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Green Economy Governance in Nigeria: Components and Policies/Strategies in Perspective

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Abstract

The relevance of green economy to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially in developing economies, underscore the necessity of effective governance to drive the green economy transition process. Thus, the study examined the components of green economy governance and the key policies/strategies governing green economy in Nigeria. The method adopted in the study was qualitative and content analysis approach involving desktop review of materials from secondary sources such as journals, publications of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Green Climate Fund, World Bank, among others. The study revealed that policy and regulatory framework and institutional arrangements are

among key components of green economy governance in Nigeria. Among the key policies/strategies governing green economy in Nigeria are: Climate Change Act, 2021 and National Policy on Climate Change, 2021. Overlap and poor enforcement, poor coordination and underfunding, high level of corruption, weak monitoring and high cost of green economy projects were among the major challenges identified. It was recommended among other measures that there is need to improve on the quality of green economy policies and strategies, strengthening environmental institutions and promoting credibility in terms of government commitment towards implementation of such policies.

Keywords: Green, Economy, Governance, Components, Policies

1. Introduction

The importance of the environment to human survival cannot be over-emphasized. According to Oyebanji, Adeniyi, Khobai and LeRoux (2017) ^[46], “the environment is a source of sustenance for more than 50% of the economically active high and increasing population of the African race and other developing economies as they largely get their source of livelihood from agriculture, animal husbandry, hunting, foraging and forestry. The need to get the source of livelihood and still maintain a quality environment directly explains the relevance of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which comprise seventeen (17) goals that guide the world to a greener economy, a more equal society and better governance.

Green economy as defined by UNEP (2011) ^[53] is an economy that results in improving human wellbeing and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It is thus an economy that emphasizes sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), created under the conditions of low carbon emission (SDG 13), is resource efficient (SDG 7) and prioritizes environmental preservation (SDGs 14 & 15) (Mun, Ni & Shan, 2022) ^[32]. More so, social inclusiveness mostly focuses on income equality (SDG 10) but also embraces issues of poverty alleviation (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2) and gender equality (SDG 5). Good governance is commonly linked to peace and justice (SDG 16) and institutional effort and partnership to achieve sustainable development. In a larger perspective, these nexus of green economy, equality and governance are also important in building a sustainable city and communities (SDG 11) and cultivating responsible consumption (SDG 12) towards a holistic sustainable development (Mun *et al.*, 2022) ^[32].

As noted by Hile (2024) ^[26], there is a substantial evidence that transition from “brown economy,” which is heavily reliant on fossil fuels without regard for their negative environmental impact, to green economy is pivotal to long-term economic development and the achievement of more equitable societies. The idea, according to him, is that the responsible use, and protection of natural resources would help in preserving them for the benefit of present and future generations. The green economy can thus, be seen as “a new engine of growth” and a vital strategy for eradicating “persistent poverty,” according to the UN agency meaning that green transition is crucial for a country like Nigeria to effectively address two of its perennial and

most fundamental problems, i.e. suboptimal economic output and widespread poverty (Hile, 2024) [26].

The above, is no doubt a pointer to the relevance of effective governance to the green economy transition movement in Nigeria as all stakeholders, practitioners, and institutions must play their key roles to ensure its success.

2. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of this paper are to:

1. Identify the components of green economy governance in Nigeria, and
2. Examine the policies/strategies governing green economy in Nigeria.

3. Green Economy Governance: A Conceptual Clarification

‘Green governance’ according to Pesqueux (2017) [47] is a multidimensional scope of sustainable development that requires a strategic and participatory approach that encourage the sustainable management of natural resources, especially in developing countries. It is an emerging field, attracting more and more attention from scholars and gradually becoming focus of policy making of governments (Li, Xu, & Zheng, 2018) [30].

As stated by Li *et al.* (2018) [30], preceding studies lack a systematic discussion of the definition of green governance in combination with governance and green implications.

Hence, to understand the meaning of green governance, their study suggests that two aspects should be comprehensively considered: (1).What is governance and what are the attributes and characteristics of governance? (2).What does green indicate?

Although governance is an interdisciplinary concept, ‘scholars’ understanding of the connotation and attributes of “governance” are generally consistent. Evidently, coordination, cooperation and scientific decision-making are the core attributes of governance. As noted by Li, Li & Shi (2016) [29], governance often has the attributes: (1). Governance is different from management and based on coordination instead of control. (2). Governance involves multiple interrelated stakeholders, including private and public sectors and economic organizations. (3). Governance emphasizes the balance of interests and scientific decision-making. (4). Governance is a continuous interaction and aims to maintain the continuity of relationship.

The term “green” has numerous definitions. Green symbolizes life and the background colour of nature. Thus, green is often used to refer to economic, social and environmental systems which can further represent the relationship between humanity and nature (Li *et al.*, 2018) [30]. From the foregoing, Table 1 presents a summary of views of researchers on the definitions of governance, green governance and environmental governance.

Table 1: Emerging definitions of governance/green governance/environmental governance

Concept	Year	Source	Definition
Governance	1997	UNDP	Seen as “processes, regulations or the results of interactions between the legislative and executive governments, the civil society, the judiciary, and the people”.
	2022	Ogunkan, D. V.	“The manner in which power is exercised in the management of the country’s economic and social resources for development”.
	2013	PRIA	“The joint responsibility of the state, market and citizens to mobilize public resources and promote decision-making towards common public good”.
	2015	Alaaraj, H.	Good governance is viewed “as a political and institutional system that promotes openness, accountability and public participation”.
	2016	Li <i>et al.</i>	“An institutional arrangement that is used to reconcile conflicts amongst stakeholders, thereby encouraging them to adopt joint actions to achieve scientific decisions”.
	2019	Nahar and Mishra (2019) [34]	“Any collective and purposive activities that ensure safety, prosperity, stability, and continuance of the sustainable development and go traditional hierarchical activity”.
	2020	Adeboyege and Arikewuyo.	“Good governance is assessed through outcomes. In this regard, it is related to the capacity of the government to deliver accurately public goods such as education, water, health, security, among others demanded by the citizens”.
	2020	World Bank.	“The procedure through which institutional decisions are made and exercised in a country.”

Concept	Year	Source	Definition
Green Governance	2011	Post <i>et al.</i>	“A long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability”.
	2017	Dieng and Yvon	“Government’s visionary, strategic and participatory sustainable management of natural resources”.
	2018	Li <i>et al.</i>	“Coordinates the conflict between human and nature through the design of a set of institutional arrangements or mechanisms, thereby ensuring the scientific decision-making of global green governance actions and ultimately maintaining the continuous and stable operation of the economic-social environmental system”.
Environmental Governance	2003	Graham <i>et al.</i>	“Comprising the relationships and cooperation between government and non-governmental agencies, mechanisms, and normative frameworks, in which powers and responsibilities directly or indirectly impact the use, management, and control of the environment”.
	2006	Najam <i>et al.</i>	Global environmental governance is the collection of institutions, organizations, policy measures, funding models, guidelines, processes, and norms that guide global environmental protection mechanisms.
	2009	deloe <i>et al</i>	“The institutions and processes by which the societies make decisions relating to the environment, which frequently include a normative aspects of sustainable development”.
	2022	Ogunkan D. V	“The formal and informal institutional arrangements employed by a given nation or society to tackle environmental issues and concerns.

Source: Author’s compilation, 2025

According to Bornemann and Weiland (2021) ^[5]; GGI. (2022) ^[22] SDG governance which incorporates green economy governance and environmental governance must provide an enabling climate for collective action, hold actors responsible, and deal with growing complicated trade-offs across aspirations. As the environmental issues are strongly connected to sustainability such as agricultural sustainability, the social and environmental domains are increasingly crucial to society. As noted by Yikun, Leong and T-Cong (2023) ^[57] effective governance has been referred to as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, alongside social, ecological, and economic aspects because of its relevance in motivating efforts to accomplish the goals.

4. Theoretical Underpinning

This study is predicated on the theories of institutional and environmental governance. These theories according to Ofori, Gbolonyo and Ojong (2022) ^[44] explain the relationship between governance and inclusive green growth (IGG). The institutional governance theory emphasizes the role of better frameworks and structures for inclusive growth (North, 1990; Acemoglu & Robinson, 2008) ^[40, 1]. This is clearly articulated by North (1990) ^[40] who argues that the role of institutions for shared growth is hardly controversial. Additionally, the theoretical relationship between institutions and the environment is anchored in the efficiency-effect hypothesis (theory) of quality governance. This hypothesis stresses the relevance of governance for investments decisions and the shaping of eco-friendly interactions, shaping of production behaviour and consumption behaviour (North, 1990) ^[40]. Accordingly, poor environmental quality is closely associated with poor institutional quality.

The theory of environmental governance points to a direct relationship between government effectiveness and environmental preservation. The theory emphasizes that institutions have been entrusted with the responsibility of setting environmental standards and empowering economic agents to act in a manner that is environmentally sustainable (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2017; Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), 2013; World Bank, 2012) ^[42, 24, 55]. The government's role is therefore to correct prices and provide regulatory frameworks to influence producers to be more eco-efficient, and to offer consumers choices for 'green' and 'ethical' products. For example, where low building energy efficiency contributes to high energy imports, enacting regulations or developing new mechanisms to encourage homeowners to invest in insulation and energy-efficient appliances could pay off in two ways: strengthening the economy and also preserving the environment (Fay, 2012) ^[12]. Taking cues from these theoretical perspectives, one can argue that the success of a green economy in promoting inclusive green growth from both sides of environmental sustainability and socioeconomic sustainability divide may be contingent on good governance.

5. Review of Literature

5.1 Overview of Components of Green Economy Governance

Green economy governance encompasses all the actors or participants that influence governance through the relationship of equity, voluntariness, coordination and

cooperation with a view to achieving sustainable economy (Li *et al.*, 2018) ^[30]. Accordingly, green economy governance components are: the enterprises, government, social organizations and the public (Li *et al.*, 2018) ^[30].

Enterprises, being consumers of raw materials and providers of jobs are producers of major products and so are important subjects and key components in the green governance framework. As stated by Li *et al.* (2018) ^[30] "if enterprises neglect environmental protection and resource efficiency in the operation process, then they will suffer pressure from stakeholders such as governments, competitors, shareholders and employees". Enterprises can drastically reduce the negative impact of business activities on the environment and enhance their competitive advantage by implementing "best practices" for green governance. Accordingly, enterprises should improve the framework of corporate governance and management system based on green governance view to ensure that no harm is caused to the environment in all aspects of their production and operations. They should be able define green governance responsibility and obligations of staff at all levels in the company's strategic development, establish salary incentive mechanism and promotion mechanism to improve the environmental competitive advantage and encourage everyone to participate in environmental governance initiatives and effectively. Also, enterprises should aim at sustainable development in all aspects of production and operation with a view to reducing the environmental impact of production and increase enterprises' and customers' value (OECD, 2009) ^[41].

The government as a key stakeholder in green economy governance provides leadership and strategic function that are mainly embodied in the provision of policies in green governance. Accordingly, government should establish and improve organizational structures and distribution system of rights and responsibilities that are consistent with green governance objectives and in addition, promotes environment-friendly policies (e.g. designing and drafting relevant laws and regulations of green governance that are consistent with the environment carrying status in political, economic and social activities).

Social organizations can provide many services to the society and undertake some social affairs that government departments and enterprises could not do well (Li *et al.*, 2018) ^[30]. They provide complementary resources such as relevant technologies, knowledge and information and mainly play the role of initiative supervisors in the green governance activities. In specific practices, environmental protection social organizations can guide and urge enterprises to assume responsibility of green governance initiatives through persuasion (environmental protection is beneficial to enterprises), requirements (environmental protection is the responsibility of enterprises), direct confrontation and destruction (green aggressive actions) and other actions.

The public is being tagged the most "extensive participants" in the green economy governance framework (Li *et al.*, 2018) ^[30]. An increasing number of public members have begun to consciously and systematically express their concerns on environmental pollution and their strong demands for green governance. The foundation for the public to promote green governance practices lies in the existence of effective channels for the expression of citizens' interests. They participate in green governance

mainly by means of “vote by hand”, “vote by foot” and “appeal”. According to List and Storm (2006) [31]; Harsman and Quigley (2010) [25], the public can influence the formulation of green governance policies through the “vote by hand” mechanism, after which they can also use the “vote by foot” mechanism to select the green public goods and green resources provided by the government.

UNECA (2020) gave a typology of stakeholders operations in a green economy to include governments and their agencies, research and academic institutions, think tanks, international and regional development organizations, private-sector players (including innovators, producers and organized political groups) all of which have specific roles to play in the green economy transition process. For instance, governments and public institutions are critical in providing the frameworks necessary for planning and implementing the green economy transition.

Ogunkan (2022) [45] gave a succinct classification of key environmental governance actors in Nigeria as: international, state, corporate and non-state actors. The international actors are the variety of institutions at the global level that make a significant contribution to and shape global environmental governance practice. Prominent among such international organizations as mentioned by Cameron (2012) [6] are United Nations institutions (e.g. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Others include Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank (WB), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), e.t.c.

The state actors are grouped into three: national, state and local. At this stage, environmental governance is aimed to intervene in environmental issues through environmental policy, law, the formation of regulatory agencies, and the imposition of sanctions. Corporate actors include all companies or businesses that own the environment a duty of care. Non-state actors (NSAs) according to Ogunkan (2022) [45] are stakeholders who are not representatives of states but perform on a global scale and have the potential to influence international relations. Examples include Civil Society, the media and non-governmental organizations.

5.2 Green Economy Policy Initiatives/National Strategies: Evidence from other Countries.

Between 2008 when the term green economy was revived and 2012 when the concept eventually received significant international attention during the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), green economy scoping studies were completed in 25 different countries under UNEP’s Green Economy Initiative (Kanianska, 2017) [27]. The reason behind these studies as penned by UNECA (2020) is that globally, the “business as usual” economic system has failed to deliver inclusive growth or social development and has often led to environmental degradation and scarcities.

Consequent on the above, various countries had put in place national green economy strategies or roadmaps. Key policy initiatives of some of these countries are briefly reviewed as follows:

France: The major green initiative is the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-2013: Towards a

Green and Fair Economy. The French strategy sets out to maintain the balance between the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, to reconcile the rights of present and future generations and to structure the national and local issues coherently. The NSDS proposed a decarbonized economy using far fewer resources which is compatible with the development of emerging countries, while at the same time pursuing a goal of social justice and equity.

For this purpose, the NSDS of France anchors on nine strategic challenges which must be taken up to move towards a green and equitable economy as listed below:

- Sustainable consumption and production
- The knowledge society
- Governance
- Climate change and energy
- Sustainable transport and mobility
- Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources
- Public health, risk prevention and management
- Demography, immigration and social inclusion
- The international challenges of sustainable development and the fight against global poverty (Kanianska, 2017) [27].

Great Britain: The UK Government, on coming to power in 2010, set its goal to “build a new economy that will support sustainable growth and enterprise, balance across all regions and all industries, and promote the green industries essential for the future”. The government set up the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which is charged with coordinating efforts across government on the green economy.

In a bid to making the whole economy green, the UK Government hinges its policy levers in three areas:

- Strengthening roles which entails:
 - Delegating to an independent body – the Committee on Climate Change, a role in setting tariffs and charges aimed at reducing emissions.
 - Strengthening the role of the Green Economy Council.
- Improving Strategy which encompasses:
 - Quantifying those ‘environmental limits’ that are most affected by economic activity in the UK, and building those limits into a green economy strategy.
 - Setting out a date by which the Government will publish its definition of an environmental tax.
 - Producing a green skill strategy to ensure that skills and training are adequate to meet the aspirations of green economy policies.
- Setting minimum standard which covers:
 - Introducing mandatory emissions reporting by business as soon as possible.
 - Developing with stakeholders and business minimum sustainability standards which could attract wide acceptance.
 - Developing indicators and targets by which progress towards a green economy can be measured (EAC, 2012) [10].

Rwanda: Rwanda has put in place a National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development (2011-2050) with the aim of transforming the country from subsistence agricultural economy to a middle-income country by 2020. The strategy, according to UNECA (2020) is based on the long-term vision for the country to be a developed, climate-

resilient, low-carbon economy by 2050. The strategy recognizes 14 specific sector-level programmes of action and 5 key enabling pillars focusing on governance, finance, capacity, innovation and planning. Due to the uniqueness of this strategy, it has become one of the major pillars of Rwanda’s second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2013-2018). More so, the country has created and capitalized the Fund for Environment and Climate Change funding instrument, all in a bid to transit the country to a green economy.

Kenya: In the Kenyan context, “a green economy refers to a shift towards development that promotes the efficient harnessing of resources and their sustainable management, social inclusion, resilience and sustainable development of infrastructure”. Thus, in 2015, Kenya developed a green economy strategy and implementation plan to guide the transition to a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, in line with the country’s second medium-term plan and Kenya Vision 2030 (Kenya, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, 2015) [28]. Policies and programmes in this direction include investment in renewable energy, the promotion of resource-efficient and cleaner production and enhanced resilience to economic and climate shocks. Policies also cover pollution control and waste management, environmental planning and governance, and the restoration of forest ecosystems.

The Kenyan Government has established a supportive policy and legal framework and created a national climate change response strategy to promote the aforementioned initiatives. There is also the strategy in green agriculture to shift both commercial and subsistence farming towards ecologically sound farming practices, such as efficient use of water, extensive use of organic and natural soil nutrients, optimal tillage, integrated pest control and agroforestry.

Furthermore, the Kenya constitution was amended in 2010 to accommodate an article stressing the right to a healthy environment and sustainable natural resource management. The National Climate Change Action Plan (2013-2017) was also developed in 2012 followed by the formal launching of the green economy strategy and implementation plan in June, 2017.

6. Materials and Methods

Secondary data from the statistical data base of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Green Climate Fund, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Power, the World Bank, study findings and other relevant publications on green economy governance were used as the data source. The analytical approach adopted in this paper is qualitative through desk top literature study and content analysis methods. Qualitative methods according to Sugiyono (2018) [50] and Cissé and Rasmussen (2022) [7] are used to examine natural conditions in the form of oral or written statements, actual events, or certain objects that are carefully observed by researchers to record and draw conclusions about the underlying meaning while content analysis is a technique for figuring out a text’s conclusion. These approaches were extensively adopted by Mursid, Aziz and Anjuru (2024) [33] in their study.

7. Results and Discussion

7.1 Components of Green Economy Governance in Nigeria

The components of green economy governance in Nigeria as revealed by content analysis are as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Components of green economy governance in Nigeria (content analysis summary)

S. No	Component	Description	Key Findings	Sources/References
1	Policy and Regulatory Framework	National laws, strategies, and policies promoting sustainability and low carbon development	Climate Change Act (2021), NREEEP, NASPA-CCN are key frameworks; overlap and poor enforcement are noted.	Climate Change Act (2021); NESREA Act (2007); NREEEP Policy (2015); NASPA-CCN (2011).
2	Institutional Arrangements	Organizations and ministries responsible for green governance	Institutions like FMEnv, NESREA, and Energy Commission exist, but suffer from poor coordination.	Federal Ministry of Environment; NESREA Reports; NCCC Institutional Reports.
3	Fiscal Commitment and Budgeting	Annual allocations and actual funding for climate and green economy programmes.	Budget lines exist (e.g., Annual Govt. Expenditure on Climate Change) but are often underfunded.	Federal Budget Office (2023); Central Bank of Nigeria (2022).
4	Green Economy Funding Programmes	Direct green investments and incentives by the government.	Fluctuations observed (e.g., N14.98bn in 2022 vs. N5.86bn in 2023); insufficient to drive outcomes.	Dataset (2023); Ministry of Finance Reports
5	Environmental Fiscal Instruments	Use of eco-taxes, levies, carbon pricing, and incentives to promote sustainability.	Environmental taxes remain low (<USD 115 million in 2021); no active carbon pricing yet.	World Bank WDI; Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).
6	Governance Quality and Transparency	Integrity, control of corruption, and accountability in governance structures.	High corruption perception (-1.13 in 2022); low governance effectiveness (-1.04 in 2023).	World Governance Indicators (WGI); Transparency International.
7	Monitoring & Evaluation Mechanisms	Systems to assess policy impact, programme effectiveness, and green performance.	Fragmented M&E systems; few cross-sectoral indicators; no national green governance dashboard.	FMEnv Annual Review (2022); NCCC Monitoring Reports.
8	Stakeholder Participation	Engagement of private sector, NGOs, communities in green decision-making.	Weak multi-stakeholder coordination; civil society often excluded from implementation processes	Academic literature (e.g., Adewuyi, 2021) [3]; CSO Reports.
9	Data and Information	Availability of green indicators, emissions tracking, and climate	CO ₂ emissions tracked (e.g., 130,982 kt in 2021), but data gaps exist in	NBS (2023); World Bank Climate Data.

	Systems	datasets.	biodiversity and pollution.	
10	Legal Enforcement Capacity	Strength of institutions in enforcing environmental regulations and penalties.	Limited enforcement; environmental offences often go unpunished or under-penalized.	NESREA Compliance Reports (2020); Environmental Justice Atlas.

Source: Content Analysis Result, 2025

The table revealed that green economy governance in Nigeria comprises ten (10) main components. The description and key findings of each component are succinctly presented.

7.2 Policies/Strategies Governing Green Economy in Nigeria

The major policies/strategies governing green economy in Nigeria are as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Policies governing green economy in Nigeria (content analysis summary)

S. No	Policy/ Strategy	Year	Lead Institution	Scope and Relevance to Green Economy	Implementation Challenges
1	Climate Change Act	2021	National Council on Climate Change (NCCC)	The Act institutionalized Nigeria’s climate governance framework by creating the NCCC. It mandates emissions target, climate budgeting, and mainstreaming of climate adaptation and mitigation into national planning (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021) [21]	Coordination challenges among ministries, lack of sub-national integration, and limited public awareness.
2	National Renewable Energy and Efficiency Policy (NREEEP).	2015	Federal Ministry of Power	NREEEP aims to diversify Nigeria’s energy mix by promoting renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro) and enhancing energy efficiency to reduce emissions and dependency on fossil fuel (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2015) [20].	Insufficient funding, weak monitoring mechanisms, and low private sector involvement.
3	National Environmental Policy	1999	Federal Ministry of Environment	Provides a broad environmental sustainability framework. It promotes waste control, biodiversity protection, and pollution reduction (Adewuyi, 2021) [3]. Though outdated, it laid the ground work for green development thinking	Obsolete provisions and vague implementation strategies.
4	National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (NASPA-CCN)	2011	Federal Ministry of Environment	Focuses on climate resilience, adaptation for agriculture, water, health, and disaster risk management. It encourages mainstreaming climate adaptation in national development (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2011) [18].	Limited capacity at sub-national levels and weak enforcement mechanisms.
5	Vision 20:2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint	2009	National Planning Commission	Recognised the environment as a development pillar and promoted green initiatives as part of long-term economic planning (National Planning Commission, 2009) [38].	Most targets were not achieved due to political changes and lack of continuity.
6	National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC)	2021	Federal Ministry of Environment	Replaces the 2012 version with a more strategic focus on emissions reduction, climate resilience, and the just transition to a low-carbon economy (FMEnv, 2021).	Lacks dedicated funding mechanisms and engagement at the community level.
7	Energy Transition Plan (ETP)	2022	Federal Ministry of Environment & Power	This landmark document outlines Nigeria’s pathway	High investment cost (~\$410 billion), reliance on

				to achieving net-zero emissions by 2060, balancing climate goals with energy access and economic growth (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2022) ^[13] .	international funding, and technological gaps.
8	National Green Growth Framework (Proposed)	Draft	National Planning Commission/NCCC	Aims to promote economic growth aligned with low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive development (NCCC, 2023) ^[37] .	Still in draft stage; lacks legal mandate or policy instrument.
9	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programme	2013	NESREA	Holds producers responsible for managing waste generated from their products throughout the life cycle, especially plastics and electronics (NESREA, 2020) ^[39] .	Poor compliance by companies and weak regulatory oversight.
S. No	Policy/ Strategy	Year	Lead Institution	Scope and Relevance to Green Economy	Implementation Challenges
10	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation Framework	2016	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs)	Provides a structure for aligning Nigeria’s national plans with the UN SDGs, particularly SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 7 (clean energy) (OSSAP-SDGs, 2016).	Limited inter-agency data sharing and duplication of activities.
11	Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP)	2005	Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN)	The REMP encompassed a wide range of renewable energy sources (solar, biomass, small hydro, wind and other technologies) all of which aim to increase renewable energy’s share in the national energy supply, expand energy access, and stimulate economic growth. By promoting sustainable energy practices, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating jobs and fostering a circular economy, the REMP is of great relevance to green economy (ECN, UNDP., 2005) ^[11] .	Policy and political barriers, market distortions, financial constraints, technological challenges, lack of awareness and education, international development barriers, standards quality and control barriers, research & development barriers and environment barrier (Udochukwu & Ogbonnaya, 2014) ^[51] .
12	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative National Strategic Action Plan (GGWSAP)	2012	Federal Ministry of Environment	Aims to combat desertification and land degradation in the region while also promoting sustainable livelihoods and reducing poverty. The policy encompasses integrated ecosystem management, sustainable land use practices, and local community participation. The policy is key to green jobs’ creation, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable development and climate change mitigation (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2012) ^[19] .	Difficulties in securing funding from national and international sources, coordination across multiple countries; community participation and political will and sustainability.

Source: Author’s compilation from content analysis result 2025

It can be seen from the table that green economy in Nigeria is governed by 12 major policies/strategies. The year in which the policies were enacted, the lead institutions, the scope and relevance to green economy and challenges to implementation of the policies are presented.

8 Conclusion and Recommendation

The paper has critically examined the components of green economy governance in Nigeria and the key policies/strategies governing the green economy transition in Nigeria. It is obvious from the findings that Nigeria has made concerted efforts to transit to a sustainable green economy. However, the commitment to build institutional capacities and drive policy implementation which are necessities for effective governance has been underwhelming. In the light of this, the following recommendations are hereby proffer:

1. There is urgent need to make necessary reforms towards improving governance effectiveness in Nigeria. To this end, there is need to improve on the quality of green economy policies and strategies, strengthening environmental institutions and promoting credibility in terms of government commitment towards implementation of such policies.
2. The fight against all forms of corruption through anti-corruption crusade, enactment of corruption laws and the development of the political will to prosecute and punish offenders should be intensified. This, no doubt will build a sense of full commitment by all stakeholders towards achieving the goals of green economy governance.
3. Stakeholders' participation, involving private sectors, NGOs, and the communities should be given the needed priority in the green economy governance process. This becomes imperative as most communities have begun to consciously and systematically express their concerns on environmental pollution and their strong demands for green governance. It will also encourage public-private partnership investments in the green economy transition initiative.

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