Forest Administration: Panacea for Forest Policy Implementation in Kaduna State

Faleyimu, O.I
Department of Biological Sciences
Ondo State University of Science and Technology
Okitipupa, Nigeria

Arowosoge, O.G.
Department of Forestry
Wildlife and Fisheries Management
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

Abstract

This paper examines forest administration and its implementation in Kaduna state. A random sampling technique was employed to select respondents at 3 forestry administrative zones which are northern zone, central zone and southern zone of the state. A total of one hundred and twenty questionnaire was administered. Data collected were analyzed using frequency distribution tables, percentage and chi-square (χ^2). Results showed that regular staff training, stakeholders participation, provision of adequate financial resources, creating a conducive atmosphere for job, effective supervision and coordination, regular meetings with staff, adequate staff strength, regular annual reports on forestry activities, incentives for afforestation/regeneration, provision of adequate equipment to run the forestry affairs, finance, log control and regular training of staff had significant relationship with forestry development ($P<0.01$). On the other hand, planning unit did not have significant relationship with forestry development ($P>0.05$). Due to these factors affecting forestry development, the administrative structures had over the years had direct relationship with effectiveness in implementing government conservative policies and programmes.

Key words: Forest administration, policy implementation, conservation, institutional structures.

Introduction

The Forest Administrative Department is the body responsible for implementation of forest policy and forestry issues in any country. Through norms and legislation, financial means, information and forest programmes, forest policy is designed to promote the sustainable management of forest land resources uses. There are different implementations of state forest administration systems in different countries. For instance, in Europe there are different institutional structures and approaches, variation in legal rights and duties between private and public institutions, and also differences in the share of duties between national and local levels. Hence, forest policy means setting public aims and goals for forestry. It also means choosing, regulating and implementing policy for fulfillment of the aims and goals while monitoring the achievements (Krott, 2005). The terms that often come up in the context of forest policy are values, interests, and conflicts while the main aim of forest policy is sustainable forest management, for the benefit of people and nature. Thus, Global forest policy has become an increasingly important issue, not only because of global climate change, but also because of growing demand for sustainable energy, consequences of globalization, deforestation in the tropics, illegal timber trade, and poverty in third world countries. However, partly for historical reasons, the development of forest policy has been at variance in different parts of Europe.

The policy process can be described by the following steps: (1) Problem formulation, (2) Policy agenda, (3) Policy formulation, (4) Policy adaptation, (5) Policy implementation, and (6) Policy evaluation (Anderson *et al.,* 1984, Faleyimu and Agbeja, 2010). However, in practice policy making is an iterative process, and going from item 6 back to 1 means that desirable changes in policy are recognized and formulated again.

Policies are the outcome of politics to be implemented by the state in different sectors of society. This outcome of politics is usually a political processes which are the chains of activities and events, from the very beginning of raising an issue on the political agenda, to argumentation, possible confrontation, political struggle, coalition, negotiation, compromise, solution and finally to implementation. Political institutions formulate the policies and make the final decision on the contents, goals and resources for certain policies.   Although forest policies are implemented on the state level, they need to be constantly reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs of society in a changing world (Faleyimu, 2010).

Two essential elements of policy can usefully be distinguished - objectives and instruments. There are five types of forest policy instruments: (a) Normative or regulatory (b) Economic or financial subsidies (c) Information (d) and (e) Reforms. In practice, forest policies employ most if not all these policy instruments. Laws, decrees, orders and administrative rules are normative or regulatory instruments. One of the fundamental institutions in any society is the set of property rights: the rules, laws, and social concepts that establish ownership of, and access to property, and protect the pattern of ownership. Legislation is the most powerful of the instruments of forest policy. The fundamental task of forest legislation is to provide a solid basis and long-term framework for forestry and define the basic goals for forestry and forest management. Economic (or financial) instruments in a strict sense are positive (i.e. incentives, subsidies) or negative (i.e. disincentives, taxation) instruments linked to certain actions by individuals. In a wider sense, governmental investments in infrastructure or certain services can also be included in financial instruments, since they relieve private actors from related costs. Informational instruments are all those political means of intervention which formally influence social and economic action through information alone. By relaying information, forest policy-makers can make direct contact with all the stakeholders concerned, including the general public, forestry enterprises, employees and associations (Krott, 2005).

Information is the basic and most common political instrument for regulating human action. Information can also result in public awareness. A stakeholder can thus gain a broader basis for decision-making, which improves his or her capacity to take proper action. However, information can also be used to exercise power, thus rendering a stakeholder dependent. In forest policy practice, informational instruments are usually employed for the purpose of achieving public awareness as well as power. In democratic systems, the stakeholders formally emphasize that public awareness is generated by their instruments of information. In forest policy, informational instruments can also include advisory and extension services and the educational factors, such as continued forestry training and forest education. Forest plans are important forest policy instruments which occur usually at many levels in forestry. However at national forest policy the national level planning deserves special attention. Reforms are significant changes in the basic institutions of forestry, such as relatively rapid shifts in forest ownership, organisational structures, financial or legislative framework. This paper examines forest administration in forest policy implementation in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Methodology

Study Area

The study was conducted in Kaduna state. Kaduna state lies between latitude $8^0 45^1$ and $11^0 30^1$N and longitude $6^0 10^1$ and 9^0. The state is estimated to cover a land mass area of about 48,473.2 square kilometers with a population of about 6,066, 652 (NPC, 1996). Kaduna belongs to the guinea savanna vegetation belt. The climate varies from north to south of the state with rainfall starting in April and ending in October in the southern part of the state. The annual rain fall shows marked decreases from 1,524mm in the south to 635mm in the north while the mean annual temperature ranges between 19^0C–32^0C.
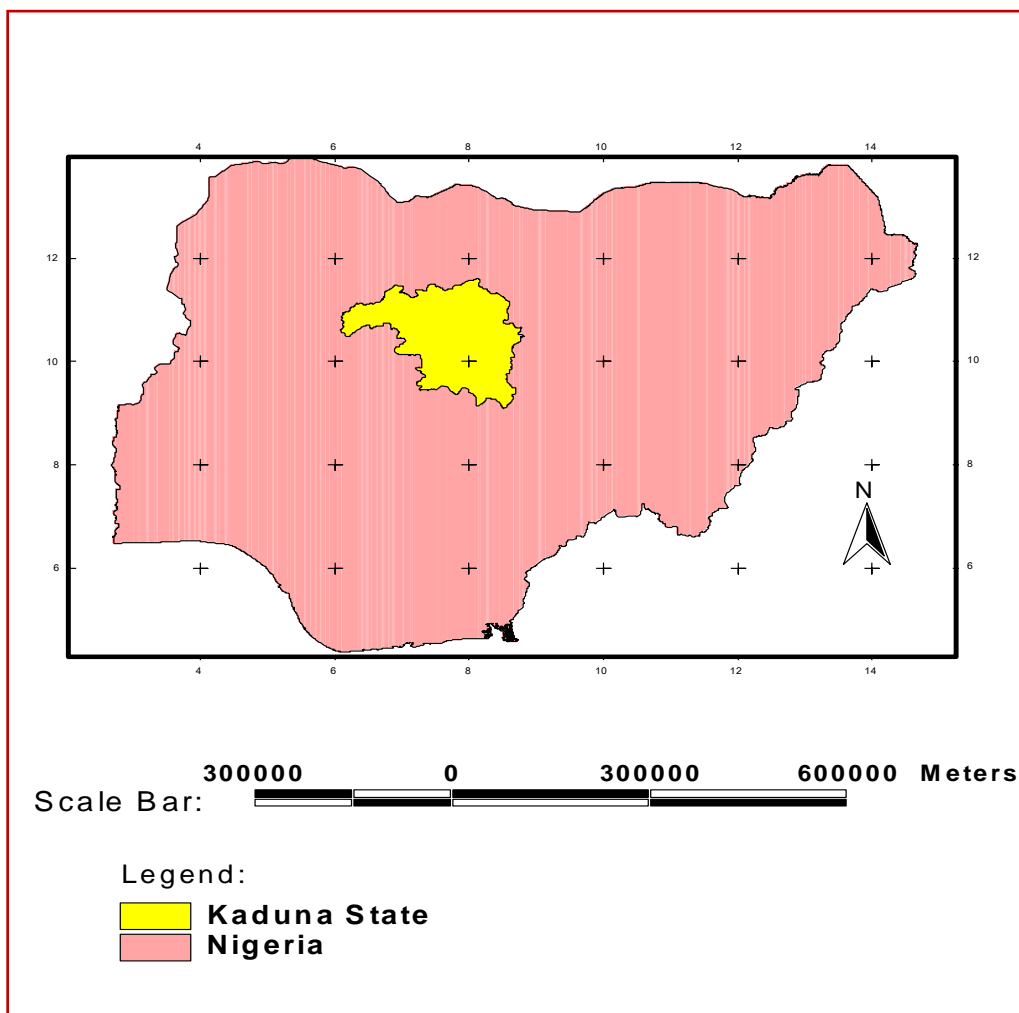
Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing the study area

Method of Data Collection

Sampling Techniques

A random sampling technique was employed to select respondents at three forestry administrative zones which are northern zone, central zone and southern zone of the state. The Northern zone of the state includes three Local Government Areas (LGAs) which are: Zaria/Sabon Gari, Soba and Giwa while the central zone also consists of three LGAs: Igabi, Chikun and Birni Gwari. The Southern zone similarly consists of LGAs which are: Kagarko, Jama'a and kachia. A total of one hundred and twenty questionnaire was administered. Due to incomplete information or non response to some vital questions only 104 questionnaires were used for the analysis.

Analytical Technique

All the data collected were analyzed using frequency distribution tables, percentage and chi-square (χ^2).

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Education Status of Respondents.

Education status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
M.Sc	10	9.6
B.Sc/HND	28	26.9
ND	27	26.0
Silvicultural Assitant	19	18.3
School Certificate	13	12.5
Primary Sch. Certificate	7	6.73
Total	**104**	**100**

Note: M.Sc = Master of Science, B.Sc. = Bachelor of Science, HND = Higher National Diploma, ND = National Diploma

The educational qualification of majority (26.9%) of the respondents was B.Sc./HND, followed by ND with 26.0% and silvicultural assistant with 18.3% respondents. 9.6% and 2.9% of the respondents had M.Sc and Ph.D respectively. The implication of this result is that information dissemination by the administrative officers might make impact in carrying out various forest activities and programmes in the study areas since almost all respondents could read and write. This could also provide more knowledge that increased the staff's rationality in the use of innovations

Table 2: Gender of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	94	90.4
Female	10	9.6
Total	104	100

Most (90.4%) of the respondents were male while 9.6% of the respondents were female. This confirms Faleyimu (2010) findings that forestry activities and staff are men dominated.

Administrative Measures for Impacting Forestry Development

Table 3: Administrative Measures for Impacting Forestry Development

Administrative Measures	Chi-square (χ^2)	Asymp sign.
Stakeholders participation	60.59	0.000*
Provision of adequate financial resources	67.85	0.000*
Creating a conducive atmosphere for job	47.12	0.000*
Effective supervision and coordination	67.85	0.000*
Regular meetings with staff	67.85	0.000*
Regular meetings with the stakeholders	43.54	0.000*
Adequate staff strength	52.65	0.000*
Regular annual reports on forestry activities	63.70	0.000*
Encouraging private forest ownership	61.54	0.000*
Incentives for afforestation/regeneration	48.94	0.000*
Provision of adequate equipment to run the forest affairs	39.39	0.000*
Commending faithful and diligent officers to encourage others.	55.54	0.000*
Discipline erring staff to serve as lesson for others.	58.50	0.000*

- Significant at 0.001 (P<0.01)

Table 3 reveals the result of administrative measures for impacting forestry development in the state. Regular staff training, stakeholders participation, provision of adequate financial resources, creating a conducive atmosphere, effective supervision and coordination, regular meetings with staff and stakeholders, adequate staff strength, regular annual reports on forestry activities, encouraging private forest ownership, incentives for afforestation/regeneration, provision of adequate equipment to run the forest affairs, commending faithful and diligent officers to encourage others, and discipline erring staff to serve as lesson for others have significant relationship with forestry development (P<0.01). This result is in line with the work of Akinyemi *et al.,* (2008) and Faleyimu *et al.,* (2008) that the mentioned factors have significant relationship with forestry development in the South-west Nigeria.

Table 4: Institutional arrangements for forestry development in Kaduna State

Institutional arrangement for forestry development	Chi-square (χ^2)	Asymp sign.
Finance	17.95	0.000*
Planning unit	0.15	0.695 **
Log control	24.04	0.000*
Regular staff training	7.54	0.000*

- Significant at 0.001 (P<0.01); ** Not significant at 0.05 (P>0.05)

Table 4 above reveals that finance, log control, and regular staff training have significant relationship with forestry development (P<0.01). However, planning unit has no significant relationship with forestry development in Kaduna State.

Conclusion

The administration of natural resources is supposed to be carried out mainly within the administrative structures that exist in the various government ministries and agencies manned by public servants. The result confirmed Faleyimu *et al.* (2008) and Ezenwaka and Aiyeloja (2010) that most of the factors affecting forestry development, administrative and institutional structures had over the years had direct relationship with effectiveness in implementing government conservative policies and programmes. The structures identified can serves as solution to forestry development and hence policy implementation. Conservative policies and programmes may not achieve much if such notorious factors as bureaucratic bottlenecks, corruption, inadequate funding, understaffing, lack of appropriate knowledge, and insufficient commitment to service on the part of public servants. It is the opinion of this paper that a participatory approach whereby local people are involved in the decision making process (as relates to the sustainable management of natural resources in their environment) will achieve conservation of natural resources.

References

Akinyemi,O,. Faleyimu, O.I and Agbeja,B.O (2008): Effective Administrative Measure: The Bedrock of Sustainable Forestry Development (Case Study: South- western Nigeria). International Journal of Development Studies. 3(3): 52-57.

Ezenwaka, J and Aiyeloja, A.A (2010): Achieving sustainability in natural resources   conservation in Nigeria. In (eds) H.M Ijeomah and A.A Aiyeloja "*Practical Issues in Forest and Wildlife Resource management".* Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of PortHarcourt. Pp 260-278.

Faleyimu, O.I and Agbeja,B.O and Akinyemi,O,. (2008): Problems of Effective Forest Policy Implementation: The base of Environmental Degradation (Case Study: South-western Nigeria). Journal of Environmental Research and Policies. 3(3): 53-62

Faleyimu, O.I (2010): Status of Forest Policy Implementation in South-West Nigeria. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. April, 2010. Pp 271

Faleyimu, O.I and Agbeja, B.O (2010): Forest Policies and Implementations in Nigeria. In (eds) H.M Ijeomah and A.A Aiyeloja "*Practical Issues in Forest and Wildlife Resources Management".* Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of Port Harcourt. Pp 153-171

Krott, M. (2005). Forest Policy Analysis. Springer, Dordrecht. www.amazon.com/forest-policy-analysis-max-1402034784. Pp 102

National Population Commission (1996): National Population Commission, Booklet. Pp 56.