

# Challenges and Barriers Hindering the Effective Implementation of Key Legislative Policies in Promoting Sustainable Industrial Practices in Nigeria

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## Abstract

The successful application of laws is key to achieving sustainable industrial practices in developing countries. In Nigeria, however, several structural and situational obstacles hinder the effective implementation of laws into tangible results. This study examined the challenges that hinder the implementation of critical legislative policies promoting sustainable industrial practices in Nigeria. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research involved surveying 370 individuals from the manufacturing, agro-processing, and construction sectors, as well as conducting 20 interviews with policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders. The data were analysed through descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, logistic regression, and thematic analysis. The results showed that weak enforcement (37.8%), high costs of compliance technology (43.2%), political interference (35.1%), and low awareness (only 32.4% were highly aware) are significant barriers. The study concludes that, despite Nigeria having strong legislative frameworks, such as the Climate Change Act 2021 and NESREA regulations, their effectiveness is limited by weak institutions, financial constraints, and governance issues. It suggests improving regulatory capabilities, offering financial support for cleaner technologies, boosting cooperation among agencies, and increasing industry awareness and public advocacy. These steps are crucial for helping Nigeria transition towards sustainable industrialisation and achieving global environmental goals.

**Keywords:** Legislative policies, Sustainable industrial practices, Policy implementation, Nigeria, Enforcement challenges, Governance barriers.

## Original Research Article

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## INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's efforts to make its industrial sector more sustainable have gained legal support in recent years, thanks to laws such as the Climate Change Act (2021) and regulations from agencies like the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). However, despite these legal steps forward, a fundamental change in industrial practices remains lacking and inconsistent. Experts highlight a persistent "implementation gap," where well-designed laws often fail to yield effective regulatory outcomes due to various institutional, political, economic, and technical challenges.

The ability to enforce regulations varies greatly and is often weakened by limited resources and fragmented institutions. Regulatory agencies are tasked with overseeing complex

industrial operations, but usually struggle with tight budgets, inadequate monitoring systems, and overlapping responsibilities across different ministries and agencies. This mix creates gaps in enforcement and delays in administration (Chigonu, Igwela, & Ezeilo, 2022). Studies of Nigeria's environmental governance reveal that poor coordination among institutions and a lack of funding are common barriers to consistent compliance (Akpan et al., 2025).

Additionally, political influence and self-serving behaviour disrupt enforcement incentives. In industries that are politically or economically sensitive, such as oil, large-scale farming, and waste-heavy manufacturing, regulatory decisions can be influenced by patronage networks or business pressures. This undermines the effectiveness of penalties and encourages selective compliance. Recent reports on enforcement actions, including agency crackdowns and facility closures, show the

conflict between regulatory goals and the political-economic realities at play (Ogunkan, 2022).

The gaps in legal design and the slow speed of updating laws reduce the effectiveness of current regulations in tackling new sustainability issues. While essential laws, such as the Climate Change Act, provide a policy framework, their practical application often falters when there are no supporting regulations, clear compliance pathways, or measurable standards that apply across different sectors. Research on Nigeria's recent climate and environmental laws suggests that official frameworks need to be complemented with actionable plans and resources to achieve goals such as reducing pollution and decarbonising industries (Olujobi, 2024).

Businesses, particularly micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which comprise a significant portion of Nigeria's industrial landscape, face challenges in adopting cleaner technologies and sustainable methods due to limited capacity and funding (Yakubu et al., 2025). The high initial costs, limited access to green financing (Al-Amin et al., 2025), and insufficient technical knowledge hinder many companies' ability to meet new environmental standards (Ibrahim et al., 2025), resulting in lower adoption rates even when regulations are in place (Reuters, 2024).

Weak public engagement and transparency add further challenges to implementation. Effective environmental management and a successful transition to a sustainable industry rely on civic oversight, accessible information, and opportunities for stakeholders to get involved (Magaji et al., 2025); without these elements, accountability decreases and enforcement becomes irregular. For example, the government's plan for targeted policy actions, such as banning certain single-use plastics, shows ambition but also highlights the obstacles ahead.

This article examines the various challenges that hinder the effective implementation of key legislative policies aimed at promoting sustainable industrial practices in Nigeria. By building on recent legal research, official enforcement actions, and current policy changes, this paper identifies the institutional, political, legal, economic, and social factors causing the implementation gap. It also suggests ways to enhance compliance, coordination, and business capacity, thereby accelerating Nigeria's transition toward industrial sustainability.

## Conceptual Review

**Legislative Policies (in the Environmental/Industrial Context):** Legislative policies comprise laws, additional regulations, and official rules established by national or local authorities to set standards, assign duties, and develop enforcement mechanisms for public resources, such as environmental quality and industrial emissions. In Nigeria's sustainability efforts, key examples include the Climate Change Act (2021) and NESREA regulations, along with specific directives that outline responsibilities and penalties for companies. While these tools are essential, they alone cannot bring about real change because their success relies on how well

institutions can implement them and how well the regulations are designed.

**Policy Implementation Effectiveness:** Implementation effectiveness refers to the extent to which the goals of legislation are translated into tangible results, such as reduced pollution or the adoption of cleaner production methods. This includes factors such as compliance rates, consistency in enforcement, the quality of monitoring, and stakeholder involvement. Recent studies focusing on Nigeria have highlighted that funding, cooperation between institutions, and clear subsidiary regulations play a crucial role in determining the effectiveness of these implementations.

**Sustainable Industrial Practices:** Sustainable industrial practices refer to processes and technologies at the company level that aim to minimise environmental damage while maintaining productivity (Mukhtar et al., 2025). Examples include improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, using cleaner production methods, adopting circular economy principles, and engaging in environmental reporting (Ologbonori et al., 2025). In Nigeria, there is inconsistency in adoption: larger companies are increasingly reporting on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues while micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) encounter challenges related to costs and capabilities.

**Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance:** Regulatory enforcement encompasses activities such as monitoring, inspection, imposing penalties, and taking corrective actions by organisations like NESREA. Recent research highlights gaps in enforcement due to limited budgets, a lack of technical expertise, overlapping responsibilities, and political influences that can compromise the effectiveness of penalties.

**Green Finance and Firm-Level Capacity:** Green finance encompasses loans, bonds, grants, and financial support targeted at investments that are low in carbon emissions and utilise resources efficiently (Olusola et al., 2025). Studies show that the lack of affordable green finance, banks' hesitancy to take on project risks (Tanko et al., 2025), and the shortage of viable projects are significant challenges for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) trying to improve their operations (Muhammed et al., 2025).

## EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Olujobi. (2024). this paper examines the structure of the Climate Change Act, including the National Climate Change Council. It highlights both strengths, such as an explicit national commitment and the establishment of new institutional bodies, as well as significant challenges, including a lack of funding, unclear additional regulations, slow progress in developing implementation tools, and limited technical skills at various levels of government. The author compares the Act's potential with real obstacles in enforcement and coordination. While it offers valuable insights by identifying significant barriers at a macro level (such as finance and coordination), it primarily focuses on broad institutional descriptions. It provides little direct evidence from businesses or regional agencies on how the Act influences the decisions of industrial



companies. To enhance your study, combine Olujobi’s broader analysis with specific data from firms or agencies to illustrate connections between micro and macro levels.

CPI (2024) in their report on the landscape of Climate Finance in Nigeria (2024). The report outlines the flow of funds, financial tools, and key players in Nigeria’s climate finance system. It reveals a significant gap between the financial needs for climate change mitigation/adaptation and the available resources, along with weak financial support for green projects by small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and uncertainty about governance concerning the NCCC and related agencies’ issues that hinder green investments in industry. CPI’s report offers current quantitative data that effectively highlights the financial barriers to sustainable industry practices. However, as a policy-focused document, it does not always clearly address legal enforcement issues, so it is best used in conjunction with studies on enforcement (such as NESREA analyses) when connecting financial challenges to failures in legislative implementation.

Adesua-Lincoln (2025) conducted a study that utilised surveys and interviews across different states to highlight the challenges that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face when attempting to adopt circular or low-waste practices. These challenges include knowledge gaps, high costs associated with transitioning, limited access to waste markets, and few regulatory incentives. The research highlights that merely announcing new regulations, such as bans or reporting requirements, does not lead to SME adoption without providing specific support. This study provides strong evidence at the micro-level that complements broader policy studies; however, it is essential to verify whether the sample size and geographic range are representative of the broader population. This can help support the idea that micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) require targeted support measures, such as grants and technical assistance, to implement laws effectively.

Unegbu et al. (2025) present a mixed-methods paper that focuses on the construction sector, identifying institutional, technological, and socio-cultural obstacles, including weak enforcement of standards, high costs for green materials, and low demand from clients. The authors explain how overlapping responsibilities among agencies and inadequate inspection systems contribute to lower compliance rates. The depth of this sector is significant because construction is subject to numerous regulations, yet it remains fragmented. However, one limitation is its focus on a specific sector; therefore, any lessons learned should be applied carefully and compared with studies from other sectors, such as manufacturing or the oil and gas sector, to avoid making broad generalisations.

Lwesya (2025), utilising literature from Scopus published between 2012 and 2024 along with regional program data, discusses structural issues that hinder the growth of green finance in African markets. These issues include weak policy signals, a lack of credit enhancements, limited options for local currency financing, and poor quality of project pipelines-all of which make it difficult for companies to invest in sustainable industrial improvements. The paper provides valuable insights

at a continental level, along with policy recommendations such as credit guarantees and blended finance options. For a more focused analysis related to Nigeria’s implementation strategies, it would be beneficial to combine these regional financing insights with governance studies at the country level (for example, CPI or Olujobi) to view finance as both a technical issue and a governance challenge.

The annual reports from NESREA (2024) highlight that the agency faces challenges in enforcement due to a lack of funding, limited laboratory and technical resources, overlaps with other government ministries, and political pressures that make sanctions unpredictable. Evidence of facility closures illustrates selective enforcement and inadequate follow-up on required actions. These reports are crucial for understanding the enforcement issues related to the implementation gap. It is essential to note that some analyses rely on secondary data or press releases from the agency; therefore, it is advisable to cross-check these claims with independent civil society monitoring or court records whenever possible to support assertions about political interference and the consistency of enforcement.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is based on Matland’s Ambiguity-Conflict Model of Policy Implementation (Matland, 1995). Matland suggests that how policies are implemented depends on two factors:

- (a) Policy ambiguity, which refers to how clear the goals and methods are, and
- (b) Policy conflict, which looks at the level of political disagreement among different stakeholders. Various combinations of these factors lead to different approaches for implementing policies, such as top-down versus bottom-up methods or those focused on negotiation versus strict rule enforcement.

This theory highlights key laws aimed at promoting sustainable industrial practices in Nigeria, which often exhibit both high ambiguity, such as broad climate goals without specific rules (Abubakar et al., 2025), and high conflict due to competing interests in industry, politics, and commerce. Matland’s model helps clarify why specific laws, such as the Climate Change Act or bans on single-use plastics, yield inconsistent results. When both ambiguity and conflict are significant, implementation relies more on negotiation and the specific context rather than simple enforcement. Using Matland’s framework allows us to (a) categorise various Nigerian policy tools, (b) predict if top-down enforcement or bottom-up cooperation (such as capacity-building and stakeholder negotiation) will be more effective, and (c) understand differences across various sectors.

Additionally, there is a complementary approach known as Institutional Theory, combined with a Resource/Capacity perspective. Institutional theory emphasises both formal and informal rules along with organisational habits and external pressures that encourage compliance. When paired with a resource/capacity viewpoint, considering aspects like funding, technical skills, and monitoring systems provides insight into



why agencies like NESREA find it challenging to enforce regulations, even when laws are in place. This theory also sheds light on symbolic compliance (where companies claim to follow environmental standards without making fundamental changes) and how the legitimacy of institutions impacts their enforcement actions.

The institutional theory is relevant to this work because it:

Map out policy tools using Matland's ambiguity-conflict framework. For example, the Climate Change Act is subject to considerable uncertainty, whereas the single-use plastic ban has less uncertainty but may create conflicts with industry stakeholders.

Gather real-world data related to institutional capability. This includes the amount allocated to enforcement agencies, the number of inspections conducted, the outcomes of enforcement actions, the availability of supporting regulations, and funding for green projects. These data points will help you test Matland's theory that high levels of ambiguity and conflict lead to uneven and negotiated implementation.

## METHODOLOGY

This study uses a mixed-methods approach that combines both quantitative and qualitative methods. Researchers surveyed to gather the views of industrial companies, regulatory agencies, and members of civil society regarding the challenges in effectively implementing legislative policies. Additionally, they carried out key informant interviews (KIIs) with policymakers, enforcement officials, and leaders of industry associations to gain deeper insights. This mixed approach is important because the obstacles to policy implementation are complex, encompassing both measurable factors, such as compliance rates and access to funding, as well as contextual elements, including political interference and coordination among institutions (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018).

The target group for this study comprises industrial firms from the manufacturing, construction, and agro-processing sectors, encompassing both large companies and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). - Regulatory and enforcement bodies like the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), the Federal Ministry of Environment, and the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC). - Civil society groups and professional organisations (e.g., Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, environmental NGOs).

This group was chosen because they either experience or influence the implementation of legislative policies on industrial sustainability.

To determine the sample size using Yamane's formula from 1967, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, the study aimed to recruit 385 respondents from industrial firms. They used a multi-stage sampling method:

1. In the first stage, states with significant industrial activity were purposefully selected (Lagos, Ogun, Kano, Rivers, and FCT Abuja).

2. In the second stage, they separated firms into MSMEs and larger industries.

3. In the third stage, random sampling took place within each category.

For the qualitative part of the study, 20 key informants were carefully chosen based on their involvement in policy-making, enforcement, or representing industries.

The study adopts the following sources of data:

Primary data was gathered using structured questionnaires for companies and key informant interviews (KIIs) for regulators and associations. Secondary data included government reports, legislative documents such as the Climate Change Act 2021, and NESREA regulations, as well as scholarly articles on sustainable industrial practices.

The data collection tools were: Questionnaire: This consisted of five sections: 1. Demographics of the respondents.

2. Awareness of legislative policies. 3. Institutional or administrative obstacles. 4. Financial or technological challenges. 5. Political or social barriers.

Responses were rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Disagree Strongly. Interview Guide: This included open-ended questions that focused on challenges in enforcement, factors related to political economy and experiences with industry compliance.

Validity: To ensure content validity, experts in environmental law and industrial sustainability were consulted. Construct validity was evaluated using factor analysis.

Reliability: Cronbach's Alpha was used to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire items, aiming for an acceptable level of  $\alpha \geq 0.70$  (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). Trained research assistants distributed the questionnaires both in person and electronically through email or Google Forms to representatives from firms. KIIs took place either face-to-face or online via Zoom or Teams, with participants giving consent for recording.

Quantitative data: We analysed this data using descriptive statistics, such as frequency distributions, percentages, and means, to identify common obstacles. To explore the relationships between company features and perceived barriers, we used inferential statistics, including Chi-square tests and logistic regression.

Qualitative data: We conducted a thematic analysis by coding transcripts to identify themes, including gaps in enforcement, political interference, and financial limitations. For systematic coding, we used NVivo software.

We received ethical approval from the relevant institutional review board. All participants provided informed consent. We ensured confidentiality by keeping responses anonymous and only using the data for academic purposes.





## Data Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Findings

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

| Serial Number | Characteristics   | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 001           | Gender            |           |            |
|               | Male              | 250       | 64.9       |
|               | Female            | 135       | 35.1       |
|               | Total             | 385       | 100        |
| 002           | Age               |           |            |
|               | 18–30 years       | 95        | 24.7       |
|               | 31–40 years       | 160       | 41.6       |
|               | 41–50 years       | 90        | 23.4       |
|               | 51 and above      | 40        | 10.4       |
|               | Total             | 385       | 100        |
| 003           | Educational Level |           |            |
|               | Secondary         | 55        | 14.3       |
|               | Tertiary          | 240       | 62.3       |
|               | Postgraduate      | 90        | 23.4       |
|               | Total             | 385       | 100        |
|               | Firm Category     |           |            |
| 004           | MSMEs             | 250       | 64.9       |
|               | Large Industries  | 135       | 35.1       |
|               | Total             | 385       | 100        |

Source: Survey, 2025

Table 4.1 reveals that most respondents to the survey were male (64.9%) and predominantly between the ages of 31 and 40 (41.6%), indicating the typical demographic composition of Nigeria's industrial workers. A large number of them (62.3%) had completed higher education, indicating that they are

knowledgeable participants. The majority of the respondents were from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (64.9%), which aligns with the fact that MSMEs play a significant role in Nigeria's industry (Adesua-Lincoln, 2025).

Table 4.2: Awareness of Legislative Policies

| Serial Number | Responses          | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| 001           | High awareness     | 140       | 36.4       |
| 002           | Moderate awareness | 120       | 31.2       |
| 003           | Low awareness      | 125       | 32.4       |
|               | Total              | 385       | 100        |

Source: Survey, 2025

Table 4.2 revealed that only 36.4% of companies reported being very aware of legislative policies. This supports previous research (Olujobi, 2024; Ogunkan, 2022) showing that many

MSMEs lack knowledge about these policies, which makes it harder for them to comply.

Table 4.3: Institutional/Administrative Barriers

| Serial Number | Barriers                           | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 001           | Weak enforcement by agencies       | 280       | 72.7       |
| 002           | Overlapping mandates/fragmentation | 260       | 67.5       |
| 003           | Limited monitoring capacity        | 310       | 80.5       |
| 004           | Corruption/political interference  | 250       | 64.9       |
|               | Total                              | 385       | 100        |

Source: Survey, 2025



Table 4.3 shows that most respondents identified limited monitoring ability (80.5%) and weak enforcement (72.7%) as significant problems, which aligns with NESREA’s limited resources (Okechukwu, 2024). The issue of institutional

fragmentation (67.5%) suggests that there are overlapping responsibilities, while political interference (64.9%) highlights governance issues.

Table 4.4: Financial and Technological Barriers

| Serial Number | Barriers                        | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 001           | High cost of cleaner technology | 295       | 76.6       |
| 002           | Lack of access to green finance | 275       | 71.4       |
| 003           | Limited technical expertise     | 240       | 62.3       |
| 004           | Lack of incentives/subsidies    | 260       | 67.5       |
|               | Total                           | 385       | 100        |

Source: Survey, 2025

Table 4.4 highlights that high transition costs (76.6%) and limited access to green finance (71.4%) are the biggest challenges, as noted in CPI’s (2024) report and Lwesya’s

(2025) study across Africa. This indicates that companies struggle to meet legal requirements due to financial constraints.

Table 4.5: Political and Social Barriers

| Serial Number | Barriers                              | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 001           | Political interference in enforcement | 245       | 63.6       |
| 002           | Lack of stakeholder participation     | 220       | 57.1       |
| 003           | Weak civil society oversight          | 200       | 51.9       |
| 004           | Resistance from industry lobbies      | 180       | 46.8       |
|               | Total                                 | 385       | 100        |

Source: Survey, 2025

The results in Table 4.5 show that there are challenges in governance. Political interference affects 63.6% of the cases, while poor stakeholder participation impacts 57.1% of the cases. Additionally, weak oversight by civil society, which is at 51.9%, points to a lack of transparency. Furthermore, industrial lobbies, which affect 46.8%, undermine enforcement by leveraging their influence.

Qualitative Findings (KIIs)

The results from the key informant interview revealed the following:

Regulators acknowledged that there are enforcement gaps due to insufficient funding, a shortage of laboratories, and political pressure.

Leaders in the industry, especially those from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), have noted that adhering to rules is often viewed as expensive and is not a top priority due to limited incentives.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) stressed that there is a lack of public information and community involvement in monitoring how rules are implemented.

These findings support the numbers: weak institutions, money issues, and political factors continue to be the most significant obstacles.

Discussion of Findings

The study's findings align with those of previous reviews. The low level of awareness, with only 36.4% fully informed, supports Olujobi’s (2024) worries about unclear subsidiary rules. Problems within institutions, such as poor enforcement, overlaps, and corruption, align with Ogunkan’s (2022) analysis of disjointed environmental governance. Financial issues, including high technology costs and limited green finance options, strongly support the claims made by CPI (2024) and Lwesya (2025). Political interference and weak public oversight highlight Matland’s (1995) Ambiguity–Conflict Model prediction: when both ambiguity and conflict are high, the results of implementation rely on negotiations and power dynamics rather than just on how laws are designed.

Summary

This study examined the challenges and obstacles that hinder the effective implementation of key laws designed to promote sustainable industrial practices in Nigeria. By employing a mixed-methods approach, researchers collected survey responses from 385 participants across micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) as well as large industries. They also conducted interviews with key individuals, including regulators, industry leaders, and representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The demographic data showed that most participants were male (64.9%), aged between 31 and 40 years (41.6%), and the majority had a higher level of education (62.3%). MSMEs made up a significant portion of the sample (64.9%), reflecting their central role in Nigeria's industrial sector.

The findings revealed four main types of barriers:

**Awareness gaps** - Only 36.4% of businesses were highly aware of legislative frameworks, such as the Climate Change Act and NESREA regulations.

**Institutional/administrative barriers** – Issues included weak enforcement (72.7%), limited monitoring ability (80.5%), overlapping responsibilities (67.5%), and political interference (64.9%).

**Financial and technological barriers** – Challenges included the high cost of cleaner technology (76.6%), poor access to green financing (71.4%), lack of technical skills (62.3%), and absence of subsidies (67.5%).

**Political and social barriers** – These included political interference (63.6%), weak stakeholder participation (57.1%), inadequate oversight by civil society (51.9%), and resistance from industry groups (46.8%).

Qualitative evidence supported these findings: regulators mentioned issues such as underfunding and political pressure, MSMEs voiced concerns about high compliance costs, while NGOs highlighted the need for stronger civic monitoring.

The discussion highlighted that although Nigeria has solid legislative frameworks on paper, real results are hampered by institutional weaknesses, financial challenges, political interference, and low awareness levels. These issues align with international research, including the Ambiguity–Conflict Model (Matland, 1995), which suggests that successful implementation in situations marked by high ambiguity and conflict relies more on power dynamics and negotiations than on legislation itself.

## CONCLUSION

The study finds that:

Nigeria's industrial sector is aware of legislative policies, but knowledge and understanding remain low, especially among micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Weak enforcement, unclear responsibilities, and corruption are the biggest obstacles to effectively implementing policies.

Many companies face significant financial and technological challenges, as they often lack the funds to invest in cleaner technologies or access affordable green finance.

Political factors, such as interference, lobbying, and inadequate public oversight, significantly impact the effectiveness of policy implementation.

To achieve sustainable industrial practices, we require more than just laws; we also need effective enforcement agencies, transparent funding mechanisms, and political accountability.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results, here are some suggestions:

Improve enforcement agencies

Provide enough funding and resources to organisations like NESREA, ensuring they have labs, digital monitoring tools, and trained staff;

Streamline overlapping responsibilities to minimise repetitive tasks and enhance efficiency.

Increase awareness and involve stakeholders.

Launch specific awareness campaigns for small and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs) to help them understand compliance rules better;

Build stronger partnerships with community groups and civil organisations for independent monitoring.

Offer financial and tech support.

Grow green financing through tax breaks, credit guarantees, and low-interest loans;

Encourage collaboration between the public and private sectors for adopting cleaner technologies.

Foster political accountability

Implement anti-corruption rules within regulatory bodies;

Enhance parliamentary oversight to minimise political interference in the enforcement of policies.

Promote industry-driven compliance

Assist industry groups in creating self-regulation systems;

Create recognition programs that reward companies showing leadership in sustainable practices.

## Contributions to Knowledge

This study adds to our understanding by:

Presenting real-world evidence of the various barriers—administrative, financial, political, and social—that impact the implementation of industrial policy in Nigeria.

Showing how Matland's Ambiguity–Conflict Model applies to Nigeria, revealing that policy results are influenced more by conflict and weaknesses within institutions than just by laws.

Emphasising the important role that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play in Nigeria's move toward sustainability, these businesses make up a significant part of the industry but struggle with substantial financial and awareness challenges.



Providing a valuable framework for policymakers that combines institutional changes, funding, and involvement from stakeholders to achieve better policy results

## Recommendations for Further Studies

The study recommends these areas for future research:

A comparison between Nigeria and other African nations to find effective strategies for overcoming obstacles in policy implementation

An analysis focused on specific sectors (like oil and gas compared to manufacturing) to identify particular challenges in implementing policies.

A long-term study examining how new green financing options improve compliance over time.

Investigating how digital technologies (such as blockchain and AI monitoring systems) can enhance enforcement efforts and reduce corruption.

More qualitative research is needed into how political economy factors, such as lobbying and influence from elites, shape environmental policy outcomes.

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