

The Perceptions of Indigenes on the Impacts of Rising Sea Level on Coastal Erosion and Flooding in Nigeria Coastal Communities

Alexander Chinago Budnukaeku¹ 

¹Department of Transportation Planning and Management, Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic, Rumuola, Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria.

Correspondence: chinago.alexander@portharcourtpoly.edu.ng¹

ABSTRACT

Aim of the Study: Significant risks to coastal ecosystems and biodiversity are posed by sea level rise which impact coastal erosion, and floods to cause hazards, which will have a substantial impact on human livelihoods. This study investigates the perceptions of the indigenous people and their views on the subject matter.

Methodology: The methodology of the research was descriptive statistics like simple percentage and graphs for analysis. The research developed a questionnaire containing 6 questions. The target populations are the Coastal communities in the Niger Delta and Lagos. Sample size of the study was 450 respondents.

Findings: The results of this study have important consequences for the livelihoods of people who depend on these ecosystems, since they emphasize the disastrous impact of coastal erosion, flooding, and sea level rise on habitats, species extinction, and food chains in the marine environment. Current adaptation and mitigation measures have limitations and unintended consequences, and funding and community engagement are often insufficient. To address these challenges, researcher recommend integrated coastal zone management and planning, ecosystem-based adaptation, and community-led adaptation, as well as innovative financing mechanisms and funding models.

Conclusion: Early warning systems and flood-risk communication can help reduce the impacts of flooding, while relocation and retreat strategies for high-risk areas and climate-resilient urban design are also necessary. Research and development of new technologies and solutions, such as sea-level rise modeling and coastal restoration are vital, and addressing the root causes of climate change through mitigation efforts is critical. International cooperation and agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, are essential for global action on climate change. Finally, recognizing the cultural and spiritual significance of coastal ecosystems for indigenous communities and incorporating their knowledge and perspectives in adaptation and mitigation efforts is crucial.

Keywords: Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, Flooding, Coastal Ecosystems, Climate Change Adaptation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sea level rise is one of the challenging or pressing issues of our time, with adverse consequences for coastal communities around the world (Nicholls and Cazenave, 2010). Nigeria, with its extensive coastline and rapidly growing population, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of rising sea level (Allison and Bassett, 2015). Coastal erosion and flooding are the commonest and most rampant consequences of sea level rise; Nigerian coastal communities are already experiencing the devastating effects of these phenomena (Dasgupta and Shaw, 2017).

The rising of sea level is caused by several factors, such as the melting of glaciers and ice sheets, the thermal expansion of seawater as the Earth's atmosphere warms, and torrential rainfall added flood (Runoff) and thunderstorm outburst (Alexander and Weli, 2024; IPCC, 2019; Ologunorisa and Alexander, 2007, 2004). Even if greenhouse gas emissions are drastically cut, the process is predicted to continue for generations (Church and White, 2011). Global sea levels are expected to rise by approximately 1.1 meters by 2100 and possibly by up to 5.5 meters by 2300, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2019).

Over the past two centuries, global climate systems have warmed by around 1°C, which may be linked to the global rise in sea level (IPCC, 2007; IPCC, 2022). According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), sea level rise brought on by climate change will make coastal environments more vulnerable to floods worldwide (IPCC, 2007). Communities or settlements along the coast will be inundated by rising sea levels, resulting in the destruction of farms, recreational facilities, houses, and properties. Most coastal residents will lose their property, lives, and means of subsistence if caution is not exercised (Kelman, Gaillard, and Mercer, 2015).

Coastal erosion and flooding are already major concerns in Nigeria, where the coastline is rapidly changing due to natural and human-induced factors (Awosika & Oyebade, 2017). The Nigerian coast is characterized by long stretches of sandy beaches, mudflats, and mangrove swamps, which are highly susceptible to erosion and flooding (Umar & Oyebade, 2018). The coastal zone is also home to many important economic activities, including fishing, tourism, and oil and gas production (Akintoye and Olusegun, 2017). The coastal areas of Nigeria, especially in the south are characterized by long rainy season and very short dry season, besides the annual rainfall and rainfall intensity is always high (Chinago, 2020).

Sea level rise is predicted to have a significant effect on Nigeria's coastal erosion and flooding (Reid and Treml, 2019). More frequent and severe coastal flooding, erosion, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources are all consequences of rising sea levels (Temmerman and Kirwan, 2018). The ecology, infrastructure, and human settlements will all be significantly impacted by this (Adger, Arnell, and Tompkins, 2005). Furthermore, biodiversity and the livelihoods of those who depend on coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and coral reefs, will be significantly impacted by their loss (Worm and Barbier, 2016).

The social and economic impacts of sea level rise on Nigerian coastal communities will also be significant in the mitigation of coastal environment (Becken and Clapcott, 2017). Many coastal communities are already experiencing displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased poverty due to coastal erosion and flooding (Lincke and Hinkel, 2018). The situation is likely to worsen unless urgent action is taken to address the root causes of sea level rise and to protect and adapt Nigerian coastal communities to the impacts of climate change.

1.2 Problem Statement

The coastal dwellers of Nigeria are mostly rural indigenes with very low income. Most of them are peasant fishermen and farmers. The soil within the area are very fragile, therefore the impact of sea level rise affect the ecosystems and impact on the people themselves. All human activities are affected one way or another by sea level rise, which as noted by Chinago, (2017) is determinant to the people survival.

The survival of the indigenous coastal inhabitants depends on clear understanding of the relationship between sea level rise and the environment. The observations of the people over the years is the key to their survival, however, it still live them with untold suffering and challenges. This study is an attempt to understand the perceptions of the indigenes, with a view to making suggestions that will alleviate the problems faced by coastal dwellers in Nigeria.

Sea level rise is causing serious and wide-ranging issues for Nigeria's coastal ecosystem. More thorough studies on the effects of sea level rise and the resulting social and economic ramifications for coastal communities in Nigeria are required. In order to create policies and strategies that effectively protect and adapt Nigerian coastal communities to the effects of climate change and sea level rise, it is imperative that these information gaps be filled.

- 1) What are the current rates of coastal erosion and flooding in Nigerian coastal communities, and how are they projected to change under different sea level rise scenarios?
- 2) How do socio-economic factors such as poverty, population growth, and infrastructure development influence the vulnerability of Nigerian coastal communities to sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding?
- 3) What are the impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in Nigeria, and how will these changes affect the livelihoods of people who depend on these ecosystems?
- 4) How effective are current adaptation and mitigation measures in reducing the impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding in Nigerian coastal communities, and what new strategies are needed to address these challenges?
- 5) What are the policy and governance implications of sea level rise for Nigerian coastal communities, and how can national and local governments work together to develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies?

These research questions can help guide the investigation into the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in Nigeria, and inform the development of effective policies and strategies to address these challenges.

1.2 Aim of the Study

With an emphasis on the social, economic, and environmental ramifications of these events, this study aims to examine how sea level rise affects coastal erosion and floods in coastal towns in Nigeria. It also looks at what is currently known about flooding, coastal erosion, and sea level rise in Nigeria and points out areas where study and policy are lacking. Lastly, we will talk about possible mitigation and adaptation plans to deal with the effects of sea level rise on coastal communities in Nigeria.

Sea level rise poses a significant threat to coastal communities worldwide, and Nigeria is no exception (Nicholls and Cazenave, 2010). The country's coastline is rapidly changing due to natural and human-induced factors, leading to increased coastal erosion and flooding (Allison and Bassett, 2015). These phenomena have devastating consequences for human settlements, infrastructure, and the environment (Church and White, 2011).

Recent studies have highlighted the severity of the situation, with projections indicating that sea levels will continue to rise by about 1.1 meters by the year 2100 and potentially by up to 5.5 meters by the year 2300 (IPCC, 2007). This definitely will lead to frequent and severe coastal flooding, erosion, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources, and *submergence of some coastal cities* (IPCC, 2022). The impacts on human settlements and infrastructure will be severe, with potential losses estimated in the billions of dollars, *if not trillions* (IPCC, 2019).

The social and economic impact of sea level rise on Nigerian coastal communities is also a major concern; many communities are already experiencing displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased poverty due to coastal erosion and flooding (Umar and Oyeade, 2018). The situation is likely to worsen unless urgent

action is taken to address the root causes of sea level rise and to protect and adapt Nigerian coastal communities to the impacts of climate change (Kelman, Gaillard, and Mercer, 2015).

Despite the severity of the situation, there is a lack of comprehensive research on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in Nigeria (Reid and Treml, 2019). Existing studies have focused on specific regions or communities, but there is a need for a more holistic approach to understand the national implications of sea level rise. Furthermore, there is a need for more research on the social and economic impacts of sea level rise on Nigerian coastal communities, as well as the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation strategies (IPCC, 2019; Adger, Arnell and Tompkins, 2005).

In addition, there are significant knowledge gaps in terms of the current state of coastal erosion and flooding in Nigeria, as well as the projected impacts of sea level rise. It has been suggested that there is need for more data acquisition and research on the rates of coastal erosion and flooding, as well as the effectiveness of existing adaptation and mitigation measures (Becken and Clapcott, 2017 ; Umar, and Oyebade, 2018). This knowledge is essential for developing effective policies and strategies to address the impacts of sea level rise in Nigerian coastal environment (Lincke and Hinkel, 2018).

The study on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in Nigeria coastal communities is significant for several reasons.

Firstly, Nigeria is one of the most populous countries in Africa, with a rapidly growing population that is projected to reach 440 million by 2050 (Lincke and Hinkel, 2018). The country's coastline is already experiencing significant pressure from human activities, and sea level rise will only exacerbate this pressure. Understanding the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding is crucial for developing effective strategies to protect and adapt Nigerian coastal communities to the impacts of climate change.

Secondly, the Nigerian coast is home to many important economic activities, including fishing, tourism, and oil and gas production (Church and White, 2011; Awosika and Oyebade, 2017). Sea level rise and coastal erosion will have significant impacts on these industries, leading to loss of livelihoods and economic instability. This study will provide valuable insights into the economic impacts of sea level rise and inform policy decisions on how to mitigate these effects.

Thirdly, coastline protection, water filtration, and marine biodiversity habitat are among the significant ecosystem services that coastal ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs offer. The loss of these ecosystems due to sea level rise will have a major effect on the environment and the human groups who depend on them. In order to inform conservation and restoration measures, this project will look into how sea level rise affects coastal ecosystems and biodiversity.

Fourthly, this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding in Nigeria. While there have been studies on specific aspects of these phenomena, there is a need for a comprehensive study that examines the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in Nigerian coastal communities. This study will provide a holistic understanding of the issues and inform policy decisions at the national and local levels.

Fifthly, the findings of this study will have implications for policy and governance in Nigeria. The study will provide recommendations for adaptation and mitigation strategies, including the development of early warning systems, sea walls, and beach nourishment. The study will also inform policy decisions on how to address the social and economic impacts of sea level rise, including the provision of alternative livelihoods and compensation for loss of property and infrastructure (IPCC, 2007; Adger, Arnell and Tompkins, 2005).

Sixthly, this study will provide valuable insights for other countries in West Africa and beyond that are experiencing similar challenges. Sea level rise is a global phenomenon, and understanding its impacts on coastal erosion and flooding is crucial for developing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies

(Church and White, 2011). The findings of this study will contribute to the global body of knowledge on sea level rise and inform policy decisions at the international level.

Seventhly, the study will provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in Nigeria. The study will develop indicators for measuring the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation strategies, and provide recommendations for how to integrate these indicators into existing policy and planning frameworks (Awosika & Oyeade, 2017).

Eighthly, the study will provide opportunities for capacity building and training for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in Nigeria. The study will provide a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration, and inform the development of training programs and capacity-building initiatives (Akintoye and Olusegun, 2017).

To finish, the study will help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Goals 14 and 15 on Life below Water, Climate Action, and Life on Land. In addition to informing policy decisions about how to address these issues in a sustainable and equitable manner, the study will offer insightful information about how sea level rise affects coastal erosion and floods (Paris Agreement, 2015).

In conclusion, research on how sea level rise affects coastal erosion and floods in Nigerian coastal towns is important for a number of reasons. The study will help shape policy decisions on how to handle these issues by offering insightful information about the effects of sea level rise on the economy, society, and environment. Along with offering a framework for tracking and assessing the effects of sea level rise, the project will add to the body of knowledge already available on flooding, coastal erosion, and sea level rise in Nigeria. Lastly, the research will help achieve the SDGs by offering chances for training and capacity building.

2. METHODOLOGY

The work makes use of descriptive statistics like simple percentage and graphs for analysis. The research instrument used for this work include among others, things a well-structured questionnaire. The research developed a simple questionnaire containing 6 questions, which was administered to respondents. The questionnaire was constructed based on a 3 point likert scale. The target populations are the Coastal communities in the Niger Delta and Lagos. Digital questions were sent and it was configured in such a way that the system will closed when the targeted 450 respondents have responded. All the people that the questionnaires were sent to are people that understood the subject matter. It is important to note that Bio-data was not taken because the issue is not gender sensitive. The questionnaire and the responses of respondents are shown in Table 1.

Other set of materials used in this work include literatures from various medium, personal experiences as an indigene of Rivers State.

3. RESULTS

Table 1: Simple questionnaire administered to respondents and Respondents responses.

Questions	Agreed	Disagreed	Undecided
“Do you think that the current rate of coastal erosion and flooding and sea level rise is dangerous and alarming?”	398	34	18
“Do socio-economic factors such as poverty, lack of infrastructural development, growth in population, etc., influence vulnerability of coastal communities to sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding?”	320	70	60
“Are the current adaptation and mitigation measures in combating the impacts of the challenges emanating from	60	350	40

coastal erosion and flooding sufficient and effective?”			
“Are there measures or policies and governance implications on sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding in place for security of the coastal communities in Nigeria?”	50	350	50
“Are there any known new strategies in place to combat coastal erosion and flooding in the coastal communities?”	150	250	50
“Do you think that the impacts of sea level rise on the coastal ecosystem and biodiversity can affect the livelihoods of people in the coastal communities?”	280	150	130

From question 1 as shown in Table 1, an overwhelming majority (398) agree that the current rate of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding in Nigerian communities is dangerous, indicating a high level of concern and awareness about the severity of the issue. 398 represent 88% of respondents. 8% of the respondents disagreed, while 4% were undecided. Table 1 and Figure 1 shows that the people are aware of their sorry state but there is little or nothing they can do about it. That is their community; they may not have money to pay rent elsewhere, therefore they are resigned to remain the only place they have shelter no matter what happened.

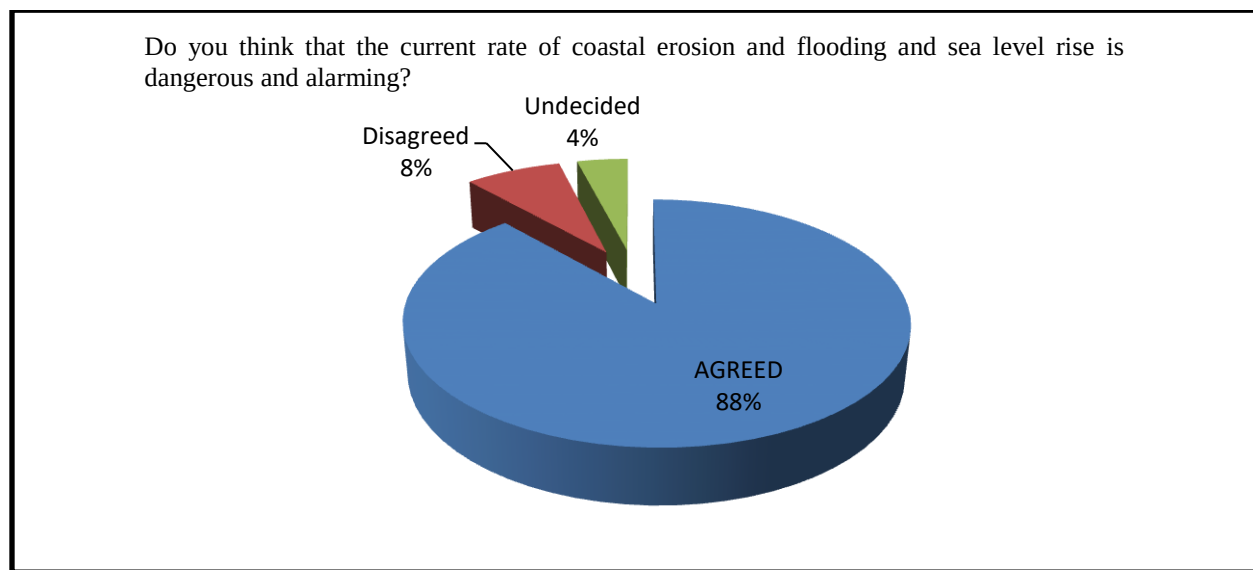


Figure 1: Indication of respondents reaction to question 1

In Table 1 above the second question responses show that a significant majority 71% (320) of the respondents agreed that socioeconomic factors such as poverty, lack of infrastructural development, and population growth influence the vulnerability of coastal communities to sea level rise which triggers coastal erosion, and flooding, highlighting the need to address these underlying factors in adaptation and mitigation efforts. 70 persons representing 16% disagreed, while 60 of the respondents representing 13% are undecided. The illustration for question 2 is shown in Figure 2.

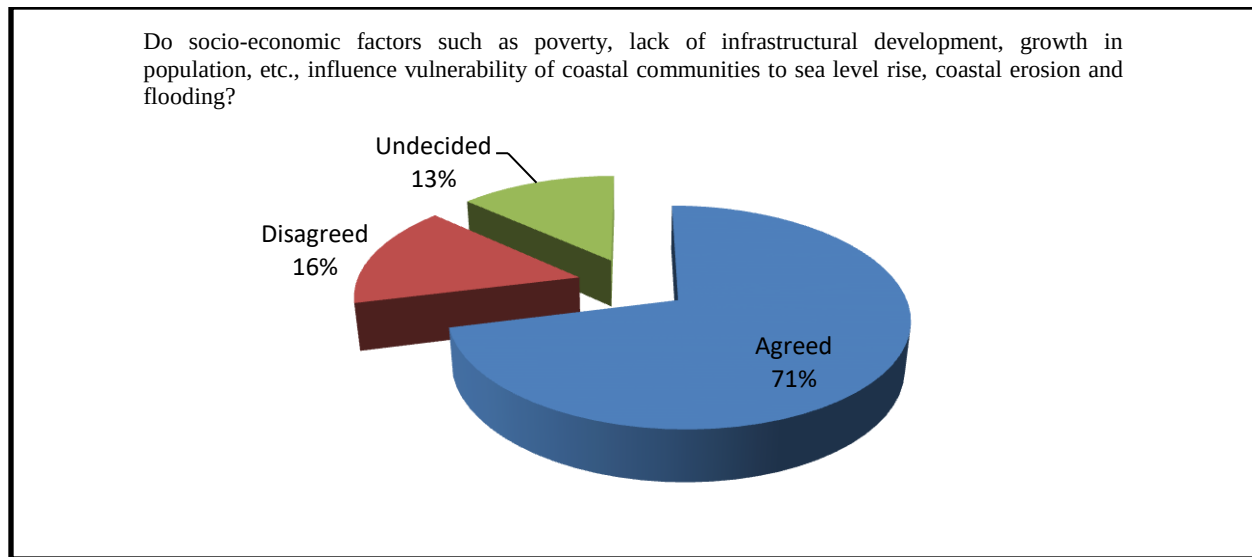


Figure 2: *Respondents reaction to question 2.*

For question 3, a majority of the respondents 350 respondents representing 78% disagree that current adaptation and mitigation measures are effective and sufficient, indicating a need for improved and scaled-up efforts to combat the impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding.

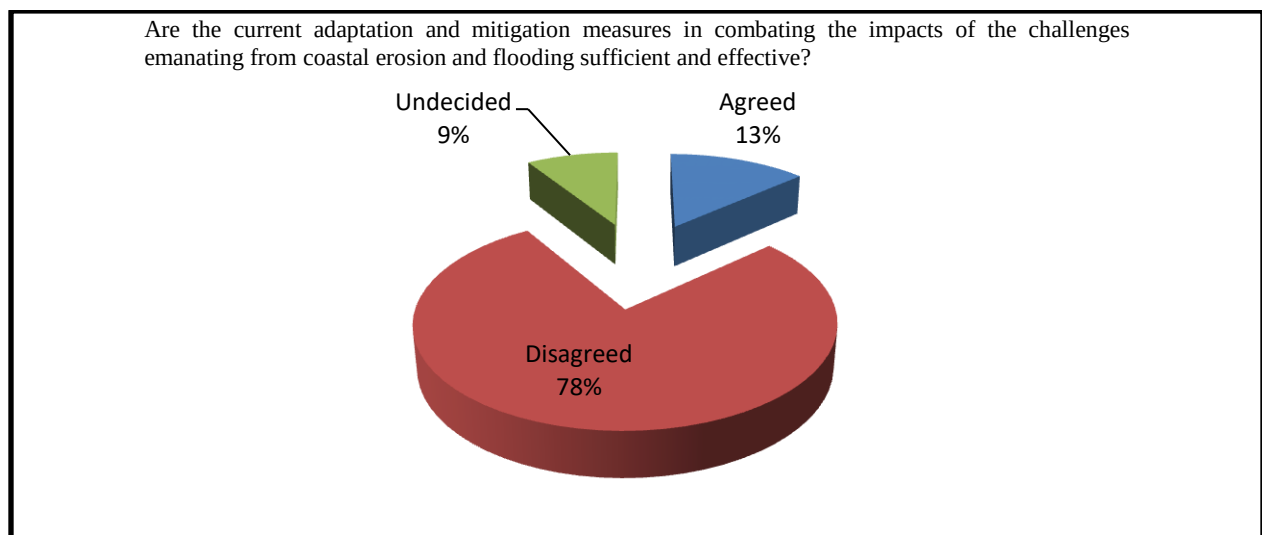


Figure 3: *Respondents reaction to question 3*

For question 4 which emphasises on measures and policies to check incident of sea level rise and its attended consequences in the coastal communities? The response as shown in Figure 4. Pointed that 78% of those interviewed, which is 350 of the respondent agreed that no measure or policies is in place to check the impact of sealevel rise or coastal erosion nor flooding in the subject area.

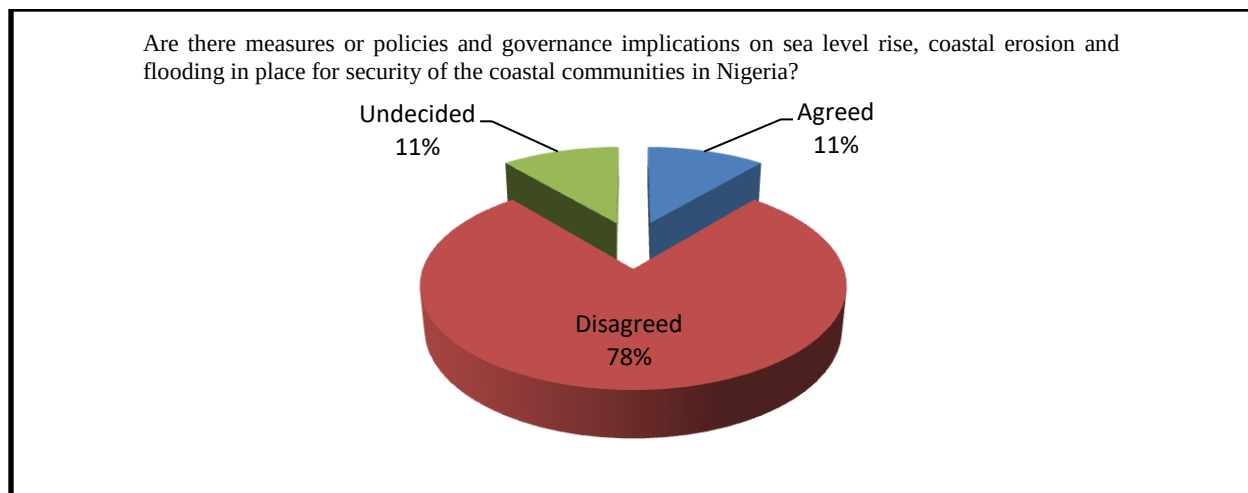


Figure 4: Respondents responses to question 4

In analyzing question 5, it was observed that 250 respondent (56%) disagreed on the question on availability of new ideas to combat coastal erosion or flooding in the areas around the coast of Nigeria. It was also observed that 150 (33%) were of the opinion that there are strategies to combat the natural disaster under review. When asked what the strategies were, they say it was experiences gotten from the previous natural disasters. But it was obvious that it was not government that authored such ideas that were ideas of sorrows and pains. Another 50 (11%) were undecided in the matter. They were not sure if there were new strategy/ies in place or not. When asked why they took that opinion they stated that they do not know what to believe about the government. It is obvious that the people are rather hopeless in the face of in pending doom that must occur soon or later. However, religious believe kept spurring the people on, believing that God is in control.

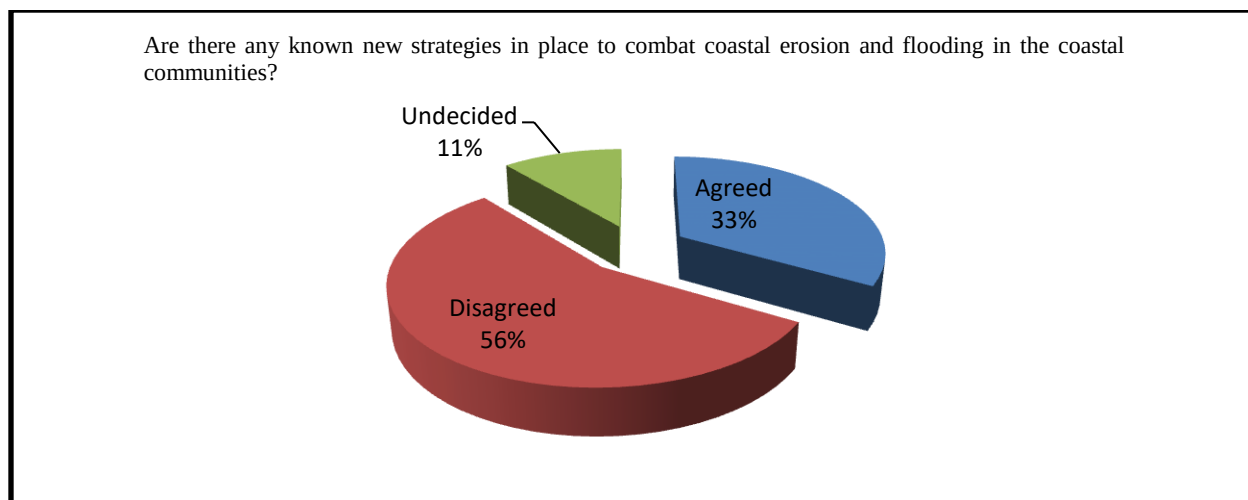


Figure 5: Responses to question 5

In Table 1 and Figure 6 the responses for question 6 is analyzed. From Figure 6, 280 respondents 62% of those interviewed agreed that sea level rise impacts on the ecosystem and biodiversity affects the people in the coastal communities in Nigeria. However, 150 respondents did not agree that sea level rise impact on the ecosystem and the biodiversity can affect the lives of the coastal communities' dwellers in Nigeria. The 150 (33%) of the respondents were of the opinion that sea level rise impact on the biodiversity and the ecosystem were of very little consequences to the coastal communities in Nigeria.

The remaining 20 respondents (5%) are undecided on the matter. They rather keep mute than to recount their experiences from flood and coastal erosion which are products of sea level rise.

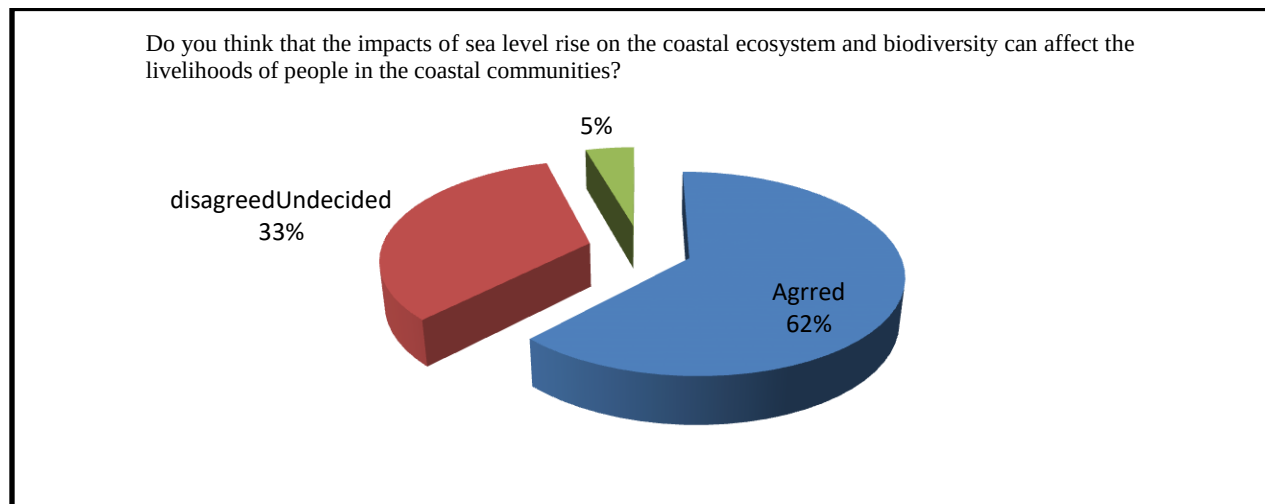


Figure 6: *The responses of respondents on question 6*

4. FINDINGS

From the result of the questionnaire above we observed that sea level rise is a problem in the coastal communities in Nigeria. It is clear from the responses of the respondents that the indigenes are also aware of the problems they were facing as a result of sea level rise which triggers coastal erosion and flooding. It was further understood that the people could not run away as they do not have fund to actualize their movement away from their homes.

88% of the respondents were very much aware that they were living in a time bomb, that flooding and coastal erosional consequences can always occurred especially during the heavy rainy season months.

The study shows that 320 of the respondents 71% are aware that they are vulnerable due to their socioeconomic condition. A few factors that worsen the effects of sea level rise on Nigerian coastal villages are poverty, a lack of infrastructure, and overcrowding. However, individuals lack the resources and ability to lessen the effects of sea level rise. Even still, as noted by Obi et al., residents of Nigeria's coastal regions will still find it challenging to move to safer locations since they fear losing their cultural legacy and brotherhood.

The study also show that the coastal communities indigenes are not aware of any adaption or mitigation measure in place to cushion the effect of coastal erosion or flooding in event of sea level rise, 350 (78%) of the respondents attested to this observation.

It is important to note coastal flooding is becoming recurrent event in coastal communities in Nigeria; however little is in place as preparedness for future occurrences.

It was not just absence of measures and policies; it was also observed that there were no remediation infrastructures for people to run to in a sudden outbreak of the subjects under discussion. This implies that the people are not cared for by the government. It is important for all to understand that to fore warn is to be fore armed. A levee or dyke need to be constructed along the sea level rise prone areas.

Among other things observed was the respondents' response to the question "*Are there any known new strategies in place to combat coastal erosion and flooding in the coastal communities?*" This could mean orientation to the people on how to respond during flood and coastal erosion. 56% of the respondents said there was no such thing

Finally, 280 (62%) of those interviewed stated clearly, that the impact of sea level rise on the ecosystem and biodiversity has a great impact on them, for instance their source of drinkable water is affected, Fish ponds, Crops and animals will all be destroyed.

4.1 *Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Coastal Communities in Nigeria*

Sea level rise poses significant threats to coastal ecosystems and biodiversity, leading to, which impact on the dwellers in various ways and magnitude. Precise impacts of sea level rise are:

1. Loss of habitats and species extinction.
2. Disruption of marine food chains and fisheries.
3. Increased risk of invasive species and disease outbreaks.
4. Decreased water quality and reduced freshwater availability.
5. Erosion of coastlines and loss of infrastructure.

These changes will significantly impact the livelihoods of people who depend on these ecosystems, including:

1. Fishermen and fishing communities, who face declining fish stocks and reduced income.
2. Coastal farmers, who experience saltwater intrusion and reduced crop yields.
3. Tourism and recreation industries, which suffer from degraded coastlines and reduced amenities.
4. Indigenous communities, who face cultural and spiritual impacts from loss of traditional lands and resources.
5. Local economies, which experience increased costs and reduced economic growth.

Recent studies have highlighted the urgency of addressing sea level rise and its impacts on coastal ecosystems and biodiversity. It is essential to develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect these ecosystems and support the livelihoods of people who depend on them.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding on coastal ecosystems and biodiversity are far-reaching and devastating. Rising sea levels are causing saltwater intrusion, erosion, and flooding, leading to loss of habitats, species extinction, and disruption of marine food chains. These changes have significant implications for the livelihoods of people who depend on these ecosystems, including fishermen, farmers, and tourism industries.

Current adaptation and mitigation measures, such as sea walls, beach nourishment, and flood-control structures, have shown some success but also have limitations and unintended consequences. Moreover, funding for these measures is often insufficient, and community engagement and participation are lacking.

To address these challenges, new strategies are needed. Integrated coastal zone management and planning, ecosystem-based adaptation, and community-led adaptation are essential for building resilience in coastal ecosystems. Innovative financing mechanisms and funding models, such as green bonds and climate-resilient infrastructure, are also crucial.

Early warning systems and flood-risk communication can help reduce the impacts of flooding. Relocation and retreat strategies for high-risk areas, as well as climate-resilient urban design, are also necessary. Research and development of new technologies and solutions, such as sea-level rise modeling and coastal restoration should be introduced in higher institutions.

In addition, lessening the severity of sea level rise and its effects requires tackling the underlying causes of climate change through mitigation measures including cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Global action on climate change requires international collaboration and accords like the Paris Agreement.

In addition, recognizing the cultural and spiritual significance of coastal ecosystems for indigenous communities and incorporating their knowledge and perspectives in adaptation and mitigation efforts is crucial. Supporting climate change education, awareness, and community engagement can also foster a sense of shared responsibility and action.

In the end, combating the effects of flooding, coastal erosion, and sea level rise necessitates an all-encompassing strategy that takes into account the intricate connections between natural and human systems. By working together and adopting a multifaceted strategy, we can build resilience in coastal ecosystems and protect the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

5.1 Recommendations

- 1) **Development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans:** Governments and coastal management authorities should develop and implement comprehensive plans that integrate coastal conservation, sustainable development, and climate resilience.
- 2) **Community-Led Adaptation and Participation:** Coastal communities should be empowered to lead adaptation efforts, with support from governments and international organizations, to ensure that local knowledge and needs are addressed.
- 3) **Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Nature-Based Solutions:** As a natural defense against flooding and sea level rise, coastal habitats like mangroves and coral reefs should be preserved and restored.
- 4) **Innovative Financing Mechanisms:** Governments, international organizations, and private sector entities should explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and climate-resilient infrastructure, to support adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- 5) **Early Warning Systems and Flood-Risk Communication:** Governments and disaster management authorities should establish effective early warning systems and flood-risk communication strategies to reduce the impacts of flooding.
- 6) **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Urban Design:** Urban planners and architects should prioritize climate-resilient design and infrastructure in coastal cities and communities.
- 7) **Research and Development:** Continued research and development of new technologies and solutions, such as sea-level rise modeling and coastal restoration, are crucial for addressing the impacts of sea level rise.
- 8) **International Cooperation and Agreements:** Global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, should be strengthened and implemented to address the root causes of climate change and support international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- 9) **Climate Change Education and Awareness:** Governments, educational institutions, and civil society organizations should prioritize climate change education and awareness to foster a sense of shared responsibility and action.
- 10) **Support for Vulnerable Communities:** Special attention and support should be given to vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples, who are disproportionately affected by sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- 11) **Develop and implement comprehensive coastal zone management plans** that integrate conservation, sustainable development, and climate resilience.
- 12) **Empower coastal communities** to lead adaptation efforts through community-led adaptation and participation.
- 13) **Give priority to nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation**, such as the preservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves.
- 14) **Explore innovative financing mechanisms**, such as green bonds and climate-resilient infrastructure, to support adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- 15) Establish effective early warning systems and flood-risk communication strategies to reduce the impacts of flooding.
- 16) Prioritize climate-resilient design and infrastructure in coastal cities and communities.
- 17) Continue research and development of new technologies and solutions, such as sea-level rise modeling and coastal restoration.
- 18) Strengthen and implement global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, to address the root causes of climate change.
- 19) Prioritize climate change education and awareness to foster a sense of shared responsibility and action.
- 20) Provide special attention and support to vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples, who are disproportionately affected by sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- 21) Develop and implement relocation and retreat strategies for high-risk areas.
- 22) Implement adaptive management and monitoring systems to track the effectiveness of adaptation measures.
- 23) Foster international cooperation and knowledge sharing on adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- 24) Support climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries practices in coastal communities.
- 25) Develop and implement flood-risk reduction and management plans for coastal cities and communities.
- 26) Prioritize the protection and restoration of natural barriers, such as dunes and wetlands, to reduce the impacts of flooding.
- 27) Encourage sustainable tourism practices and responsible coastal development to reduce pressure on coastal ecosystems.

In addition to supporting the growth of resilient and sustainable coastal communities, these ideas seek to address the intricate and interrelated problems presented by flooding, coastal erosion, and sea level rise.

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ORCID's

Alexander Chinago Budnukaeku¹  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6724-2878>

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