

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND TRANSHUMANCE CONFLICTS IN SOUTHEAST NIGERIA: A STUDY IN CONFLICT PREVENTION.

Amaka P. Q. UZODINMA

Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, NIGERIA.

Abstract

The spate of transhumance conflicts in the Southeast of Nigeria in spite of all strategies of governments to curb it has become highly perturbing. It's coarsely disturbing hence the attendant consequences of the conflict distorts the peaceful coexistence of the herders and the sedentary famers. This paper examines the circumstances associated with the conflict. The study is hinged on two anchor questions: What is the proximate cause of transhumance conflicts in the Southeast of Nigeria? What strategic mechanism can be applied to prevent the conflicts and sustain peace in the Southeast? The study adopted social psychology theory of the displaced aggression. Data for the study were generated through quantitative methods and analyzed using the sequential analytical techniques. The findings revealed that the proximate factors responsible for transhumance conflicts are many and varied. They include the influx of foreign herders, their emerging aggressive tendencies, infiltration of the original early herder settlers, access to sophisticated assault weapons, insufficient land surface area for settlement and farming, language barrier, quest to evade cattle tax – jangali, and the delay in implementation of modern livestock rearing. The paper concludes that there is urgent need to address transhumance operation and scarcity of land surface areas so as to accommodate the multitude of cattle and humans, particularly sedentary farmers in the local communities. The paper recommends Early Warning System to check trespass and aggression as well as tacit efforts to review cattle tax. In addition, there is also need to save the live stocks, human lives and food output by relocating the transhumance activities to areas with vast land.

Keywords: Displaced aggression, Early Warning, Human Security, Land Surface Area, Transhumance.

Introduction

In a sense conflict is an integral part of human life. This is such that in the words of Tzu (2002: xii) the challenge is "how to conquer without aggression, whether conflict is large or small, personal or national ... but we also live in a world where aggression cannot be avoided". Accordingly, he opines that "we must know the other in order to skilfully

engage him or her. It is necessary, therefore, not to ignore it, submerge it, give up on it or try to deny its existence" (Tzu, 2002: xiii)

Transhumance is increasing being associated with aggression in Southeast, Nigeria. It has led to incessant trespasses-ignited clashes between the herders and the owners of farmlands. Much like other geo-political zones in Nigeria, the Southeast is confronted with monumental challenges: economic downturn and insecurity among others, the spate of insecurity is undisputable. The scale of insecurity gathers momentum as the day goes by amidst all efforts of security agencies and strategies put in place by government institutions to check the situation. The most worrisome is the high risk conflict poses that threaten the peaceful coexistence, security of lives and productivity of the people within the local communities across the states as a result of transhumance activities. Transhumance became a source of pain and agony to the people due to the emerging trends of its mode of operation: trespass, sudden killing in dozens, destruction of property, rape, calculated waste of human energy and resources at gun point. The general opinion presently is that it has become an albatross issue. Going by the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution, citizens have fundamental human right to freedom of movement in search of legitimate business. This involves transhumance pastoralism and ECOWAS Treaty on transhumance protocol that allows herders to move across borders in search of pastures. Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture alluded to this in one of his stake holders meeting in June 2016.

Transhumance has been checked in most civilized societies and Nigeria joined suit by taking a bold step by clearly planning breakaway from traditional livestock rearing practice to embrace modern method involving private sector in animal production processing and marketing. Here, the diverse interest of pastoralists investors, development partners and small holder producers form live stock value chains. Consequently, the delay in implementation of this policy generates aggression that breeds these conflicts which thrive at the detriment of the peace loving early herder settlers and the sedentary farmers who produce meat and food respectively. The continuing clashes resulting in insecurity of lives and insecurity of food which have defiled all current mechanism can no longer be ignored. There is need to nip the conflicts in the board through proactive strategies.

The study is hinged on two anchor questions. The first is what is the proximate cause of transhumance conflicts in the Southeast of Nigeria? Secondly, what strategic mechanism can be applied to prevent the conflicts and sustain peace in the Southeast? In addressing this, the paper is divided into interrelated sections, as follows: Introduction, Conceptualization of Concepts and Literature Review, Theoretical frame work and Methodology, Transhumance Conflicts in the South East, Proximate factors of the Conflict, Early Warning mechanism, Conclusion and Recommendation.

Review of Relevant Literature and Conceptual Considerations

In conceptualizing conflict, we align with Coser (1956), who perceive conflict as a struggle over and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. This study makes use of this definition

here in respect of scarce land surface area that breeds aggression. The term or phrase 'Early Warning and Early Response' refers to the provision of timely and effective information through identified institutions, that allows individuals exposed to a threat, taking action to avoid or reduce their risk and preparedness for effective response. Early Warning Systems including three elements, namely knowledge and hazard mapping, monitoring and forecasting impending events. Processing and dissemination of understandable warnings to political authorities and population, as well as adoption of appreciate and timely action in response to such alerts - UNDP. Its needed in this paper to mainstream sustainable peace.

The term transhumance connotes the movement of people with their livestock between fixed areas. Sometimes called vertical transhumance, transhumance implies, particularly in temperate regions, the movement between higher summer and lower valleys in winter. As used in this study, transhumance refers to the movement of livestock in search of water and food between locations. The seasonal movement of herders between higher geographic areas and lower areas search of water and food for the live stocks is considered a major source of aggression.

In an existing relevant literature, Tyomla (2018) argues in his study on Nigeria security and architecture, the challenge of open grazing. Accordingly, the result shows that the security outfit has not been able to contain the challenges arising from the open grazing which is widely referred to as the farmer /herder clash. This is evident in the spate of such clashes which have almost consumed the entire country particularly states like Kaduna, Benue, Taraba, Zamfara, Enugu, Plateau etc. This assertion is made explicit in the Crisis Group Africa Report (2018). Recently, militia both herder and farmer militias have been operating in large numbers than in the past, ranging from dozens to hundreds that in addition to mobilizing larger numbers, their operations are no longer spontaneous but increasingly premeditated. The assailants are also now better armed, including with AK-47 and other assault rifles, and sometimes dressed in military fatigues".

In a bit to illustrate the contemporary modus operandi over the power of the security architecture in Nigeria in containing the Transhumance Conflict their report further stated that "the nature of attack has also changed, now increasingly taken the form of Scorched Earth campaigns that kill scores, raise villages and burn down farms. Operating more audaciously, the militia now obstruct and engage security units sent to stop violence and in some cases kill police and troops". They recommended policy on modern livestock and better security strategy. Reflecting on the inefficiency of the security agencies in their response to incessant onslaughts associated with transhumance, Ugwu, and Onuigbo (2017) suggest that the Nigerian government and her security agencies should be proactive in their responses, improve their intelligence, gathering techniques. That most farmers have abandoned their farms due to fear of being killed."

The much concern on Conflict ECOWAS and government of Nigeria held a high level meeting on pastoralism and cross border Transhumance in Abuja (2018) in the review of the "Transhumance regulations between ECOWAS member States in 2003, they argued the need for conflict prevent amidst climate change and recommended modern livestock

breeding according to the federal minister from Nigeria. These suggestions on policy on modern life stock breeding corroborates with Ahmed–Gamgun (2018) as opined that in view of Texas history narrative in relation to pastoralists and farmers, notwithstanding, the grave picture of environmental impact assessment which often existed, scientists and stakeholders form the conflict mapping as a tool to check the proliferation of sophisticated arm by the Fulani's and the local communities which then apply in engaging in mass killings, wanton destruction of lives and properties associated with violence. Texas succeeded in having the best and most productive livestock breeding system in the society in high commercial quantity boosting their economy.

On the contrary, Kwaja, and Ademola-Adelehin (2017) in search for common ground argued on the open implications of the open grazing prohibition and ranches establishment law on farmer-herder relations the Middlebelt of Nigeria, they posit that the reactions on the appropriateness of the law differs, that many argue that it contradicts Nigerian Constitution Provision (Nigeria Constitution, 1979): "every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof" In view of the foregoing, we deduced that the need for alternative mechanism to prevent transhumance conflict is imperative. What exactly is the place of early warning mechanism? How efficient is the strategic mechanism in checking conflict and violence associated with transhumance? Many strategies have been raised but not in the direction of the strategic mechanism of early warning for early response which is the main focus of this paper.

Theoretical Framework of Analysis and Methodology

The theoretical frame work for analyzing this study of transhumance conflict is predicated on social psychology theory of the displaced aggression. Transhumance involving movements of live stocks and those rearing them suffers the effect climate change by dissertation and faces a big challenge of settling down in unacceptable location, they thereby take on aggressively to succeed at all cost hence they were displaced by weather before movement, while the sedentary farmers take on aggressively to retain their land. The method used to generate data for study was essentially qualitative. Data were gathered from government documents, newspapers and proceedings from workshops, journals, town hall meetings, conflict mapping reports. Generated data were analysed using sequential analytical techniques while tables helped to illustrate the narratives.

Transhumance Conflicts in the Southeast

Record shows that transhumance has existed over time. For long period of time there has been movement of human and livestock across the regions in search of water and food, it has been noted that there has been Peaceful coexistence between livestock breeders and owners of the settlements. They were known to be rearing their cattle's with bows and arrows, moving from track roads within the bush for grazing and as well using the streams and rivers within the areas of settlement. Conflicts that rose out of disagreements were said to be amicably resolved. Herdsmen settled in various areas of their comfort across the

communities within the states. Tolerance, perseverance and peace existed before now, live stocks were safe, human lives and crops were secured. In the recent years now the story has changed. Human lives are no more secured; cattle's crops and homes are no more secured.

Table 1. COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE WITNESSED EMERGING TRENDS IN ATTACKS

S/N	Local Communities	Local Government	State	Date
1.	Abiriba	Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
2.	Ohafia	Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
3.	Okono	Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
4.	Akanu	Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
5.	Okagwe	Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
6.	Agboji	Abuba Ohafia	Abia	2015-2016
7.	Etiti Amankporo	Ohafia	Abia	October 2016
8.	Umuanyi Automous	Isuikwuato	Abia	April 2016
9.	Afikpo	Afikpo	Ebonyi	September 20
10.	Oba Ofemini	Awka North	Anambra	December 2015
11.	Ugbu-enu	Awka North	Anambra	December 2015
12.	Ugbene	Awka North	Anambra	January 2016
13.	Isiagu	Awka South	Anambra	January 2016
14.	Alor	Idemili South	Anambra	June 2016
15.	Ogbunike Logidi	Oyi	Anambra	September 2016
16.	Highway-priests kidnap	Oyi	Anambra	September 2016
17.	Nzam	Anambra West	Anambra	May 2017 –date
18.	Umuenwelum Anam	Anambra West	Anambra	2016-date
19.	Nimb	Uzo-Uwani	Enugu	25 th April 2016
20.	Achi	Oji River	Enugu	May 2018
21.	Amaho Okpuje	Nsukka	Enugu	February 216
22.	Okwutu	Nsukka	Enugu	August 2015
23.	Nsukka	Nsukka	Enugu	June 2016
24.	Enugu Ezike	Enugu Ezike North	Enugu	August 2016
25.	Atakwuru Ndiagu	Nkanu	Enugu	August 2015
26.	Ndiegu Opi	Nsukka	Enugu	May-June 2016
27.	Ezeagu	Ezeagu	Enugu	October 2015
28.	Aku	Ogbede	Enugu	September 2016
29.	Akpugo	Nkanu	Enugu	May 2016
30.	Ukehe	Ogbede	Enugu	August 2016
31.	Oji River	Oji River	Enugu	June 2016
32.	Ihube	Okigwe	Imo State	May 2016
33.	Umuekune Village Irete Owerri	Owerri	Imo	May 2016
34.	NekedeIhiagwa	Owerri	Imo	June 2016
35.	Okofia	Ohaji/Egbema	Imo	May 2018

Source: Compiled by the author from various sources

The movement of humans and cattle across the region, from the North to the Southeast in thousands changed the situation. The influx of cattle, their herders and families, and multiple settlements within the local communities more than ever before unsettled the

peace of the communities do to herder trespasses and attendant struggle for land surface space. The herders are aggressive over Land space to occupy for settlement while the sedentary farmers in the local communities are aggressive over land space for farming. The trespasses and conflict of interest gave rise to clashes. The clashes gave rise to the emerging trends of sudden onslaught against the host communities which frightens many of the host communities that witnessed violent conflicts resulting in monumental loss of lives, properties and farm work damages. The mode of operation of the herders tuned to a fierce one. They became adversaries to their host communities. Some communities that have witnessed outstanding untold stories of the emerging trends of attack are listed below in table 1. Abia Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo have been attacked severally, and multiple cases of kidnappings recorded, the worst hit is Enugu that has borders with Kogi and Benue. Listed above are some of the areas of transhumance attacks and conflict.

The list appears unending. Various communities that encountered the herdsmen trespass with sophisticated weapons are apprehensive so far and avoid going to streams or fetch firewood unaccompanied. In parts of Anambra North too, schools are oftentimes closed down for fear of herder's trespass and attacks on schools. Fish farms are also abandoned. Some of the crops like paper garden egg, vegetable, water melon, etc are wasting in some farms presently out of fear. Lives of herders are also at stake, some of them lose their lives. The experiences from the emerging trends of the herder's activities cannot be over emphasized. Many of the mayhem brought untold stories to the various villages that were attacked, many of them lost human beings in scores and multimillion properties lost. Instances of Nimbo, Nkanu, Ezeagu areas abound. Those who are not mourning vacated their farm settlement and abandoned their farm work due to the fact that the farmers mostly settled in designated areas mapped out for farming in various village, they normally called *agu* or *ugbo* in Igbo meaning bush environs owned but not habited; left for tenured farming. Small houses are built, there as home base for farming seasons most unfortunately development are far from those areas, the only source of water are streams and rivers as agrarian environment.

The herders sometimes chose to engage in kidnapping for ransom, defecate in the streams not minding that the indigenes and their cattle's drink from them; cooked meals are taking away from the owner's kitchen. Women are raped at gun point in the presence of their husbands and relatives. Cassavas are uprooted and fed to the cattle. The cattle are taking directly to the farm to feed on crops and match on cultivated farmland. Those who complain, earn machet cuts or thorough beaten. Cattle are taking down to family farmland within the mapped out residential areas of the communities. When youth groups move to protect their own the herders resist them, invariably clash ensues. In Nkanu area of Enugu state, where hazard mapping was also done, it was reported that a gong was *knocked* by women and children to scare cattle away from family compounds and farms, the cattle were scared away. The herders promised to return, and they did resulting loss of Catholic Seminarian on apostolic work. They also butchered a pregnant woman and a man, who died later in the hospital where many others injured people were hospitalized.

These killing and intimidation with impunity that warranted many farmers relocating from farm land and abandon farming within the periods, certainly affects output, the security of food can no longer be guaranteed. There would inevitably be a shortage of food supply in the market due to shortage of farm produce. Places like Ugbene and Oba Ofemili in Awka North LGA of Anambra state had over 500 hectares of rice farm burned by herders who reneged on agreement of seasonal pasturing after rice harvest. Many villages visited across the Southeast had poor farming season out of fear of the herders.

Table 2: LAND SURFACE AREA PER STATE IN NIGERIA IN ORDER OF RANK

Rank	States	KM ²
1	Niger State	76, 363
2	Borno State	70, 898
3	Taraba State	54, 473
4	Kaduna State	46, 053
5	Bauchi State	45, 837
6	Yobe State	45, 502
7	Zamfara State	39, 762
8	Adamawa State	36, 917
9	Kwara State	36, 825
10	Kebbi State	36, 800
11	Benue State	34, 059
12	Plateau State	30, 913
13	Kogi State	29, 833
14	Oyo State	28, 454
15	Nasarawa State	27, 117
16	Sokoto State	25, 973
17	Katsina State	24, 192
18	Jigawa State	23, 154
19	Cross River State	20, 156
20	Kano State	20, 134
21	Gombe State	18, 768
22	Edo State	17, 802
23	Delta State	17, 698
24	Ogun State	16, 762
25	Ondo State	15, 500
26	Bayelsa State	11, 077
27	River State	11, 077
28	Osun State	9, 251
29	Abuja FCT	7, 315
29	Enugu State	7, 161
30	Akwa Ibom State	7, 081
31	Ekiti State	6, 353

32	Abia State	6, 320
33	Ebonyi State	5, 670
34	Imo State	5, 530
35	Anambra State	4, 844
36	Lagos State	3, 345

Source: <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>.

From the foregoing, it would be deduced that land surface area for settlement is a significant source of strife in the zone. Accompanying tables 2 and 3 illustrate explicitly the land surface availability in the 36 states of the federation by ranking.

Table 3: LAND SURFACE AREA PER GEOPOLITICAL ZONE IN NIGERIA

	NORTH CENTRAL	LOOSELY (MIDDLE BELT)	TOTAL
1	Benue	34, 059	
2	Kogi	29, 833	
3	Kwara	36, 825	
4	Nasarawa	27, 117	
5	Niger	76, 363	
6	Plateau	30, 913	
	Abuja, FCT	7, 315	273,338
II	NORTH EAST		
1	Adamawa	36, 917	
2	Bauchi	45, 837	
3	Borno	70, 898	
4	Gombe	18, 768	
5	Taraba	54, 473	
6	Yobe	45, 502	
			281, 395
III	NORTH WEST		
1	Jigawa	23, 154	
2	Kaduna	46, 053	
3	Kano	20, 192	
4	Katsina	24, 192	
5	Kebbi	36, 800	
6	Sokoto	25, 973	
7	Zamfara	39, 762	
			216, 068
IV	SOUTHEAST		
1	Abia	6, 320	
2	Anambra	4, 844	
3	Ebonyi	5, 670	
4	Enugu	7, 161	
5	Imo	5, 530	
			29, 525
V	SOUTHSOUTH		

1	Akwa Ibom	7, 081	
2	Bayelsa	11, 077	
3	Cross River	20, 156	
4	Delta	17, 698	
5	Edo	17, 802	
6	Rivers	10, 077	
			83, 891
VI	SOUTHWEST		
1	Ekiti	6, 353	
2	Lagos	3, 345	
3	Ogun	16, 762	
4	Ondo	15, 500	
5	Osun	9, 251	
6	Oyo	28,454	
			73, 312

NC = 242, 425; NE = 281, 395; NW = 216, 068; SE = 29, 525; SS = 83, 891; SW = 73, 312

Some of the river basins that could be considered are Gongola River, Kaduna River, Sokoto River, Yobe River, Hadeja River, Zamfara River, etc.

The accompanying table 3 it illustrates the land surface areas based on geopolitical zones. It shows that Southeast has the least land surface areas in Nigeria which makes it difficult for the sedentary farmers to yield to the needs of the displaced herders. Curiously, draught and desertification is a major source of transhumance conflicts. This is because it prompts the herder to move further south, which in turn creates room for herder trespass and aggressive tendencies on both sides. In all, the proximate factors that cause or lead to conflict are:

- The displaced aggression of herders from draught and desertification through climate change.
- Trespass by nomadic herders and grievance of sedentary farmers battling to retain their ancestral farm land.
- Loss of Grazing Reserve areas, through the creation of more states in Northern Nigeria (Brussel, 2017).
- Herders evading the much 'Cattle tax' (jingali) imposed by the British colonial government in Northern Region (Brussel, 2017)
- Language barrier between the nomadic herders and sedentary communities pose communication challenges, and this invariably breeds mutual suspicion.
- The insufficient land surface areas to accommodate the multitude of live stocks, their herders and families desiring settlement and the sedentary communities' inclination to use their land for cultivation and other uses in both agrarian and non-agrarian environments.

- Massive increase in the numbers of the herders and live stocks as opposed to the 'normal' numbers usually around.
- Access to and use of sophisticated assault weapons by herders as opposed to arrows long sticks and bows they usually carry.
- The emerging trends of seemingly emboldened action of onslaught on the host communities targeting annihilation of the sedentary communities to occupy the scarce land.
- The Search for water and desecration of the streams in host communities.
- The fear of infiltration of herders by disguised terrorist groups which creates apprehension on the people and gets them aggressive over occupation of their territories.
- Illiteracy and ignorance is also a factor, in that the owners of the live stocks would never direct their herds to defecate in streams, use gun to intimidate women and rape them, uproot tubers and cassavas to feed their live stocks. This may have been given guns to protect their live stocks from rustlers but not to kill and maim.
- The mindset that transhumance is a way of life and means of livelihood peculiar to their kinsmen as practiced by their fore fathers, and therefore can never be given up under any circumstance. As a matter of fact: "Our fore fathers did it and we can never stop moving to where ever we want and as we want". This statement was made by a leader of Miyetti Allah in a sensitization workshop on the implications of transhumance on sub-regional and national security and development by Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Awka on 29, September 2016.
- Non retribution on the established murderous herders, irrespective of nationality. Such retributions would have served as deterrents.
- Self-serving group insurance rites such as the self confidence in the institutionalized union - Miyyeti Allah Cattle Breeders Association's protection in times of conflict - with sharing of kola nuts in bowls amongst the group for support during battle. The rite appears to feel some sense of group insurance for their security.
- Delay in implementation of modern practice of livestock rearing to end traditional method of migration of herders and their live stocks, as we find in many nations of the world.

Checking Transhumance Conflicts in the Southeast.

In spite efforts, transhumance conflicts have persisted. Early warning and early response systems is proffered in this study. It arguments the strategies put in place by the Southeast Governors and the security agencies to check transhumance conflicts. The government of Anambra state, under the leadership of Governor Obiano, relying on 'committee mechanism' constituted Conflict Resolution Committees across the state, specifically on transhumance related issues. It is comprised of the state government representatives, security agencies, vigilante representatives, representatives of herder leadership - Miyetti Allah, as well as representatives of local communities. The strategic understanding is such

that 'when cattle are killed the farmers pay; and when farms are destroyed, the herders pay'. Despite these on-ground strategies for dialogue and peaceful coexistence, our findings indicate that the herders have continued to renege on agreements reached. When cattle are killed the farmers pay but in many cases the herders don't pay for damages of farm produce. In situations like this, conflict ensues and the farmers keep of the farms. On the other hand, while affected herders face aggression ordeals, others are oftentimes gripped with fear of transferred aggression from the sedentary farmers.

Early warning is essentially a covert tactic. In practical terms, early warning entails following up on the structural indicators and signs by early warners through conflict mapping. Early warning also involves gathering information on the proliferation of small arms within communities. In view of the structural indicators and signs of early warning, mapping would help to aid identification of, for instance non-early settlers or foreign herders. The implication is that there is the need to report strange or influx of herders early enough for early response. Although security agencies take responsibility for reporting or not responding any case, traditional rulers, herder's leaderships, youth leaders, women leaders have strategic roles to play in early warning process. Incidentally, many strategic stakeholders are oblivious of early warners, and worse still lack reporting approach.

It is imperative to apply early warning. In specific terms, application of the tenets of early warning in transhumance conflicts entails for instance, that herders gather information on the new faces of herders or influx of herders and identify arms amongst them. Similarly, farmers and the entire community members share information on new or strange faces of herders and identify those carrying arms. Being largely covert in approach, early warning necessarily involves some sense synergy between herders, farmers and security agencies to make it feasible.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommended Strategies

The committee mechanism has checked the conflict to a large extent but the fact remains that the application of tolerance and adoption of avoidance approach by farmers have contributed immensely. While the scourge of death and rape keep farmers off the farms, the agreement on payment for cow killed and crops damaged is reneged with impunity by herders. The consequence is reduction in food output: rice and yam production levels are low, yet the prices remain high. Thus, insecurity of lives and food remains a core challenge associated with transhumance conflict in Nigeria, particularly the Southeast. Our submission in this paper Early Warning Mechanism provides a supportive strategy for efficient result.

It is established that indicators of conflict leading to insecurity of human lives and insecurity of food which is paramount to existence is obvious. This trend in transhumance has sown seed of discord among the ethnic group. It has also raises doubt on the ingenuity of the operations of the herdsman. As a matter of fact, there is evidence that some of the herders have defiled measures put in place by government to control them. Curiously, an October 2016 incident in community in Ohafia where a python swallowed a cow and kicked off the herder who tried to rescue the cow with its tale that appears to suggest that

respite can come only through unusual occurrences. This is because the incident frightened the herders and they now avoid the area. Incidentally this can hardly be the case. It becomes imperative to try another strategy to prevent conflict, build peace, save lives, secure food and create enabling environment for development, for a place cannot developed without human beings and human beings cannot survive without food.

About a decade ago, SunZu's (Tzu, 2000: xi) opined that "offering a radically new perspective on conflict, whereby one might attain victory without going to battle" makes so much sense. Accordingly, the first recommendation of this paper is Early Warning and Early Response Systems approach. The Southeast state governments in addition to their efforts of constituting Conflict Resolution Committees on herders and farmers clash needs to engage Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution as their implementing partners to strategize on Conflict Early Warning and Early Response approach to manage the emerging trends of the herders' trespass across the state. This will necessarily entail sensitization and advocacy through the stakeholders of early warning for sustainable peace and security.

Secondly immediate implementation of relevant government policies. Immediate implementation of government policy on moving away from the traditional livestock breeding-transhumance to a modern organized system of livestock breeding, implementing programmes under great green wall initiative for Sahara and the Sahel, a trans-African project designed to tackle drought and decent degraded environments. The third recommendation is review of cattle tax. There is need to review cattle tax or *jangali* regimes. There idea is to prevent or discourage cattle herders from evading tax and therefore encouraged them to stay back.

Our fourth recommendation focuses on the issue of land. As opposed to vast areas of land available in most other parts of Nigeria, Southeast land surface area is the list in space, leading inevitably to chances of trespass and aggression over land. Fifthly, we recommend capacity building. There is need for capacity building of strategic stakeholders in early warning. Emphasis is on sensitisation and advocacy for tolerance for peaceful coexistence and guarantee of all human lives and food security in the Southeast. Lastly, we call for retribution of offenders. There is need for forthright retribution of offenders. This will help to deter others.

Reference

- Ayantunde, A. A., Asse, R., Said, M. Y., & Fall, A. (2014). Transhumant pastoralism, sustainable management of natural resources and endemic ruminant livestock in the sub-humid zone of West Africa. *Environment, development and sustainability*, 16(5), 1097-1117.
- Anifowose, R. (1982). *Political Violence in Nigeria: The Tiv and Yoruba Experience*. Enugu: NOK Publishers.
- Mercy Corps (2015) The Economic Costs of Conflict and the Benefits of Peace: Effects of Farmers-Pastoralist Conflict in Nigeria's Middle Belt on State, Sector, and National Economies. Available at mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/Mercy20Nigeria20State20_Costs_20
- Byrne, S., & Irvin, C. L. (2000). *Reconcilable differences: Turning points in ethno-political conflict*. West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press

- Chris, MA and Bukola, I.A. (2019). The implications of the open Grazing Law Prohibition & Ranches, Establishment on Farmer- Herder Relations in the Middle Belt Nigeria. December 2019
- Ezeonwuka, I. F., & Igwe, A. U. (2016). Emerging challenges in Nigeria's national security \in the twenty-first century: The Fulani herdsman menace. *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 4(5), 205-214.
- Egbuta, U. (2018). Understanding the herder-farmer conflict in Nigeria. *Conflict Trends*, 2018 (3), 40-48.
- Gurr, T. R. (1970). Why Men Rebel. Princeton, NJ. Princeton Press. (1968)" A causal mode of civil strife: a comparative analysis using new indices." *Amer. Pol. Sci. Rev*, 62, 1104-1124.
- Hussein, K., Sumberg, J., & Seddon, D. (1999). Increasing violent conflict between herders and farmers in Africa: claims and evidence. *Development Policy Review*, 17(4), 397-418
- Ikeke, M.O (2017) The Natural World and Violent Conflict in Nigeria: An Appraisal. *Nnamdi Azikiwe Journal of Arts and Humanities*. Vol 18, No. 2, 91-109.
- Idowu, I. D. (2017). Causes, Consequences and Resolution of Environmental Conflicts in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Economic Research*, 2(1), 2063-2076.
- Miller, N. E., & Bugelski, R. (1948). Minor studies of aggression: II. The influence of frustrations imposed by the in-group on attitudes expressed toward out-groups. *The Journal of psychology*, 25(2), 437-442.
- Nicholson, M., & Michael, N. (1992). *Rationality and the analysis of international conflict* (Vol. 19). Cambridge University Press.
- Ofuoku, A. U., & Isife, B. I. (2009). Causes, effects and resolution of farmers-nomadic cattle herders conflict in Delta state, Nigeria.
- Pedersen, W. C., Gonzales, C., & Miller, N. (2000). The moderating effect of trivial triggering provocation on displaced aggression. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 78(5), 913.
- Report on conflict mapping into incessant crises between the Tiv farmers and the Fulani herdsman conflict in Guma and Makurdi Local Government Areas of Benue State, Nigeria of Multi-stakeholder's dialogue October, 2012.

The author **Amaka P. Q. UZODINMA** is the Zonal Coordinator, National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Centre, Awka, Southeast Zone, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, IPCR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, NIGERIA.