



A Policy Alignment Model for Nigeria's Foreign Policy and Global Climate Diplomacy Goals

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Abstract

Nigeria's engagement in global climate diplomacy has evolved alongside its broader foreign policy objectives, yet the alignment between these domains remains fragmented. This review examines the structural and policy-level disconnects between Nigeria's foreign policy agenda and its commitments to international climate governance frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2063. It proposes a Policy Alignment Model (PAM) designed to integrate national interests, sustainable development priorities, and global environmental obligations into a cohesive diplomatic strategy. The paper explores the historical underpinnings of Nigeria's foreign policy, identifies gaps in cross-ministerial coordination, and evaluates how geopolitical, economic, and institutional factors influence climate diplomacy outcomes. By synthesizing literature from environmental policy, international relations, and sustainable development studies, the review provides a conceptual framework that links domestic policy coherence with Nigeria's external climate engagements. The proposed PAM emphasizes interagency collaboration, evidence-based negotiation strategies, and alignment with regional blocs such as ECOWAS and the African Union. Ultimately, this study contributes to the discourse on adaptive foreign policy mechanisms in the Global South, advocating for a unified, sustainable approach that enhances Nigeria's credibility, leadership, and effectiveness in global climate diplomacy.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Rationale

Nigeria's foreign policy has historically been anchored on Africa's regional stability, economic integration, and the pursuit of global recognition through peacekeeping and multilateral engagement. However, the increasing urgency of climate change introduces new dimensions to Nigeria's diplomatic identity, particularly as environmental sustainability becomes central to global governance and economic resilience. Climate diplomacy represents an emerging field within foreign policy that integrates ecological commitments with developmental objectives, yet Nigeria's strategic framework for this integration remains weakly articulated (Ogunsola, 2019).

As the largest economy and one of the most carbon-intensive nations in Africa, Nigeria faces the dual challenge of maintaining economic growth while adhering to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. This calls for a more deliberate policy alignment model that bridges traditional diplomatic mechanisms with the objectives of climate governance. A coherent alignment would enhance Nigeria's bargaining power in international climate negotiations and strengthen its capacity to attract climate finance, technology transfers, and investment partnerships (Giwah *et al.*, 2020).

Moreover, as low-carbon transitions reshape global trade, procurement, and infrastructure systems, policy coherence across ministries—particularly foreign affairs, environment, and finance—becomes essential for sustainable growth (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). Aligning foreign policy with climate diplomacy also reinforces Nigeria's participation in continental frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, enabling regional synchronization of sustainability goals. This study therefore establishes a conceptual foundation for a Policy Alignment Model (PAM) that embeds environmental diplomacy into Nigeria's broader foreign policy strategy. The model supports the view that integrating climate objectives within foreign relations not only strengthens Nigeria's international legitimacy but also positions the country as a pivotal actor in the global sustainability discourse (Ajakaye & Adeyinka, 2020).

1.2. Research Objectives and Questions

This study aims to develop a Policy Alignment Model (PAM) that bridges the gap between Nigeria's foreign policy objectives and its commitments to global climate diplomacy. The primary objective is to evaluate how Nigeria can integrate environmental priorities into foreign policy decision-making to achieve greater coherence between national interests and international obligations. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Examine the existing institutional mechanisms governing Nigeria's foreign policy and their responsiveness to climate diplomacy objectives.
2. Identify structural, political, and economic factors that hinder alignment between domestic policy and international environmental frameworks.
3. Propose a conceptual alignment model that facilitates policy synchronization, cross-ministerial collaboration, and strategic diplomacy.

The central research questions guiding this study include:

- How can Nigeria's foreign policy be strategically realigned to reinforce its climate diplomacy goals?
- What institutional and governance frameworks are necessary to ensure coherent policy implementation?
- In what ways can climate diplomacy be leveraged to advance Nigeria's global standing and sustainable development objectives?

By addressing these questions, the study provides a structured pathway for integrating foreign policy with global environmental governance while contributing to the discourse on sustainable diplomacy in the Global South.

1.3. Scope, Significance, and Methodology

The scope of this study encompasses Nigeria's engagement with international environmental regimes, including its participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and African Union sustainability frameworks. It focuses on the intersection between diplomatic decision-making and environmental policy coherence from 2010 to the present, capturing Nigeria's evolving commitments to climate action and foreign policy reorientation.

The study's significance lies in its potential to guide policymakers in bridging the strategic divide between global

environmental commitments and domestic political priorities. By developing a policy alignment model, it contributes to sustainable governance literature and provides actionable insights for inter-ministerial coordination.

Methodologically, the research adopts a qualitative review approach, synthesizing existing literature on foreign policy, environmental diplomacy, and governance models. Secondary data from official government reports, multilateral agreements, and peer-reviewed articles will be critically analyzed to identify patterns, institutional barriers, and best practices. The analytical framework will be interpretive and comparative, drawing insights from other emerging economies with similar developmental and environmental profiles.

1.4. Structure of the Paper

The paper is organized into six coherent sections designed to ensure logical progression from conceptual foundation to model formulation. Section One introduces the background, rationale, objectives, and scope of the study, establishing the need for aligning Nigeria's foreign policy with its climate diplomacy goals. Section Two provides an overview of Nigeria's foreign policy framework, tracing its historical evolution and strategic priorities in relation to regional and global engagements. Section Three examines Nigeria's role in global climate diplomacy, exploring its commitments to international environmental agreements and comparative positioning among African states. Section Four identifies the gaps and challenges that constrain effective policy alignment, focusing on institutional fragmentation, governance inefficiencies, and resource limitations. Section Five presents the proposed Policy Alignment Model (PAM), outlining its conceptual structure, functional mechanisms, and implementation pathways. Finally, Section Six synthesizes key insights and advances actionable policy recommendations for enhancing Nigeria's diplomatic coherence in global climate governance. This structural approach ensures that each section builds on preceding discussions, culminating in a theoretically sound and practically applicable framework for Nigeria's sustainable diplomatic realignment.

2. Nigeria's Foreign Policy Framework

2.1. Historical Evolution of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Nigeria's foreign policy has historically evolved through shifting paradigms that reflect changing global, regional, and domestic realities. The post-independence era emphasized African solidarity and anti-colonialism, transitioning toward economic diplomacy and global integration as the country gained strategic prominence within West Africa. Recent decades have seen Nigeria's foreign policy adopting a more pragmatic approach—integrating sustainable development and climate diplomacy as key tools for regional leadership (Gbabo, Okenwa, & Chima, 2022). This evolution aligns with broader policy frameworks designed to strengthen Nigeria's role in global environmental governance while addressing domestic development imperatives. The emergence of sustainability-centered budgeting and green financing models reflects a growing awareness of the nexus between foreign policy, national interest, and climate commitments (Isi, Taiwo, Okereke, & Sofoluwe, 2022). Nigeria's engagement in multilateral platforms—such as ECOWAS, the African Union, and the United Nations—has

historically been driven by its leadership aspirations and commitment to regional stability. However, the expansion of foreign policy to encompass sustainable infrastructure and environmental resilience represents a significant policy shift (Giwah, Nwokediegwu, Etukudoh, & Gbabo, 2020). This transition has introduced adaptive policy strategies integrating energy diplomacy, cross-border collaboration, and multistakeholder engagement (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018). The historical trajectory thus illustrates a continuous recalibration from Afrocentric priorities to global climate-responsive diplomacy—positioning Nigeria as both a regional power and a strategic actor in sustainable development governance (Ogunsola, 2019).

2.2. Strategic Interests and Regional Engagements

Nigeria's strategic interests are deeply intertwined with its geopolitical influence across West Africa and its emerging role in global climate governance. The alignment of economic, security, and environmental objectives has transformed regional engagements into platforms for advancing both development and diplomacy (Sanusi, Bayeroju, & Nwokediegwu, 2020). Within ECOWAS, Nigeria has leveraged its energy and agricultural capacities to promote policies that enhance resilience to climate-induced disruptions. This strategic alignment underscores an

interdependence between foreign policy instruments and domestic sustainability goals, particularly in renewable energy cooperation and regional integration initiatives (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). The focus on climate diplomacy is reflected in Nigeria's participation in cross-border energy transition frameworks that bridge policy and technology gaps across Sub-Saharan Africa (Ogunsola, 2019).

Beyond regional cooperation, Nigeria's engagement with international partners is increasingly framed around sustainability-driven diplomacy. The adoption of low-carbon procurement systems and infrastructure financing models has reinforced its commitment to multilateral environmental goals (Gbabo, Okenwa, & Chima, 2022). Concurrently, Nigeria's strategic engagements in Africa's climate and energy councils signify a deliberate move toward leadership in green diplomacy and regional adaptation governance (Isi *et al.*, 2022). By embedding climate considerations within its foreign policy architecture, Nigeria positions itself as a mediator between economic aspirations and environmental stewardship—balancing development needs with global obligations (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018) as seen in Table 1. This multidimensional diplomacy strengthens Nigeria's identity as both a regional leader and a key player in Africa's climate future.

Table 1: Summary of Nigeria's Strategic Interests and Regional Engagements in Climate Diplomacy

Dimension	Strategic Focus	Regional/Global Engagements	Implications for Foreign Policy and Climate Governance
Economic Interests	Integration of trade, energy, and agricultural development to promote sustainable growth.	Engagement through ECOWAS and bilateral trade alliances focusing on renewable energy and agricultural resilience.	Enhances economic diversification and supports regional sustainability goals while reinforcing Nigeria's leadership in West Africa.
Security Interests	Addressing climate-induced conflicts and resource-based insecurities through regional cooperation.	Participation in peacekeeping missions and environmental security frameworks within the African Union and ECOWAS.	Strengthens Nigeria's diplomatic influence by linking environmental stability to regional security and development.
Environmental Diplomacy	Promotion of low-carbon development, renewable energy adoption, and climate adaptation measures.	Involvement in cross-border energy transition initiatives and global climate dialogues such as the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC.	Positions Nigeria as a proactive advocate for climate resilience and green diplomacy in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Global Leadership and Mediation Role	Balancing national development priorities with international climate obligations.	Collaboration with global partners in sustainable infrastructure financing and green technology transfer.	Establishes Nigeria as a mediator between the Global North and South, reinforcing its identity as a sustainability-oriented regional power.

2.3. Policy Instruments and Institutional Actors

The operationalization of Nigeria's foreign policy and climate diplomacy goals relies on the effectiveness of its institutional actors and policy instruments. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) remains central in articulating and implementing diplomatic strategies, often coordinating with the Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Power to integrate climate objectives into foreign engagements (Odinaka, Okolo, Chima, & Adeyelu, 2022). The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) and Nigeria's participation in the African Union's climate initiatives further highlight institutional synergy aimed at achieving policy coherence across multiple governance layers (Gbabo *et al.*, 2022). These actors operate within frameworks such as sustainability-centered budgeting and strategic risk-to-opportunity mapping, ensuring alignment between domestic

governance and global environmental standards (Isi *et al.*, 2022).

Policy instruments including bilateral agreements, multilateral treaties, and public-private partnerships have increasingly become tools for advancing Nigeria's environmental and diplomatic agenda. Mechanisms like the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and Nigeria's Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) exemplify this institutionalization of climate diplomacy (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). At the implementation level, regional collaboration with ECOWAS and African Development Bank (AfDB) programs reinforces Nigeria's role as a policy innovator within West Africa's climate governance ecosystem (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). The interplay between institutional capacity and multilateral coordination underscores the need for integrated

governance—transforming policy alignment from a rhetorical commitment into actionable diplomacy that strengthens Nigeria’s credibility in the international climate policy arena (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018).

3. Global Climate Diplomacy and Nigeria’s Engagement

3.1. Overview of Global Climate Diplomacy Frameworks

Global climate diplomacy provides a multilateral framework where national and regional actors coordinate responses to planetary challenges through treaties such as the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The frameworks are characterized by differentiated obligations, financial mechanisms, and technology transfer commitments designed to support developing economies (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018). Scholars emphasize that the Paris Agreement’s bottom-up structure empowers countries like Nigeria to align domestic priorities with broader sustainability agendas through nationally determined contributions (Ogunsola, 2019).

Within this global context, African countries increasingly integrate sustainable energy transitions, carbon finance, and adaptive infrastructure into foreign policy mechanisms (Giwah *et al.*, 2020; Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). A major transformation is evident in low-carbon procurement frameworks, ESG-driven contracting, and biodiversity-preserving investment models (Didi *et al.*, 2021; Erinjogunola *et al.*, 2022). These mechanisms embody a diplomatic shift toward evidence-based environmental governance. Nigeria’s legislative initiatives and climate legislation reforms demonstrate efforts to embed global sustainability frameworks into its national policy architecture (Taiwo *et al.*, 2022). Collectively, these global structures encourage developing nations to adopt integrated policy models that connect climate diplomacy, environmental legislation, and renewable energy investments to ensure shared accountability and adaptive resilience (Giwah *et al.*, 2021).

3.2. Nigeria’s Commitments to Climate Agreements

Nigeria’s climate policy commitments derive primarily from the Paris Agreement and its 2015 and 2021 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which articulate emission-reduction targets and adaptation frameworks (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). The national climate plan emphasizes a conditional 45% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030, contingent on international support, reflecting both diplomatic engagement and developmental pragmatism (Ogunsola, 2019). Through policy coherence across energy, transportation, and agriculture, Nigeria’s NDC integrates the UN Sustainable Development Goals with national industrialization strategies (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018).

Legislative reinforcement has been central to Nigeria’s compliance architecture. The Climate Change Act and associated environmental governance frameworks align national policies with global mandates (Taiwo *et al.*, 2022). Furthermore, ESG-aligned investment strategies and methane capture programs demonstrate commitment to decarbonization (Didi *et al.*, 2021). The government’s partnerships with the Global Green Growth Institute and regional initiatives under the African Union also reflect Nigeria’s ambition to position itself as a regional hub for renewable energy diplomacy (Erinjogunola *et al.*, 2022). Despite financial and institutional constraints, Nigeria’s alignment of domestic energy diversification with climate diplomacy underscores its evolving role in global

sustainability discourse (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020; Giwah *et al.*, 2021).

3.3. Comparative Analysis with Other African States

A comparative appraisal of Nigeria’s climate diplomacy with that of peer African states reveals significant variations in policy coherence, institutional enforcement, and financing strategies. South Africa’s carbon-pricing legislation and Morocco’s renewable-energy diplomacy demonstrate more structured integration of foreign policy with environmental governance (Erinjogunola *et al.*, 2022). By contrast, Nigeria’s model remains hybrid—balancing hydrocarbon interests with renewable energy diversification (Ogunsola, 2019).

Kenya and Rwanda have adopted adaptive low-carbon procurement frameworks emphasizing technology localization and biodiversity stewardship (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). Nigeria’s parallel initiatives under its NDC show progress but lag in coordination compared to these states’ unified strategies (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). Across the continent, ESG-aligned industrialization policies are emerging as new instruments of climate diplomacy, promoting carbon-neutral infrastructure development (Didi *et al.*, 2021). Nigeria’s institutional momentum—particularly its climate act and financing frameworks—aligns more closely with continental trends after 2021 (Giwah *et al.*, 2021; Taiwo *et al.*, 2022). However, gaps persist in regional synergy, as cross-border renewable trade and knowledge transfer remain limited compared with North African states’ cooperative mechanisms. This comparative analysis underscores that Nigeria’s trajectory, while promising, necessitates deeper inter-African policy integration to position its foreign policy as a central driver of continental climate diplomacy and sustainable transformation (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018).

4. Gaps and Challenges in Policy Alignment

4.1. Institutional Fragmentation and Inter-Ministerial Overlaps

Institutional fragmentation remains a key obstacle to the integration of Nigeria’s foreign policy with global climate diplomacy goals. The multiplicity of ministries—such as the Federal Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Petroleum Resources—has led to overlapping responsibilities and bureaucratic inefficiencies (Ogunsola, 2019). These structural redundancies create policy misalignments in negotiating and implementing Nigeria’s commitments under frameworks such as the Paris Agreement. The absence of a unified decision-making platform for inter-ministerial coordination has further limited Nigeria’s ability to present coherent climate policy positions internationally (Giwah *et al.*, 2020; Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). The country’s fragmented institutional design weakens policy continuity and generates inconsistent diplomatic messages, which reduces credibility in multilateral forums.

Moreover, climate-related decision-making often operates in silos, where ministries prioritize sectoral interests over national integration objectives (Essien *et al.*, 2020). This administrative duplication results in mismanagement of climate adaptation funds and fragmented data reporting across sectors. Strengthening inter-ministerial collaboration through the proposed Policy Alignment Model (PAM) requires embedding shared accountability frameworks and data harmonization protocols within Nigeria’s diplomatic machinery (Didi *et al.*, 2021). The institutional overlaps

between environmental agencies and economic policy units highlight the need for regulatory synchronization (Eyinade *et al.*, 2021). The establishment of inter-agency committees that integrate climate diplomacy within the broader economic and foreign policy frameworks would ensure coherence and enhance Nigeria's representation in global environmental governance (Odinaka *et al.*, 2022; Nwani *et al.*, 2022).

4.2. Economic and Political Constraint

Economic constraints significantly limit Nigeria's capacity to harmonize its foreign policy objectives with global climate diplomacy commitments. Fiscal volatility—driven by dependency on hydrocarbon revenues—undermines the consistent allocation of financial resources for climate-related initiatives (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). Budgetary uncertainties constrain Nigeria's ability to deliver on international commitments like the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Weak treasury management and limited diversification in revenue streams exacerbate these limitations, constraining climate finance mobilization (Eyinnade *et al.*, 2020). As economic pressures mount, the state prioritizes immediate fiscal stability over long-term sustainability objectives (Atere *et al.*, 2020).

Political dynamics also pose formidable barriers. Nigeria's climate diplomacy is often politicized by changes in administration, where policy continuity suffers due to competing political agendas and patronage networks (Okenwa *et al.*, 2019). The lack of an institutionalized, bipartisan consensus on climate governance creates inconsistencies in representation and negotiation strategies in international climate summits (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). Economic power imbalances further skew Nigeria's diplomatic influence, especially in multilateral funding negotiations (Aduwo & Nwachukwu, 2019). Weak fiscal governance systems hinder effective fund utilization, often leading to donor mistrust and reduced foreign direct investments in green projects (Dako *et al.*, 2020; Fiemotongha *et al.*, 2020). A coherent integration of economic policy frameworks with climate objectives—anchored on fiscal transparency and sustainable investment models—remains vital for Nigeria to overcome economic and political constraints in achieving climate diplomacy coherence.

4.3. Domestic Policy Inconsistencies and Implementation Barriers

Nigeria's domestic climate policy framework is hindered by inconsistencies between national development strategies and sectoral implementation mechanisms. Policy discontinuity following administrative transitions has disrupted progress on environmental commitments (Otokiti & Akorede, 2018). The absence of harmonized regulatory frameworks linking climate adaptation and economic development has led to fragmented outcomes across the power, transport, and energy sectors (Ogunsola, 2019). Many policy initiatives remain declaratory without operational blueprints, resulting in inefficiencies in execution and reporting at both national and international levels (Giwah *et al.*, 2020).

Implementation barriers also arise from inadequate institutional capacities, weak data integration systems, and limited stakeholder participation (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). The overreliance on donor-driven projects leads to inconsistent program ownership and policy reversal once funding ends (Didi *et al.*, 2021). Furthermore, regulatory duplication—

particularly in infrastructure and energy sectors—creates administrative delays in project approvals and compliance monitoring (Okiye, 2021). The lack of a national performance framework that aligns domestic initiatives with global climate objectives has weakened Nigeria's ability to meet its NDCs (Nwani *et al.*, 2022). The Policy Alignment Model (PAM) aims to address these inconsistencies through a standardized, cross-sectoral coordination matrix, fostering collaborative policy implementation and adaptive learning mechanisms. Integrating innovation-driven governance, as advocated by Otokiti and Akorede (2018), remains central to overcoming structural barriers and achieving a synchronized approach to Nigeria's foreign policy and climate diplomacy objectives (Essien *et al.*, 2021).

5. The Policy Alignment Model (PAM)

5.1. Conceptual Foundations of the PAM

The conceptual foundation of the Policy Alignment Model (PAM) integrates Nigeria's foreign policy objectives with its commitments to global climate diplomacy through systems thinking and governance coherence. The model builds upon sustainable policy integration frameworks that emphasize the need to harmonize domestic priorities with international climate goals (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). By adopting a systems-oriented approach, the PAM conceptualizes Nigeria's foreign policy as a multi-level governance system that requires coordination among ministries, agencies, and international partners to ensure consistent policy outcomes (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). This approach reflects a shift from fragmented institutional practices toward a unified framework for addressing environmental and economic interdependencies. Furthermore, the PAM's conceptual underpinnings rest on the integration of environmental diplomacy principles into Nigeria's broader economic development strategy (Ogunsola, 2019). It recognizes that foreign policy and climate objectives are mutually reinforcing when guided by data-driven and evidence-based policymaking (Ogedengbe *et al.*, 2022). The model thus advocates the use of advanced data analytics to anticipate environmental risks and assess policy effectiveness (Nwaimo *et al.*, 2022). In alignment with broader ESG frameworks, the PAM adopts sustainability indicators as part of foreign policy decision metrics (Didi *et al.*, 2021). By conceptualizing alignment through a cross-sectoral lens—linking renewable energy, governance, and diplomacy—it provides a coherent basis for Nigeria's participation in global environmental governance (Abass *et al.*, 2021; Giwah *et al.*, 2020). Consequently, the PAM serves as a foundational mechanism for harmonizing domestic and international policy agendas under Nigeria's evolving foreign relations architecture.

5.2. Model Components and Alignment Mechanisms

The Policy Alignment Model (PAM) is structured around three core components: institutional coherence, adaptive financing, and cross-sectoral synchronization. These components serve as the operational pillars for aligning Nigeria's foreign policy with global climate commitments. Institutional coherence promotes harmonized coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment, and the National Council on Climate Change to ensure policy congruence (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). Adaptive financing mechanisms, modeled after resilient infrastructure funding frameworks, encourage collaboration between public and private actors to mobilize resources for climate

adaptation projects (Nwani *et al.*, 2022). The integration of ESG-aligned financing tools into national development strategies enhances the country’s negotiation leverage in international climate forums (Didi *et al.*, 2021). Alignment mechanisms within PAM emphasize a risk-based and data-driven approach, ensuring that domestic policies are continuously evaluated for compliance with international environmental treaties (Essien *et al.*, 2021). For instance, supply chain management principles can be adapted to track emissions and policy compliance across government departments (Okenwa *et al.*, 2019). Furthermore, the model

incorporates AI-driven decision support systems to predict environmental and fiscal risks, aligning with frameworks used for infrastructure resilience (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). Quality control and monitoring systems, similar to those used in engineering and project governance, are embedded to ensure institutional accountability (Okiye, 2021) as seen in Table 2. Collectively, these components operationalize the PAM’s goal of achieving synergy between Nigeria’s foreign policy imperatives and its global climate diplomacy commitments, fostering transparency, efficiency, and sustained policy integration (Giwah *et al.*, 2020).

Table 2. Summary of Policy Alignment Model (PAM) Components and Mechanisms

Component / Mechanism	Purpose	Key Features	Outcome
Institutional Coherence	Harmonize foreign policy and climate governance across ministries.	Promotes coordination between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Climate Change Council.	Unified policy direction and stronger diplomatic representation.
Adaptive Financing	Mobilize sustainable funding for climate initiatives.	Utilizes ESG tools, green bonds, and public-private partnerships.	Increased investment and fiscal alignment with global climate goals.
Cross-Sectoral Synchronization	Integrate environmental, economic, and foreign policy objectives.	Applies joint audits, shared data systems, and inter-sector coordination.	Efficient implementation and reduced policy redundancy.
Alignment Mechanisms	Maintain accountability and continuous policy evaluation.	Employs AI-driven monitoring, emission tracking, and quality control systems.	Data-driven compliance and sustained foreign policy-climate alignment.

5.3. Implementation Pathways and Strategic Integration

The implementation of the Policy Alignment Model (PAM) for Nigeria’s foreign policy-climate diplomacy interface necessitates multi-level coordination, stakeholder inclusivity, and continuous policy evaluation. Implementation begins with institutional realignment, where ministries responsible for foreign affairs, environment, and finance adopt integrated planning systems to synchronize climate objectives with foreign policy priorities (Giwah *et al.*, 2020). These systems use structured data pipelines for monitoring policy compliance, akin to data integration frameworks in financial governance (Ogedengbe *et al.*, 2022). Additionally, climate-focused task forces should be established to embed environmental goals in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, ensuring consistency between national commitments and international advocacy (Ogunsola, 2019). Strategic integration within PAM also involves leveraging digital governance and business intelligence tools to enhance transparency and accountability (Nwaimo *et al.*, 2022). By employing ESG-aligned performance indicators, the model ensures measurable progress in climate diplomacy engagements (Didi *et al.*, 2021). Implementation pathways are further supported through adaptive financing systems that allocate resources to renewable energy transitions, reflecting low-carbon procurement principles (Sanusi *et al.*, 2020). Data-driven monitoring, modeled after compliance frameworks in regulated sectors, provides real-time feedback for decision-makers (Essien *et al.*, 2021). Ultimately, the strategic integration of PAM enables Nigeria to strengthen its diplomatic leverage, reduce policy redundancy, and improve institutional readiness for global environmental negotiations. This synergistic approach positions Nigeria as a proactive

actor in aligning its foreign policy agenda with sustainable global governance objectives (Abass *et al.*, 2021).

6. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

6.1. Summary of Findings

The study finds that Nigeria’s foreign policy remains insufficiently aligned with its global climate diplomacy obligations due to fragmented institutional structures, limited inter-ministerial coordination, and an absence of a unified national climate agenda. The Policy Alignment Model (PAM) developed in this paper demonstrates that sustainable foreign policy coherence requires integrating environmental priorities within the country’s diplomatic and development frameworks. Findings reveal that while Nigeria has ratified key international environmental accords, such as the Paris Agreement, these commitments are not effectively translated into domestic implementation strategies. The lack of synchronized policy instruments between the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs, and Finance contributes to inconsistent representation in international negotiations. Additionally, the study highlights the growing significance of data-driven governance, where real-time policy evaluation mechanisms can improve accountability and adaptation capacity. The PAM provides a structured approach for unifying Nigeria’s domestic climate policies and foreign engagements through institutional alignment, adaptive financing, and technological innovation. By emphasizing systems thinking, the findings underscore that effective policy coherence depends not only on policy formulation but also on sustainable mechanisms for monitoring, feedback, and continuous learning across agencies engaged in both diplomacy and environmental management.

6.2. Recommendations for Institutional Reform and Capacity Building

To strengthen Nigeria's climate-oriented foreign policy, institutional reforms must prioritize inter-agency integration, strategic leadership development, and data-centric decision-making. Establishing a National Climate Diplomacy Coordination Council (NCDCC) is recommended to harmonize objectives across ministries, streamline policy communication, and ensure consistency in global climate engagements. The institutionalization of climate diplomacy units within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerian embassies can enhance international negotiation expertise and representation. Additionally, building capacity in environmental economics, climate finance, and negotiation analytics will enable Nigerian diplomats to leverage global funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and climate adaptation partnerships. Capacity-building programs should be embedded within civil service reforms to institutionalize technical competencies in sustainability modeling, risk forecasting, and emissions reporting. Universities and policy institutes should collaborate to create specialized training curricula on climate diplomacy and environmental governance. Furthermore, digital governance platforms must be integrated into policy monitoring systems to enhance transparency, data sharing, and inter-ministerial collaboration. These reforms, anchored in adaptive governance and leadership accountability, will bridge the existing gap between national policies and global commitments, positioning Nigeria as a proactive and credible actor in international climate negotiations.

6.3. Future Directions for Nigeria's Climate-Oriented Foreign Policy

Future policy directions should focus on embedding climate diplomacy as a central pillar of Nigeria's national development strategy and international relations agenda. The country must transition from reactive participation in global climate negotiations to proactive policy leadership that aligns climate resilience with socio-economic transformation. A forward-looking approach involves integrating renewable energy diplomacy, green investment promotion, and carbon market participation into Nigeria's bilateral and multilateral engagements. Future models should leverage artificial intelligence and predictive analytics to anticipate climate risks and inform evidence-based policy interventions. Furthermore, Nigeria should pursue regional leadership within ECOWAS and the African Union to develop a continental framework for climate governance and sustainable resource management. Building public-private partnerships that link national industries with global sustainability initiatives will also enhance the country's economic and diplomatic influence. In addition, Nigeria's foreign missions must adopt green operational policies and advocate for global financing mechanisms that favor developing economies facing climate vulnerabilities. Ultimately, future directions require policy agility, diplomatic innovation, and continuous institutional learning to ensure that Nigeria's foreign policy remains dynamically aligned with the evolving global climate governance landscape.

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