaptation-unsustainability.

Studies such as Alumona and Onwuanabile (2019) and Asante, Abugri, Derkyi and Akoto (2021) also show that institutional interventions for ensuring social well-being and environmental sustainability are equally inadequate, especially as it gives no room for the input of the private sector, civil-society actors and religious institutions. Also, both the federal and state environmental protection agencies (FEPA/SEPAs) and their local government counterparts lack capacity, equipment and adequate staff for the effective implementation of environmental policies. Similarly, current regulatory policies on land resources are plagued by ambiguity and a top-down approach that neglects the input and cooperation of the local communities who are most affected by land degradation. According to Mbow et al. (2019) and Smits (2018), land management policies in the Global South are bedevilled by low implementation and control capacity, as well as lack of clear regulations, leading to limited participation by actors engaged in land resources.

In the Ogun State context in particular, land degradation has been left largely unchecked. For instance, large hectares of land have been taken up in an urban expansion drive. Another issue is the indiscriminate felling of productive trees, as well as mining and land excavation activities being undertaken by individuals. As a result, the land surface is left bare, with people's sources of livelihood being threatened while the environment continues to depreciate. If such activities persist at this rate, the state's land resources will be severely depleted. Consequently, it has become necessary to create an effective regulatory framework for managing the state's land resources. Against this background, this study explores the extent of involvement of local actors in the utilization of land resources vis-à-vis land degradation in, Ogun State, Nigeria, focusing on the functionality of regulatory intervention in tackling land degradation in the state.

According to Global Environment Facility (2018), land degradation has affected over 2.6 billion people globally, spread over 100 countries, which is one-third of the earth's land surface. Substantial parcels of irrigated land, for example, have been heavily damaged from yearly salinization, leading to loss of an estimated US$11 billion in production and 1.5 million ha of arable land (Global Environment Facility, 2018). In response to these issues, the

African Mining Vision and Action Plan was developed under the auspices of the Africa Union as a means to address the challenges of mineral resource governance on the continent. The policy aims to harness Africa's mineral resources as a way to reduce poverty and accelerate social and economic development through industrialization (Ambe-Uva, 2017).

With little attention having previously been paid to sustainable natural resources and environmental management on the continent, the Africa Mining Vision and Action Plan has been put in place to aid the development of policies that are in line with international conventions as well as regional and sub-regional policy frameworks. However, the Action Plan does not adequately cater to the well-being of present and future generations, as it is not in line with the outcome of the Rio+20 Summit, which emphasizes a development approach involving equitable distribution of resources, considerate use of natural resources and respect for the environment (Zilberman et al., 2019).

In Nigeria, Olaniyi, Olutimehin and Funmilayo (2019) noted that flood hazards have become increasingly common in the country, hence the need to assess the likelihood and potential impact of flooding in high-risk areas. Similarly, studies such as Olajide, Quadri and Ojakorotu (2018), Olaniyi, Olutimehin and Funmilayo (2019) also reported that the incidence of erosion and flooding has intensified owing to climate change, especially in the south-eastern region of Nigeria. Thus, gully erosion has displaced many Nigerians from their homes and farms in many parts of the region, especially Anambra State. According to Kouassi, Gyau, Diby, Bene and Kouamé (2021), land degradation is exacerbated by cultural practices and diverse forms of human activities on land. The authors reported that nutrient depletion (72.02%) was the most important cause of land degradation. Moreover, the shortening of the fallow period (46.72%) and the inappropriate application of inputs (31.39%) also contributed to land degradation.

On their part, Edoja, Aye, Abu and Ater (2021) reported that the massive exodus of people from rural to urban areas tends to subject the land to commercial and industrial activities, a situation that negatively affects its structure and quality (showing at a mean value of 2.77). By implication, the study observed, when more land is committed to industrial and residential development, the land available for agricultural purposes will be reduced and extensive industrial and construction activities will affect the structure of the soil, leading to erosion and waterlogging, which are forms of land degradation. Aloh and Uwakwe (2019) argued that the rapid rate of urbanization has increased the incidence of unsustainable use of environmental resources, such as tree felling and deforestation for various development projects. Furthermore, the unchecked extraction of environmental resources by unskilled miners has produced adverse impacts on land resources, with the effects including desertification, loss of carbon sink, erosion, and acid rain. Ango et al. (2019) noted that Nigeria's mining sector is dominated by illegal and informal miners.

Idowu and Ajibade (2024) reported that agricultural practices account for 55% of land degradation, with emphasis on Nigeria's rural areas. The study also showed that 45% of degradation of agricultural land reflects the increased rate of urbanization. In a study on the paradox of livelihood strategies and urban landscape degradation in contested spaces in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria, Ojo-Fajuru, Adebayo and Adebayo (2018) suggested that the depletion of green areas is an instance public-space encroachment for economic activities, which is another form of environmental degradation in Nigeria.

In their study, Obaze, Kwaja, Onuoha, Adejoh, Sulaimon and Ugwu (2022) noted that intercommunal conflict over the availability and use of arable land continues to propel the forced migration of occupants, owners and lords, further facilitating land mismanagement in the country. Obviously, despite the abundance of arable land in the rural areas, food insecurity remains a major problem there owing to unending conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. This conflict has disrupted the livelihoods of millions of families, particularly in Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Adamawa, Borno, Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Zamfara, Niger, and Plateau states. In another study, Kouassi, Gyau, Diby, Bene and Kouamé (2021), showed that negative effects linked to deforestation on community and ecosystems encompassed land degradation (70.6%), loss of biodiversity (63.8%), global warming (56.9%) and loss of livelihood

assets (54.3%). Besides, deforestation increased household poverty mainly by causing a loss of production (69.6%), reducing land availability (61.6%), causing loss of biodiversity (61.1%) and increasing temperature (56%) and drought.

In many developing economies, a considerable number of institutions have, in spite of their good intentions, generally been less efficient in managing land resources (Adewuyi & Olubiyi, 2020). Studies in the Ghanaian context such as Barreto et al. (2018) and Boafo et al. (2019) found a conflict between traditional and state policies relating to the management of mineral resources. In Ghana, the mineral and mining policy reserves small-scale mining for citizens, with all minerals belonging to the state. Thus, traditional authorities view themselves as the original owners of land and its mineral resources. Accordingly, local chiefs and family heads are able to lease lands for mining under the guise of development to both locals and foreigners, inevitably leading to degradation. A number of factors continue to drive this interest in illegal and small-scale mining, such as conflict of interest among politicians and law enforcement agencies and lack of requisite skills by rural youth.

In Kenya, Tonui (2022) noted that, despite enactment of the Kenya Constitution 2010, which has an elaborate chapter on the aspirations of Kenyans with regard to land and its sustainable use, no solid legislation or policy has emerged to give effect to its spirit. As a result, Kenya's land and landed resources have been continuously exposed to environmental and ecological degradation, without regard to sustainable land-use practices. In a study of pastoralist land-use patterns in Botswana, Basupi et al. (2017) observed that local customs and knowledge did not reflect in the land restoration policy and that the policy guidelines were often misleading because they did not reflect the reality and experience of land users. The study further showed that both the misunderstanding of customary rights and an absence of clear rights over grazing worsened land degradation in the context of widespread privatization of rangelands (Basupi et al., 2017).

In Nigeria, according to Asante, Abugri, Derkyi and Akoto (2021), not much effort has been made to maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs among institutions, developmental imperatives and environmental values. On their part, Adedoyi, Ako and Ogunlege (2011) contended that the problem in the Nigerian case is not availability of laws but lack of enforcement of environmental legislations, leading to unsustainable exploitation of resources. In a study on the level of effectiveness of Nigeria's land registration system, Okafor and Nwike (2016) noted the limited number of landowners (45%) with valid Certificates of Occupancy (C of O), with 55% of land transactions done in Rivers and Ogun States being done informally, leading to avoidable cases of land-ownership dispute.

In a study on the effectiveness of Nigeria's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system in mitigating environmental degradation and sustainable land use, Nwoko (2013**)** identified the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)**,** the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) and each state environmental protection agency as key institutions responsible for implementing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. According to the study, only 60% of development projects in the country adhered to EIA regulations, while a limited percentage ***(***40%) conducted substandard assessments ***or*** bypassed the process altogether. The author noted that the situation reflects lack of effective enforcement and monitoring, with the inevitable consequences being unbridled pollution, increasing deforestation rates and unregulated rapid urban expansion all over the country. The study by Akinlolu (2023) found that, despite the existence of robust legal frameworks like the Factories Act, several industries successfully bypass regulations owing to a weak framework enforcement. The study also noted that half of the sampled industrial facilities (50%) adhered with the environmental standards laid out in the Act, with the other half violating them. According to the author, this scenario is the result of corruption, lack of technical expertise and insufficient regulatory oversight.

Studies by Alumona and Onwuanabile (2019) and Asante, Abugri, Derkyi and Akoto (2021) further show that Nigeria's institutional efforts towards ensuring social well-being and environmental sustainability remain inadequate because of the neglect of the input of key land stakeholders and institutions. No doubt, the federal and state

environmental protection agencies, alongside their local government counterparts, lack the capacity, equipment and adequate staff for effective implementation of environmental policies. As Asante, Abugri, Derkyi and Akoto (2021) observed, the Nigeria Mineral and Mining Act 2007 has provisions for the long-term regulation of exploration and exploitation of minerals for development, with the majority of the provisions yet to be implemented.

Despite the extensive studies on land degradation in Nigeria, however, a significant gap remains in understanding the combined impact of the various socioeconomic factors, such as the conflict between farmers and pastoralists, the activities of inexperienced miners, human activities and cultural practices, and urbanization. Studies have largely focused on the individual causes of land degradation, with little attention paid to interactions among these factors. It is therefore necessary to investigate the issues with a view to filling this gap and suggesting effective, sustainable land-management policies in the country.

2.0 Material and Methods

The study utilized a mixed-methods research design based on a quantitative and qualitative approach. The research was carried out in Ogun State, one of the states in Nigeria's southwest region. Located close to the Atlantic Ocean, Ogun is one of the country's economically viable states brimming with land resources and a vibrant population. The selected study locations were Sango-Otta, Atan, and Ado-Odo, which have persistently witnessed land degradation. Primary data was collected through interviews and a questionnaire. For the quantitative data, the purposive sampling technique was used to proportionately select 100 respondents in each area, making it a total of 300 respondents. In each of the communities, the respondents were selected randomly based on their level of experience with land-related matters. For the qualitative data, key informant interview sessions were conducted for five (5) land resources users and managers (Sand excavators, community leaders, loggers, farmers, and governments officials) in each of the selected communities, totaling 15 participants. The participants were selected through purposive and snowball sampling techniques based on their understanding of land degradation issues in the state. The data was subjected to descriptive and content analyses.

3.0 Findings and Discussion

The findings were thematically presented in line with the study's main focus, followed by discussions and juxtaposition of the findings with previous insights.

Extent of Involvement of Local Actors: Utilization of Land Resources vis-à-vis Land Degradation

As Table 1 shows, the study found that land degradation occurs either on a large or small scale (87.7%). Consequently, land degradation of land in the study area was reported to have been caused by poor utilization of land resources through the activities of local actors, that is, sand excavation (28.7%) industrialization (25.5%), deforestation (25%) and erosion (20.6%). This implies that the activities of local actors in the utilization of land resources, especially in terms of sand excavation, industrial activities and deforestation, severely degraded the quality of land resources in the study area. Inevitably, these problems have undermined conservation and management efforts in relation to land resources in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Table 1: Involvement of Local Actors: Utilization of Land Resources vis-à-vis Land Degradation

Variables	**Response**	**Frequency N = 300**	**Percentage % = 100**
Forms of large-scale and small-scale land degradation in the community	Yes	263	87.7
	No	37	12.3
Major causes of land degradation in the community	Erosion	62	20.6
	Deforestation	75	25.0
	Industrialization	77	25.5
	Sand Excavation	86	28.7

Source: Fieldwork

In line with these findings, insights from the interview sessions confirmed the unchecked activities of sand excavators and industries, who respectively engage in illegal sand mining and unwholesome industrial waste-disposal practices in the study area. These activities, mostly undertaken by individuals and businesses for profit, expose the land to pollution, erosion and flooding, thereby impeding land conservation and management efforts in Ogun State, Nigeria. According to a participant:

> Sand excavators are the major people that degraded land here due to high presence of construction companies in this local government. It has encouraged their activities for the construction company in order to generate income for themselves, thereby exposing the land to erosion and flooding, which has caused untold hardship to people in this area – KII/Male/Logger/P003A/Ado-Odo.

> I believed the activities of industries, through inappropriate industrial waste disposal, degraded the land in this area. In addition, construction of roads enabled indiscriminate felling of cover trees to accommodate the roads, which encouraged degradation of land here. KII/Male/Community leader / Landowner/ P002A/ Sango-Ota.

Similarly, participants identified herder activities as responsible for land degradation in Ogun State. When cattle overgraze on farmlands, the inevitable result reduced food production. Expectedly, conflict has lingered between both parties over the years. A participants noted:

> Those people who degraded land here are the herdsmen, because the activities of their cows on our farm make it difficult to plant crops that will produce quality yields. Farming on such land with no fertilizer to sustain the land, affects the farm output severely. – KII/Female/Farmer/P004B/ Ado-Odo.

Thus, the findings confirm that the indiscriminate felling of trees has contributed to land degradation, which threatens the ecosystem and poses a challenge for human survival, as a major source of oxygen and pollution mitigator is being damaged. A participant stated as follows:

> The people that cut tress anyhow degraded the land, because the trees are what we need to generate the quality air we breathe in. If such trees are cut anyhow, there will be no protection from pollution here and this will lead to an increase in the rate of health challenges. Also, the activities of industries here are damaging the land in such a way that people near the industries are seriously affected because of the heavy machine they installed on the land – KII/Male/Sand excavation worker/P001A/Atan.

Another participant noted that the rise in monocropping practices and the lack of routine application of fertilizers on farmlands led to the degradation of land resources in the study area. As a participant noted:

> Farmers are one of the major perpetrators of poor land management because some are in the habit of not rotating their land for planting and also not applying enough fertilizers to make the land fertile, thereby killing the productivity of the land, which makes such land degraded. – KII/Male/Farmer/P004A /Atan.

However, governments at the federal and state levels were also identified as one of the major actors that contributed to the degradation of land resources in Ogun State, Nigeria. Although the Nigerian government is the custodian of all land in the country, it has limited control over land allocation by the state governments. This situation has given rise to traditional land opportunists, who operate on land unchecked, leading to the impeding of host community development. A participant observed thus:

> Governments are involved in the poor management of land because they do not have effective mechanism of distributing land in this area. This has enabled certain groups of touts called *omo onile* to usurp government's role on land to the detriment of the community development. – KII/Male/Community leader/ Landowner/P002B/Atan.

Regarding the involvement of local actors in the use of land resources vis-à-vis land degradation, the study found that land degradation occurred on both small and large scales (87.7%) in the study area. According to Olutimehin and Funmilayo (2019), land degradation in terms of flood hazards has persisted in Nigeria. As the present study shows, local actors contribute to degradation by engaging

unregulated and illegal sand mining, unwholesome industrial waste-disposal practices, overgrazing on land, indiscriminate felling of trees, and monocropping practices. On the part of government, there has been unbalanced land distribution by state government.

These issues continue to affect land quality and hinder land conservation and environment protection efforts in Ogun State, Nigeria. As Aloh and Uwakwe (2019) found, human-induced urbanization contributed to increasing levels of unsustainable use of environmental resource. Similarly, Kouassi, Gyau, Diby, Bene and Kouamé, (2021) note that nutrient depletion (72.02%) was the most important cause of land degradation.

Management of challenges of Land Degradation: Functionality of Regulatory Intervention

Table 2 shows that land ownership was not accessible to most people (87%), only to 13% of the population in the study areas. Similarly, majority of the people (79.7%) had no information pertaining to the Land Use Act, with only 20.3% being aware of the Land Use Act. Consequently, limited awareness and information about the Land Use Act, as well as government laxity on land degradation management, has significantly impeded pragmatic application of institutional regulations on land management and conservation in the study area.

Table 2: Management of challenges of Land Degradation: Functionality of Regulatory Intervention

Variables	**Response**	**Frequency N = 300**	**Percentage % = 100**
Accessibility to land ownership in the community	Yes	39	13.0
	No	261	87.0
Knowledge of the Land Use Act	Yes	61	20.3
	No	239	79.7
Governmental efforts in mitigating the challenge of land degradation in the community	Active	142	47.3
	Inactive	158	52.6

Source: Fieldwork

Findings from the interview sessions showed governmental ineffectiveness in tackling unwholesome land-use practices, with the government being more focused on raising revenue through taxes and levies, giving little or no attention to environmental sustainability. Given this lax regulatory environment, local actors in industry have a free rein in their waste-disposal practices. Unavoidably, this situation has negative implications for both human well-being and environmental sustainability. In the words of two of the participants:

> Government is not doing anything meaningful here, especially with the concentration of industries that damage land and unregulated felling of tree in this area. Government is only interested in collecting taxes from these industries and thereby neglecting problems caused by these industries to the land. – KII/Male/Sand excavation worker/ P001B/ Atan.

> What I know government does here is to come and collect their taxes from the industries. They are not concerned if the industries degrade the land or not. They do not even want to know what our standard of living looks like. Their role here is not functional and they just neglected the degraded land for us. – KII/Male/Community leader/ Landowner/ P002C/Sango-Ota.

As such, the participants described government as being more interested in profiting from increased agricultural output, without putting any mechanism in place for restoring land quality and checking any further degradation of land in the study area. The Ogun State government was further accused of partiality in its feeble attempts to address issues of environmental sustainability. Inevitably, such an approach has led to clashes of interest between key land users, especially farmers and herders. Two of the participants contributed thus:

> The governmental role here is below expectation and they are only concerned about our farm output and not the challenges of land

> degradation we face here…. They are not in any way functional in helping us reduce the challenges of land degradation here. – KII/ Male/Farmer/P004C/Ado-Odo.

> The herdsmen scared us anytime they were here and when they degraded our land, we tried to confront them. We informed the police and they acted on it partially, but the herdsmen activities continued unabated, without any government interventions to checkmate them on our land. – KII/Female/Farmer/ P004D/Ado-Odo.

Despite the concerns raised by participants regarding institutional interventions on land degradation in Ogun State, government response has been slow and largely ineffective. According to a government official in charge of land-related matters:

> There is no environmental agency at the local government level, but at the state level. There is the Ministry of Environment; they are the ones trying to regulate and supervise the activities of industries and even residential environments. So, the Ministry of Environment checkmates emission by the industries, whereas the Ministry of Commerce and Industries regulates and checkmates the sand diggers through issuing of licenses, and anyone not given a license but who involves in mining and degrading the land is prosecuted. But the performance of these functions by government institutions still needs more improvement. – KII/ Male/Urban and Physical Planning official/ P005A/Sango-Ota.

To put things into perspective, then, it bears noting that land ownership in the study area was inaccessible to the majority (87%), that most people had limited awareness of the Land Use Act (79.7%), and that there was an absence of regulatory intervention on land degradation (52.6%) in the study area.

In essence, ambiguities in the institutional framework on land management in Ogun State, Nigeria, as well as laxity in enforcement, has enabled the depletion of soil nutrients and encouraged a decline in the quality of the environment as caused by farmer-herder clashes, unregulated industrial waste disposal and indiscriminate felling of cover and productive trees. In research by Alumona and Onwuanabile (2019) and Asante, Abugri, Derkyi and Akoto (2021), it was established that the federal and state environmental protection agencies (SEPAs), alongside their local government counterparts, lack the institutional capacity, equipment and adequate staff to effectively implement environmental policies.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Land degradation is an unavoidable issue that has overtime presented a significant environmental challenge that affects ecosystems, agriculture and the livelihoods of millions of people in Ogun State and the rest of the country. This study has affirmed the negative role played in the land-degradation process by local actors, such as land excavators, farmers, loggers, traditional landowners, and government, who have contributed significantly to unsustainable land-use practices through illegal land mining, deforestation, overgrazing, unregulated distribution of land, and unwholesome agricultural practices. More importantly, the designated regulatory framework for managing land resources in the state remains fragmented and under-resourced.

Moreover, existing policies on land resources are poorly enforced, especially in the face of overlapping responsibilities involving federal, state and local agencies in Ogun State. Thus, lack of coherence and coordination among institutions hampers effective management of land-degradation challenges. Apparently, a legal framework like the Land Use Act tends to prioritize economic exploitation over environmental sustainability. Additionally, land-tenure systems in Nigeria are complex and often ambiguous, creating challenges for effective land management and enforcement of regulations. This complexity has led to disputes and further degradation as land users engage in unsustainable practices without fear of repercussions.

Given this situation, the study recommends a multifaceted approach for managing land degradation in Ogun State and Nigeria at large. In building the appropriate framework, it will be necessary to involve local actors in land-conservation efforts and the decision-making process, particularly through routine sensitization campaigns on land management, town hall meetings

and capacity building. Also, local actors in land matters should adhere with land laws and environmental guidelines on sustainable land practices, especially with regard to excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, excessive sand mining, the disposal of construction debris and recycle materials, and the proper management of industrial waste and hazardous chemicals. By adopting such efforts in sustainability, local actors will be contributing to the preservation of land resources. Finally, it will be necessary to strengthen the institutional framework on land management, especially in terms of well-designed, functional, pragmatic and people-centric land policies.

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