

# Climate Change and Decline of Cultural Heritage as Major Causes of Insecurity in Katsina State: A Way Forward

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## Abstract

*Climate change is a global phenomenon that transformed human activities such as debility of cultural heritage that steered to insecurity in Katsina State. This paper proffers and highlight the way forward as government at all levels focuses devotion on how to find elucidations to the lingering insecurity transversely Nigeria. Qualitative method was arrayed to examine the major causes of insecurity in Katsina State and engaged approach of combined data from primary and secondary sources as far as environmental condition is concern which is more geographical in nature, flooding, drought and desertification are the major problems of environment experienced in Katsina State. Series of interviews were conducted, and many published and unpublished materials were interacted for proper analysis. Banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping are the results of climate change and decline of cultural heritage couple with failure of government to provide for the citizens all the necessary infrastructure facilities, increased in corruption practices, high level of poverty, illiteracy, weak government institutions (judiciary security agencies) who failed to tackle insecurity appropriately in Katsina State and Nigeria at large. Implementation of government policy will have no doubt provide peace and harmony in the state, revive and strengthen cultural heritage, social responsibilities, family tie, societal norms and values that bond communities.*

**Keywords:** Climate change, cultural heritage, environmental conditions, desertification, government policies

## INTRODUCTION

The study of climate change and the decline of cultural heritage have become the major sources of national insecurity. This is paramount because virtually there is no state in Nigeria not affected with the devastating effects of climate change. The location of Katsina state makes it prone to natural disasters such as flood, drought and desertification hence, led to poor agricultural harvests, affected social organizations and put people into lifetime debt. To overcome obstacles, people decided to engage into different terrorist activities to include arm robbery, cattle rustling, banditry and kidnapping. Farmers and herders were dragged into excessive poverty which is a product of failed government policy. These present a gloomy picture of human life the quest for survival and delve into different studies to critically research to be able to provide measures to eliminate or reduce the effects of climate change and revive cultural heritage in Katsina State and Nigeria at large.

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## METHODOLOGY

Qualitative method was used to examine the major causes of insecurity in Katsina State and engaged analysis approach of combined data from primary and secondary sources. Series of interviews were conducted with different people and stakeholders which include security personnel, academics, royal fathers, religious leaders, arrested kidnappers, escaped victims of kidnapping among others. Published and unpublished materials were interacted also for proper analysis.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF KATSINA STATE

Katsina State falls within three agro-ecological zones, the Sahel, Sudan and Guinea Savannah Zones. The State was created in 1987 from the defunct Kaduna State located between Latitude 11<sup>o</sup> 08 North and 13<sup>o</sup> 22 North and Longitude 6<sup>o</sup> 52 East and 9<sup>o</sup> 20 East. It covers a total area of approximately 23, 983 km. Katsina State made up of 34 Local Government areas with Population of 5, 801, 584 based on 2006 population census. Kano State borders the state to the east, Kaduna State borders it to the south, Zamfara State borders it to the west, and the Niger Republic borders it to the north [1].

Nigeria's inselberg landscapes, which are characterized by a lot of domed hills and sporadic flat-topped ridges, are where Katsina State is situated. The region is generally between 305 and 610 meters above sea level. Katsina State has a tropical wet and dry climate. Rainfall peaks in August and lasts from May to September. Because of the region's extremely variable rainfall patterns and average annual rainfall of roughly 700 mm, there is a risk of severe and widespread drought, which might severely impair the state's socioeconomic conditions [2].

## CLIMATE CHANGE IN KATSINA STATE

In addition to the natural climate variability seen over similar time periods, a change in climate that can be directly or indirectly ascribed to human activity modifies the composition of the global atmosphere. Climate change in Katsina State as in other parts of the world is caused by human activities on the environment such as bush burning, desertification deforestation and environmental pollutions. In Katsina State, agriculture is the main source of income for two-thirds of the population. Approximately 85% of Katsina residents rely on agriculture directly or indirectly for their livelihoods, and farmers provide 85% of the state's food. Agriculture jobs make up the majority of the labor market. About 64% of all jobs in Katsina State are in the agriculture sector, and 43% of all workers are agricultural workers [3].

### Flooding

Flooding is the most frequent natural hazard in Katsina State, with about 256 incidents of flooding reported by NEMA in 2023. Steep headwater slopes make some local government areas vulnerable to dam flooding. Flooding of dams/rivers is usually a result of heavy rainfall and other channels that drained in the dam/rivers. The combined effects of inadequate socioeconomic growth and climatic change make the lack of vegetation a contributing factor to flood hazards. Due to significant rains and insufficient drainage systems, major towns also experienced floods, which severely damaged both residential and commercial properties [4].

### Droughts

Recurrent droughts of various durations and intensities plague Katsina State. Since 2000, thousands of farmers have been impacted by droughts, with four significant droughts taking place in 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2022. In the past thirteen years, incidents of hundred cases of drought were recorded in the State by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) [5]. The drought in 2019 and 2022 affected more than two-thirds of State's farmers and devastated the agriculture product result in poor harvest. In places where livelihoods rely on raising animals and growing grains, food and income were severely impacted; in other places, incomes were reportedly cut in half [6].

### Desertification

Northern part of Katsina State boarder to the Niger Republic is exposed to desert encroachment which amplified conflicts between the farming families and the Fulani herders. In Katsina State, where 75%

of the approximately 6 million people living on 24,192 km<sup>2</sup> of land are dependent on agriculture, desertification is one of the most severe environmental issues. It was also discovered that desertification accelerated out-migration to neighboring nations and affected migration to urban areas. Deforestation and farmland conversion by farming families have reduced forest reserves due to desertification, which has also encouraged bush encroachment and the extinction of palatable grass species [7].

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE IN KATSINA STATE**

Katsina State is termed as home of hospitality (cultural heritage) “Dakin Kara”. The inherited cultural heritage and hospitality and diversity caused the settlement of diverse cultural and ethnic groups in the area from the pre-colonial periods onwards. Katsina state was an intellectual area, it produced important Islamic scholars such as Waliyi Dan Masani, Waliyi Dan Marina, Waliyi Dan Taku to mention but few. This made the area to become Centre of learning hence, received the inflow of people from different area and background to settle couple with the favorable climate conditions that provide fertile soil suitable for farming and rearing of animals.

The conglomeration of diverse people in Katsina State created an opportunity for cultural relativism, cultural diversity and cultural heritage in the area among which include:

- *Kallon kowa (cultural display)*: This is an annual cultural display organize by the traditional leaders after the harvesting period, different ethnic groups resided in the area were official invited to display their culture, this includes: Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo, Nupe, Kanuri, Jukun, Badawa, Mangawa, Tiv as well as foreign communities like Sudanese, Nigeriens, Ghanians, Chadians, Lebanese among others. In addition, professional skills and unskilled occupation were also invited like, *Makera* (blacksmiths), *Maharba* (hunters), *Wanzamai* (barbers), *Masaka* (weavers), *Masunta* (fishers), *Mahauta* (butchers), *Mawaka* (Singer) and *Makada* (Drummers). This occasion provides understanding among diverse people with different cultural backgrounds, promote inter-marriages, boosted businesses, fostered friendship and mutual co-existence.
- *Wasan sallah (sallah festivities)*: This is a *Sallah* grounded occasion that occur twice in a year, it involves horse riding, singing and dancing, visiting relative and friends including non-tribal groups. People wore beautiful new dresses that signify their cultural affiliation. During this period, many met their wives, make friends, formed business partnership and promote peace, unity and stability.
- *Tsagen fuska (tribal marks)*: Tribal marks originated during the period of the slave trade, ethnic groups introduced tribal marks to identify their people in case of raids or wars and dragged to slavery. Development and spread of Islam and Islamic education and practices in Katsina State led to the adaptation of Islamic culture which forbidden any mark not only on the face but body generally. This led to the absolute abandonment of tribal marks by the majority of people. This permitted people to commit illicit criminal activities and camouflaged unidentified.

### **Declined in Family Ties and Social Responsibilities**

Katsina State people were bonded to family ties which encouraged social relationships, elders in the family were regarded as the highest governing body that decided on any issue. There was high discipline, obedience, respect and loyalty among relatives. Emergence and development of individualism, western education, high cost of living and decline of naira value, people focused attention to the family issues for fear of responsibilities. Gradually, family attention was limited only to family members. Other family members who were denied access to any help from the opportunist in the family led to the disrespect of elders. A brother cannot help his brother for fear of poverty, each is anxious to his immediate family. Hausa society is organized based on communal engagements and social responsibilities.

### **IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL DEBT**

#### **Agriculture**

The agriculture sector is extremely susceptible due to rising temperatures and altered rainfall patterns. Reduced rainfall during the busiest growing seasons, decreased river flow as a result of drought, and

increased soil evaporation when mean temperatures rose all had a significant impact on agricultural productivity. There will be significantly less water available for irrigation at the necessary times, and rainfall agriculture will suffer. This has an impact on crop selection and yield. Along with the amount of potentially productive land that is no longer farmed, crop failures are expected to rise. Farmers will become less interested in water-intensive staple crops and may instead choose more drought-tolerant ones. Livestock herding, dry land farming, and irrigated agriculture are thought to be the industry's most vulnerable to the effects of climate risks [8]. There is a lot of room to reduce water waste because the current irrigation system is just 25% efficient. A sizable portion of the agricultural industry may become marginal if substantial investments are not made in irrigation and water management.

### **Social Development**

The poor will be most severely impacted by climate change, particularly those who rely on rainfall agriculture for their livelihoods and food security [9]. Food costs will rise, and agricultural output will fall, increasing poverty and vulnerability. When resistance is diminished, climate shocks have the potential to push a sizable portion of the population into poverty. Also, more common diseases will impact social growth.

### **Debt**

Droughts have drastically decreased agricultural productivity, and floods have destroyed assets. Prices and food insecurity rise when crops fail. As they sell any assets they may have and take out loans to purchase food, seeds, or fertilizer, rural households that rely on agriculture as their primary source of income become even more indebted and impoverished [10]. When calamity strikes, households who were previously seen to be well-off also fall into poverty or are pushed to the edge, but the most vulnerable households suffer the most.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INSECURITY IN KATSINA STATE**

### **Government Policy**

Government at all levels failed to provide the basic needs for the citizens, Nigerian government designed good policies but failed to implement which resulted from the ineffective leadership experiencing. However, people are left for themselves in the provision of basic need such as schools, shelter, hospitals, roads, water and electricity. To curtail the lingering insecurity, government should do the needful in the provision of societal needs. This will surely eliminate or reduce the intensification of criminal activities [11].

### **Corruption**

Failure of government to provide the basic needs for the citizens led to the individual search alternative for survival, government officials at all levels, federal, state and local governments involved into different corrupt practices to fulfill the basic needs of their family. Funds were diverted from the actual government intention; public funds were looted by trusted personalities and contracts were not executed or half done. Nigeria is bond of corruption in all sectors of economy both private and public. To manage corruption problem which became rampant, government should provide to the people the basic and immediate needs, through this people will be committed and turn attention to their official task and responsibilities and keep away from public funds.

### **Unemployment**

Insecurity escalated in Katsina State and Nigeria at large as a result of high number of unemployment among people. Joblessness of our people which is a product of corruption and failure of government at all levels to provide employment opportunities to both skilled and unskilled people led to frustration and encourage many to involve in criminal activities such as arm robbery, cattle rustling, banditry and kidnapping. The dearth of numerous industries to hire the hordes of young people and others is the cause of Katsina State's high employment rate. The state government is the largest employer and still failed adequately to replace staffers that retired or die [12].

### **Poverty**

Failure of government policy, corruption and employment led to excessive poverty among citizens to the extent that, majority of the people cannot eat three secure meals a day. Katsina State's high rate of poverty is the cause of the current state of insecurity. Object poverty is common in Katsina State's rural communities. People were forced to serve as informants or logistics providers for kidnappers and bandits due to the high percentage of poverty. Katsina State's high percentage of poverty is the reason why the number of kidnappings is rising there [13].

### **High level Illiteracy**

Education sector in Nigeria is yet to meet the requirements of United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proposal of 25% of the total budget to be allocate to education. This is why education is decaying plus government failure to fund public schools. Many citizens were denied access to education either for proximity reasons, cultural or religious inclination, poor educational policy and infrastructures, good remuneration for teachers to mention but few. As a result, 75% of the total population cannot read and write. Katsina State has a high rate of illiteracy since many children and young people cannot afford to attend school or have not been able to finish their education. The majority of individuals in Katsina State are illiterate, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics literacy index.

### **CONCLUSION**

Climate change and decline of cultural heritage were considered as the major causes of insecurity in Katsina State and Nigeria at large. People derelict the inherited societal norms and values that bore human existence, strengthen family ties and communal relationships which hitherto allowed peace and harmony to reign. The environmental threat that changed social organization and forced economic challenges are drought, flooding and desertification caused by natural and human activities on the environment which led to the increased of temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns and variation that make the agricultural sector highly vulnerable. Higher mean temperatures led to increased soil evaporation, decreased river flow from drought, and decreased rainfall during peak cultivation seasons, all of which had a significant impact on agricultural productivity. Because of rainfall, agriculture suffered, and there won't be as much water available for irrigation when needed. Despite all these, government can improve life of its citizens through the provision of basic needs and infrastructures facilities, fight corruption, provide employment opportunities to the growing population. This would no doubt serve as a panacea to insecurity deviling people.

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