



## **TERRORISM AND HUMAN-INDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN WUKARI LGA, SOUTHERN TARABA STATE**

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### **Keywords:**

*Environmental, Hazards, Human-Induced, Terrorism*

### **Abstract**

*The study investigates the complex interplay between terrorism and human-induced environmental hazards in Wukari Local Government Area (LGA) situated in Southern Taraba State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are: to identify the human-induced environmental hazards caused by conflicts in the study area; to determine the Effects of human-induced environmental hazards in the study area and to identify factors responsible for human-induced environmental hazards in the area. The region has witnessed a significant surge in terrorist activities and a simultaneous increase in environmental challenges, posing substantial threats to both the security and well-being of the local population. The research design employed was review research method. The main purpose of this method was to collect data from previous literatures to gain information and insight in to the topic. The research has shown a significant correlation between terrorism and human-induced environmental hazards in Wukari LGA. Acts of terrorism, such as insurgency and inter-communal conflicts, have contributed to environmental degradation through activities like arson, deforestation, and resource plundering. The study concluded that Terrorism and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards in Wukari LGA, Southern Taraba State" has yielded valuable insights into the complex and multifaceted relationship between terrorism and environmental hazards in this region. The study recommenced among others that, there should be increased level of religious tolerance among the various religious groups in the area and there should also be public enlightenment on how settlers can have respect for cultures of the various ethnic groups found in Wukari town through continuous peace initiatives.*

### **Introduction**

Although there is no current agreement regarding a universal legal definition of the term, there has been some debate regarding the possible existence of an at least partial, customary definition of terrorism. This followed the somewhat controversial judgment of the

Special Tribunal for Lebanon in 2011, which found that since at least 2005, a definition of "transnational terrorism" has existed within customary international law (Doha declaration, 2018). The African Union (AU) defines terrorism as "any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of a state party and which may endanger the

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life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any member or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage”.

In general, terrorism has been described as the “criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes that are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them” (UN, 1994). Bockstette (2008) however, sees terrorism as a "conflict designed to induce terror and psychic fear through the violent victimization and destruction of non-combatant targets (sometimes graves, religious entities and statue), involving acts meant to send a signal from an illicit clandestine organization". He further argues that the purpose of terrorism is to exploit the importance of media in order to achieve maximum attainable publicity as an amplifying force multiplier to influence the targeted audience(s) and reach short- and mid-term political goals and/or desired long-term purposes. In nutshell, terrorism has often been an effective tactics for the weaker side in a conflict, those that have been suppressed or marginalised. For them to be heard, they resort to the option left for them. Terrorists plan their attacks to obtain the greatest publicity,

choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose.

The foundation for armed insurrection (and later terrorism) against the Nigerian state was laid when Isaac Adaka Boro, an Ijaw nationalist led an armed campaign for greater Niger Delta autonomy, resource control and self-determination for the inhabitants of the Niger Delta. Among their activities, they blew up oil pipelines, engaged the police in a gunfight, and declared the Niger Delta an independent republic. The revolt was however suppressed, and Boro and his compatriots were put on trial on a 9-count charge of treason at Port Harcourt before Judge Phil Ebosie (Okafor, 2011). Boro was found guilty and was jailed for treason.

## 1. Statement of the problem

For decades now, Nigeria has been plunged into a constant violent activity of communal disputes, hitherto, peaceful communities are at each other's throat. Peoples that have cohabited peacefully in some instances for over a century are up in arms against each other (Mukhtar, Arooj, Ashfaq, and Gulzar, 2017). The Nigerian State, just as others in Africa, has been blamed for its inability to develop a way to accommodate the various ethnic groups that make up the country. Rather, Nigeria's post-colonial policies fracture and dismember Nigerians, thereby sustaining bickering relations between its varied groups (Adejumobi, 2001). These conflicts are as a result of many fundamental issues. Specifically, the interplay of economic imbalance, political injustice, ethnic chauvinism (eagerness for

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national superiority), religious intolerance, and the nature of the global economy (Mukhtar *et al.*, 2017). Several factors could be held accountable for the profusely widespread of ethno-religious crises in Nigeria, among them are weak National security system. The effects are felt at the immediate environment where the conflict take place and often in the surrounding environment. Wukari LGA has witnessed ethno-religious crises since 1991. The consequences of the crises has led to high rate of deaths, injuries and destruction of properties, increased poverty, acute medical illnesses, human right abuses and has severely disrupted most economic activities (Abuh, Joseph and Amayll, 2001).

### 1.3 Aim and Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine terrorism and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards in Wukari Lga, Southern Taraba State. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the human-induced environmental hazards caused by conflicts in the study area
2. To determine the Effects of human-induced environmental hazards in the study area
3. To identify factors responsible for human-induced environmental hazards in the area.

#### 1. Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were identified to enable us to achieve the aim of the study:

1. Human-induced environmental hazards have not caused significant conflicts in the study area.

2. Human-induced environmental hazards have not significant effect in the study area.

3. There are no factors responsible for human-induced environmental hazards in the area.

### Review Of Related Literature

#### 2.1 Conceptual Review:

Crisis and conflict are used interchangeably in this work. The concept of violent crisis denotes the act or situation in which community/people are aggressively attacked, hurt, destroyed or killed, resulting from socio-political and/or economic problems. Alemika (2002) asserts that conflict is a product of antagonistic interests between two or more opposing forces or groups within the society. It negates peaceful coexistence as well as law and order in the society. Despite man's efforts to develop himself and his environment, he is oftentimes faced with various forms of challenges or violent crises which tend to cripple all forms of developments and destroy man himself (Richmond *et al.*, 2010). This implies that violent crisis is inseparable from human society; it is a necessary feature of the society and is inevitable. Among several violent crises, the frequent Tiv-Jukun crises in a widely acclaimed foremost agricultural producing area.

Communal conflicts in Nigeria usually take the form of clashes of varying interests, sometimes violently, either between two or more communities, or between different ethnic groups, religious groups, cattle herders verses farmers, and among others within a community

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(Felix and Susan, 2021). The prevalent violent crises in, especially developing countries of Africa, Asia, and Middle-East are fueled by several factors such as ethnic chauvinism, religious bigotry, struggle for scarce natural resources, political power, psychological needs, or a combination of these (Ambe-Uva, 2010). Alubo, (2003) and Akanji, (2019) described the so called 'Settlers' as citizens of Nigeria either born in a place, but whose parents were from elsewhere or emigrants, subjected to discrimination and various forms of exclusion or deprivation from certain rights, privileges or opportunities enjoyed by the 'indigenes'. He said that the long running Tiv-Jukun crises dated back to the 1840s. The emerging prominence of the Tiv people coupled with their clamour for equal rights and entitlements to economic and socio-political rights triggered several crises, usually leading to the killing of people, with hundreds rendering homeless, and many others fleeing to either other parts of the state, or to Benue State which is home to most Tiv people.

Hence, Alimba in Alozie (2019) asserted that the Tiv-Jukun crises have denied the people the dividends of democracy. Hence, the indigene, native or 'son of the soil' versus settler controversy is meant to stigmatize the latter groups. Apart from rural-urban migration, population growth, and climate, communal crises are perhaps the next greatest threat to food security in Nigeria. The Tiv-Jukun crises of Taraba State affect about 0.2 million farmers producing approximately 10% of Nigeria's

annual food crops which can hardly be ignored. Livestock produced in large quantities from these areas were never speared (Felix and Susan, 2021). Violent crisis, in almost all cases has resulted to a lot of bloodsheds, senseless killings, destruction of property, social and economic dislocation and its attendant poverty, insecurity, unemployment, societal/human retrogression. (Joshua and Christopher, 2020). It is worth noting that the impact of the crises in Wukari LGA was not limited to the area alone, but also spilled to neighboring villages and towns of other local governments such as Ibi, Takum, Donga, in Taraba state as well as neighboring states, especially Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau and Adamawa, which by implication, it impacted negatively on the overall socio-economic development of Nigeria as a country.

## 2.2 Theoretical Review

Pluralist Theory Pluralism perspective- is also used as a potent tool in explaining the dynamics in a plural society like Nigeria. The pluralists, as noted by Alegbeleye (2014) asserted that in any cultural and ethno-religious fragmented society where different groups live in close proximity, but separately from each other, inter communal relations are characterized by unchecked sociopolitical and economic competitions. It went further to explain that because the relationship between the various groups remained confined to the market place, these people failed to develop a sense of common loyalty that would overcome the cultural and ethno-religious differences among various

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groups within a society or between two or more societies. Raymond and Rajat, 2002). The plural nature of almost every part of the country, including Wukari LGA has implanted seeds of distrust, discord and the fear of domination of one ethnic or religious group over the other.

Marxist-Pluralist of Orientation These theories believed that in most cases, socioeconomic underdevelopment is not only a problem of lack of economic resources, but also largely associated with the condition of the environment as well as social relations. economic development of a given society is to a great extent determined by the social relations cum the condition of its environment. Therefore, 'Marxist-Pluralist' orientation has been devised and adopted as a theoretical guide for the current study (Joshua and Christopher, 2020).

### 3. Methodology

The research design employed was review research method. The main purpose of this method was to collect data from previous literatures to gain information and insight in to the topic (Eze and Okechukwu 2022). The study reviewed human-induced hazards on wukari environment through the types of crisis, effects on environment and recommendations to the crisis. Wukari is a Local Government Area in Taraba State, Nigeria. It lies within latitude  $7^{\circ}18''$  and  $7^{\circ}51''$  North of the equator and  $9^{\circ}08''$  and  $9^{\circ}38''$  East of the Greenwich meridian with the land area of approximately  $4,308\text{km}^2$  (Figure 1 and 2). The Donga River flows through the area. It is in the southern part of Taraba state. Wukari has ten (10) political wards namely:

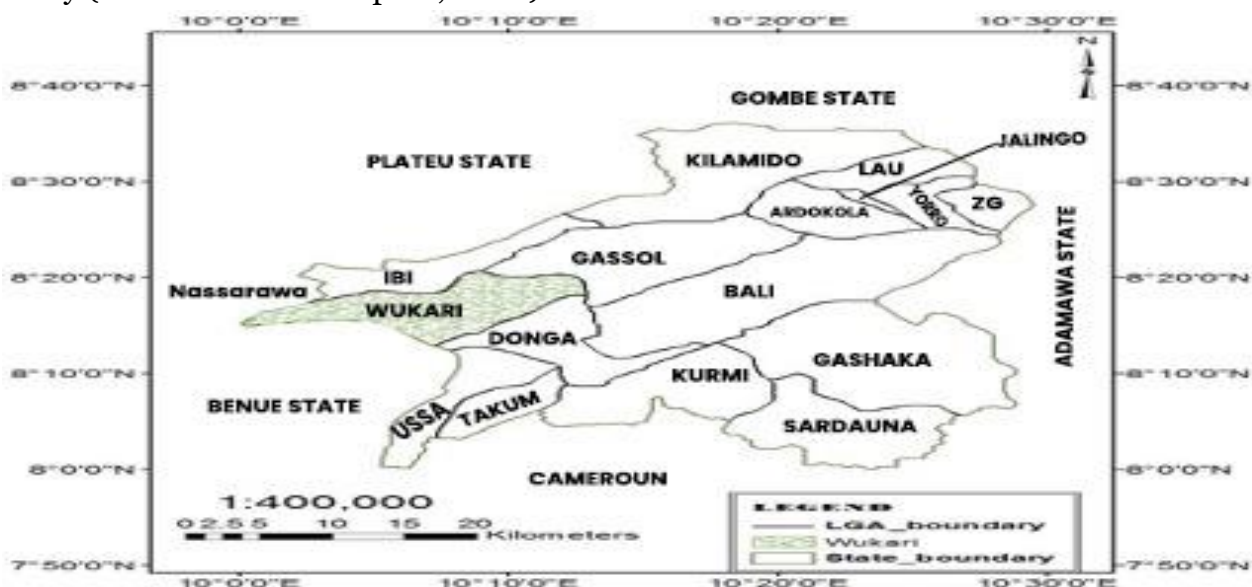


Figure 1: Map of Taraba state showing LGA

Source: Abuh, Joseph and Joshua (2001)

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Akwana, Avyi, Bantaje, Chonku, Hospital, Jibu, Kente, Puje, Rafin-Kada and Tsokundi wards. Wukari has a total population of 238,283 people. (National Population Commission, 2010) It is

bordered with Takum to the South, Donga to the East, Ibi to the North, at the west with Ukum local government area of Benue state and Gassol to the North-East.

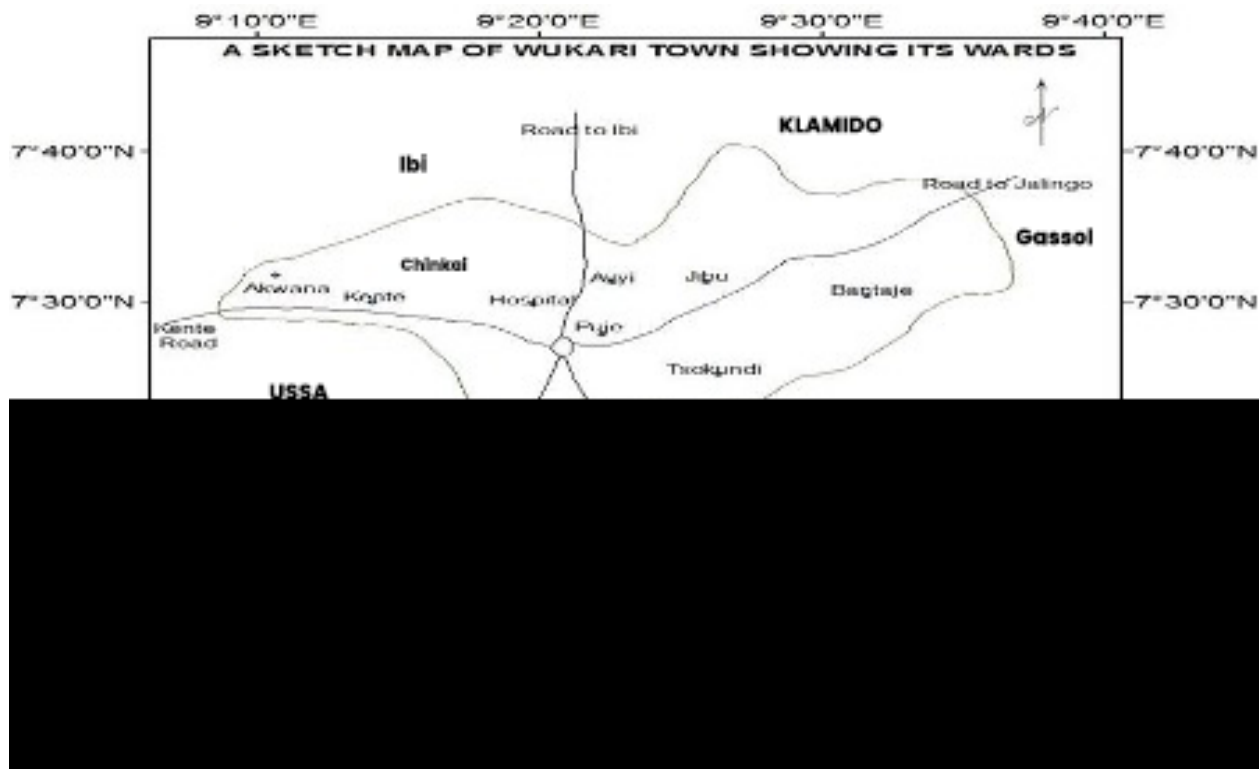


Figure 2: Map of Wukari showing study area

Source: Abuh, Joseph and Joshua (2001)

Wukari is the traditional and cultural headquarters of the Jukuns, and minority tribes and ethnic groups like Alabo, Agatu, Awe and Etilo, in present north-central state who migrates alongside the Jukuns from the ancient Kwararafa Kingdom in Sudan. The LGA experiences a tropical climate while the vegetation is a guinea savannah type. It is marked by dry and raining seasons. The raining

season commences in April and last till October. While the dry season last from November to March. The average rainfall is 1,350mm. The dry, cold, and dusty wind is the driest period and occurs from the month of December to February with humidity put at 13% (Alegwu, 2018). Wukari traditions include the rituals of the crocodile shrine are of interest to tourists (Fidelis, 2009).

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## Results

The research results will be treated under these topics; types of terrorism groups, human-induced environmental hazards and causes of the crisis.

### Types of terrorist Groups in Wukari

**Armed Herdsmen Terrorism** - The activities of armed herdsmen who have been terrorizing, particularly farming communities in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria (Plateau, Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Nasarawa and Southern Kaduna States) have equally been a grave concern. Since 2013, they crossed over from the Middle belt region to the Eastern and Southern parts of Nigeria. Some scholars refer to the menace as Farmers/Herders conflicts (Gani, 2018). Since their emergence, the armed herders have terrorized, kidnapped, killed, raped, burnt farming communities, property and taken-over lands belonging to the farming communities for their grazing activities. Their activities have also resulted in the loss of revenue by the States, threatened national unity, diversion of budgetary allocations for the maintenance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, loss of human capital and damage to the country's international image (Enor, Magor and Expo 2019).

### Jukun and Tiv Militias Groups

As it is the case in other parts of the country, this area experiences inter-communal conflicts, which have exacerbated since the successful transition to civil rule in 1999, giving the federal government much concern. In recent times, such words like “ethnic Tiv militia men” and “Jukun

militia” are increasingly being uttered. The roots of the incessant armed conflicts between the Tivs and the Jukuns can be traced to the colonial period, more precisely the 1920s. The Tivs were traditionally an agricultural society, and can be found in Benue, Plateau, Nasarawa and Taraba states of Nigeria. On the other hand, the Jukuns were predominantly riverine people who depended on fishing for their livelihood. They can be found today in Plateau Nasarawa and Taraba States. Hence, for a long time after the geographical encounter of the two groups around Wukari and Takum in the present-day Taraba State, there was no clash of interests. But with the growth in population and advent of modern politics introduced by the colonial power -where size of population matters – the two ethnic groups began to exacerbate their contradictions. This was not only over the ownership and use of land but also over the control of local political power. The issue of who is a ‘settler’ and who is not, who is an indigene and a non-indigene of a state and therefore, the implications of this in accessing political power at the local level is still highly contested (Innocent and Susan, 2021). This as in the case of the Tiv-Jukun conflict is a major source of conflicts, which oftentimes require the services of militias defending what they consider to be ethnic turf. A constitutional solution is imperative.

### Causes of Terrorism in Wukari Area

**The Climate Change Connection:** The nexus between climate change and ecological conflict has been established by scholars (blench *et al*,

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2003). The prevailing thinking in this regard is climate change gives rise to certain ecological changes and outcomes, which often precipitate conflict (Onuoha, 2003). Some of the conditions are environmental degradation, desertification/desert encroachment, loss of wetlands, inadequacy of rainfall/ droughts. Desertification also occurs in rangelands. This activity weakens the individual plant and the pastoralist seek for alternative route- through farms.

**Crisis of governance:** Governance concerns itself with overseeing the control and direction of the administration of the societies, the distribution of authority and resources as well as its legitimacy in the eyes of the society. The aged long political conflicts associated with electoral process in Nigeria have assumed an even more worrisome dimension. The struggle for power, dominance and control become more prominent in our today's Nigeria. Barongo (1980), observed that, where there is an acute scarcity of resources, politics is not only organized around the competition for the control of these resources but also the struggle to acquire them.

**Fear of Domination:** Inadequate and inequitable distribution of resources claims to economic control, political control and other opportunistic position often generates opposition from other groups or community who have not been apportioned a fair share of resources or appointed to equitable positions. Anyebe (2001) opined that, much of the conflicts in Nigeria can be attributed to alienation and marginalization

of the young people by the government which made them to be easily drawn to the group that promises total revolutionary change

**Land Disputes:** Most communal conflicts in Nigeria are as the result of high pressure on land arising from high rate of population growth. The division of the country into local governments and states favoured communal conflicts as terms like original settler and intruders are used to differentiate and deter people from claiming a portion of land. Communal conflicts often erupt when the claims of one party to a territory become incompatibles with the desire of another within the same physical territory (Oтите and Albert, 2001). This occurs frequently during planting seasons.

**Resource Control and Availability.** According to Barongo (1980), the intense violent competitions and communal conflicts towards aggrandizement of power defined the character and structure of the political elite's interaction in a competitive bargaining situation in the polity that determines their relative importance, influence, and power. He maintained that activities of elite in Nigeria are interplay of three factors namely, the condition of the material base, the historical experience, and the perceptions of the environment by the elite.

**Disregard for Cultural Symbols:** When an individual or group of individuals from one group threatens the faith and believe of another group, such an act could easily be interpreted as against the entire group and consequently might generate communal conflict. In addition, the

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punishment of an individual considered to be from the more important group by the one considered inferior in that community could also lead to conflict (Otite and Albert, 2001).

**Poverty:** Poverty is one root cause of conflict in Wukari Local Government Area. The area under study is characterized by the slow pace of systemic reforms, lack of jobs, clean drinking water, good schools, electricity, and functional hospitals and clinics. Consequently, many youths resort to militancy because of frustration due to poverty. Most poverty alleviation programs introduced in the area do not have direct bearing on the people's life in terms of health, job creation, education and provision of social infrastructures, amenities and facilities particularly in their rural areas (Osuntokun, 2001).

**Religious leaders Stake:** Religious leaders 'quest for material gains at the expense of giving their flock virtuous spiritual guidance; and the use of bouncers by the clergy seems to send out a message that violence is accommodated. The role of religious leaders as agents of peace and security for sustainable development cannot be under emphasized since religion itself is one of the cultural patterns of human society which helps to shape and reshape the society. (Nwazuni, 2021).

**Influx of Weapon:** It is imperative to assert that another conflict aider and perhaps the root cause of conflict in the area is the ease and frequency with which weapons and militias terrorist groups from neighbouring states find their way

into our area of study through the borders. Report from the media also states that there is ample evidence to show that some weapons used in communal clashes, and even for armed robbery were sourced from government military Armory. (Tell Magazine, 2000).

**Feeling of Alienation:** The feeling and expression of alienation experienced by some members of ethnic groups when they live within a domineering ethnic group are believed to be a cause of conflict. They felt that they have been sidelined from the mainstream of local politics, given the usual ethnic political practices cum winner takes it all (Alabi, 2010). Again, the local political elites with their penchant for cross carpeting, creating divisions and making provocative statements that cannot be substantiated have also contributed to conflict generation in the area.

**Mass Media:** The mass media is a source of worry, as it is not left out in conflict generation. Popular perception is that journalists have sometimes been paid to blackmail those in position of power or having political influences. They report misleading information without investigation on sensational stories. They also exaggerate their reportage, thereby triggering reprisal or contributing to the escalation of conflicts (Alabi, 2010). However, it is pertinent to state here that conflict might often not be because of one factor but rather might be because of interplay of many root causes.

**Ethno-Political Perspectives:** The violence perpetrated by the Fulani herders have been

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politicized along ethnic/tribal, cultural, and religious lines. In the case of ethnic/tribal line, it is not arguable that the herders are predominantly Fulani who are mostly Muslims, while the farmers are predominantly non-Fulani peoples of the mostly Christian in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. The government at the center and some States that share similar identities with the former are accused of tacit support for the herders who engage in these marauding attacks (Enor *et al*, 2019). This has made several communities to resort to seeking justice through reprisal (Enor *et al* 2019).

**Settler and Indigene status:** The issue of who is a 'settler' and who is not, who is an indigene and a non-indigene of a state and therefore, the implications of this in accessing political power at the local level is still highly contested and remains a key component of the national question in Nigeria. This as in the case of the Tiv-Jukun conflict is a major source of conflicts, which often times require the services of militias defending what they consider to be ethnic turf. This is more prevalent during political campaigns and farming seasons (Agyo, 2011). **Drug Abuse:** From Aka and Akunyili (2003:60), drug abuse refers to drug use mainly by self-medication in a manner that deviates from approved medical or social patterns". Drug abuse can lead to uncoordinated behavior by the youth.

## **Human-Induced Environmental Hazards**

Environmental hazards are defined as "extreme events or substances in the Earth and its ecological system that may cause adverse

consequences for humans and things they value'. They have many different origins, yet we normally think of hazards as occurring due to the interaction between natural systems, technological systems, and human systems. As such, we often classify hazards according to their causal agents-natural events that are infrequent (earthquakes and hurricanes) and relatively common (coastal erosion), technological events (extreme and common events such as nuclear power plant accidents), social disruptions (terrorism and riots), biological agents or biohazards (epidemics, infestations, and bioterrorism), and chronic and global significant hazards (climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation (Susan *et al*, 2005).

Terrorism has a considerable environmental impact by altering urban and rural landscapes to leave a variety of legacies which bear witness to past and recent conflicts.

**Unemployment:** The coincident increases in unrest and youth unemployment have raised questions and the possible link between youth unemployment on the one hand and conflict, political violence and even terrorism. Beehnr (2007) contends that youth unemployment creates a large pool of disaffected youth who are more susceptible to recruitment into rebel groups or terrorists' group. Results from studies by Adesoji and Justin, (2020) shows the positive relationship between youth unemployment and domestic terrorism, conditional upon different developmental factors, including corruption,

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government ineffectiveness and the absence of rule of law.

**Overcrowding:** Overcrowding or crowding is the condition where more people are located within a given space than is considered tolerable from a safety and health perspective. Safety and health perspectives depend on current environments and on local cultural norms. When people are displaced due to crisis, they move to a safer ground, probably the nearest village or town around. Overcrowding may arise temporarily or regularly, in the home, in public spaces or on public transport. Overcrowding, as well as related problems such as lack of privacy, can also cause or exacerbate mental health problems, and increase rates of violence, disease, self-harm and suicide.

**Agricultural land:** The effects of conflict on agriculture using the Jukun -Tiv crisis as a case study is worrisome. The output, input, infrastructure and human capital effects as direct effects and the loss of talent and other environmental factors as indirect effects. Identified market effects include effects on product and input prices, and increased risk premiums.

**Defoliation and ecosystem destruction:** This refers to the removal of leaves from vegetation. It has to do with leaf's growth rate. For many years, the physiological effect of defoliation on leaf growth has been primarily considered as the result of a decrease in plant photosynthesis, induced by leaf area removal and therefore by a larger dependency on carbohydrate reserves.

Defoliation occurs through bush burning in crisis ravaged areas of Wukari.

**Loss of wildlife;** In the simplest term, when a habitat is destroyed, the plants, animals, and other organisms that occupied the habitat have a reduced carrying capacity so that populations decline, and extinction becomes more likely. All the animals interact with its environment for energy gain and loss, to protect itself, and for all other activities. Loss one animal will affect others existence.

**Incessant collapse of building;** The effects on landscapes can be as devastating buildings collapse and setting them ablaze. For example, many houses were destroyed, through de-roofing, defencing, vandalism and thousands were set on fire. The dilapidated and abandoned houses converted to homes for rodents and snakes. Presently about half of the buildings in the town have been destroyed including churches and mosques.

**Release of hazardous substances into the air:** This emanated from burnt houses and other substances. The production of soot, and gases such as carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, caused pollution episodes within and beyond the Wukari. The tear gas and explosion from dent guns and burnt tyres contributed to immensely to the leakage of hazardous chemicals.

**Abandoned agricultural land:** studies of conflicts have shown widespread land use changes through displacement and land abandonment, in some cases causing a reduction of cultivated land and increases in natural vegetation (Stevens et

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al 2011). Similar to severe droughts, conflicts have been shown to have negative effects on vegetation productivity over time, thus potentially leading to land degradation (de Beurs and Henebry, 2008).

The demand for fuel wood. One of the greatest aftermaths of crisis in an area is the shortage of fuel for domestic use. Naturally there could be shortage of gas and kerosene for cooking. Traditionally, people resorted to the use of biomass-wood. There was be high demand for wood and charcoal, thereby affecting the devastated environment. For instance, soil erosion and deforestation. The provision of wood energy is generally thought to be a major contributor to forest lost.

Formation of refugee camps: Moreover, enormous pressure is exerted on landscapes which are often already fragile due to refugee camp formation. The vegetation is destroyed where the camp is established; vegetation in the hinterland is also altered, especially vegetation which is exploited as a source of fuel, and because wild animals are exploited as a source of protein.

Environmental sanitation: Personal hygiene is not guaranteed either because of population or because of lack space to accommodate the refugee. There are four major issues that relate to

the environment sanitation. These are the water quality, the provision of drinking water, the disposal of waste, and the use of wood etc for building construction and fuel. The generation of much increased domestic solid waste also poses problems of disposal and health hazards.

Formation of graves Yard: While the direct impact of war on the environment is indeed stark, there are also permanent reminders, such as war graves, memorials, and museums, which are distributed worldwide. Not only do these constructions testify to the human costs of war but they themselves represent an environmental impact in relation to land use. Community grave yards were not accessible for fear of attacks. Many compounds now have graves in contrast to having a designated area for burying the dead bodies. Now, the dead leaves among the living.

Effects of Ethno-Religious Crises on the Infrastructures of Wukari Town

Response on Impact of Ethno-religious Crises on Infrastructures of Wukari town shows that Housing is the most affected infrastructures with (43.39%). It is followed with Banking and Insurance Facilities (23.81%), Education (22.22%) and Health (1.59%) respectively as shown in table 1. This has led to out-migration and reduction of economic activities in the area.

**Table 1: Response on Impact of Ethno-religious Crises on Infrastructures of Wukari**

IMPACT OF RELIGIOUS CRISIS ON INFRASTRUCTURE IN WUKARI	
Infrastructure	% Impact
Incresed in rent	22.22

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Inadequate manpower	28.04
Insufficient banking	20.11
Decayed/destroyed houses	37.0
Total	100.0

Source: Abuh P. O *et al*, 2016

## Finding

1. The research has shown a significant correlation between terrorism and human-induced environmental hazards in Wukari LGA. Acts of terrorism, such as insurgency and inter-communal conflicts, have contributed to environmental degradation through activities like arson, deforestation, and resource plundering.
2. These activities have had detrimental effects on the local ecosystem and the livelihoods of the residents.
3. The study has revealed that the communities in Wukari LGA are highly vulnerable to environmental hazards exacerbated by terrorism. These hazards include soil erosion, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

## Conclusion

The research conducted on the topic of "Terrorism and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards in Wukari LGA, Southern Taraba State" has yielded valuable insights into the complex and multifaceted relationship between terrorism and environmental hazards in this region. The vulnerability is exacerbated by the displacement of communities, which often leads to overcrowding and strained access to essential resources. The study concluded that there is no

handy roadmap for reconciliation. There is no short cut or simple prescription for healing the wounds and divisions of a society in the aftermath of sustained violence. Out of reports should be implemented. The environment is seriously affected by human actions-crisis. Therefore, creating trust and understanding between former enemies is a supremely difficult challenge. However, it is task that must be accomplished for a lasting peace.

## Recommendation

Based on the findings, I therefore, recommend the following:

- i. There should be increased level of religious tolerance among the various religious groups in the area and there should also be public enlightenment on how settlers can have respect for cultures of the various ethnic groups found in Wukari town through continuous peace initiatives.
- ii. The formation of ethnic militia should be discouraged, and any discovered group should be brought before the law for justice. People should be encouraged to avoid mutual suspicion and Job creation opportunities should be created where unemployed youths could be thought on different skills, backed with soft loans for start-up.

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iii. To tackle marginalization, more political units should be created by the INEC for widespread representation by communities.

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