

Climate Change Reporting in Nigeria: Challenges and Implications for Development

MERIBE Nnaemeka, *Ph.D.*

University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

&

OKE Benson

University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Abstract

The potentially grave consequences of climate change make it a significant media issue. How the media cover climate change is crucial to public understanding of its likely consequences. Comprehensive media coverage of climate change is especially important in developing countries like Nigeria because of their weak adaptive capacity. With previous studies on media and climate change in Nigeria revealing low coverage of the phenomenon, it is important to understand why the Nigerian media have paid little attention to this issue of global concern. Drawing on a qualitative research design with climate change reporters from leading news media organisations in Nigeria, this paper explores the challenges of climate change reporting and highlights their implications for development. Findings reveal that bureaucratic obstructions, occupational routines, and organisational quest for profits are some of the drawbacks and frustrations climate change reporters face. The paper concludes that an improvement in the quality and quantity of climate change journalism is likely to increase the citizens' climate change adaptation

awareness level and provoke the different tiers of government to invest in the critical infrastructure that will boost the country's adaptive capacity.

Keywords: Climate Change, Climate Change Reporting, Development, Occupational Routines, Global Warming, Self-censorship.