

When I mention that I am African- many times people's minds venture off into the vast list of developmental issues- such as education accessibility, healthcare efficiency, and poverty- that consume years of research, media coverage, and roundtable discussions of the continent. However, other pressing issues like the rising climate crisis go grossly ignored despite their perceived correlation with many impediments to African economic growth. The ignorance surrounding the socio-economic effects of climate change and climate-mitigating practices coupled with the apparent effects of the climate crisis on rural African communities were my motivations for embarking on the research topic - "*Climate Change in Africa: A Cross-Country Analysis of Unemployment and Migration Effects*". Within this research scope, I conducted a comparative analysis, between Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa- on the effects of climate change on the economic indicators- unemployment and internal migration rates. I did this by providing evidence of correlations between the climate and economic variables and spotlighting the statistical significance of the differential effects of climate change on different African economies. It is important to note that during my research journey- I wrestled with exploring this continental plight due to the seeming lack of previous credible research, constraints with coding platform accessibility, and lack of spaces for focused writing time. Nonetheless, the moment I began exploring the multitude of library resources at my disposal, my research thrived.

Locating past intra-continental climate research for the background and literary review stages of this research was tumultuous. This preliminary step was crucial to ensure this project would be a novel and positive contribution to the African Sustainability space. This was a difficult barrier to supersede because most of the papers I encountered were outdated and were a misrepresentation of the current continental climate conditions. Furthermore, many of these sources originated from media outlets, blog posts, and other platforms that would have skewed

the objectivity of my research. However, through the OneSearch tool available on the library website I gained access to numerous resources that buttressed my background knowledge on the climate crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. Articles like “Climate change in Africa: costs of mitigating heat stress” by Ben Parkes et al helped inform the two climate indicators (average temperature and average precipitation) that I used during my empirical and descriptive investigations. This article showcased that changes in average rainfall patterns and temperatures have crippled numerous socio-economic practices of Africans. Likewise, “Identifying hot spots of security vulnerability associated with climate change in Africa” by Joshua W. Busby et al motivated my decision to conduct a country-comparative analysis of the economic effects of climate change. It underlined the differing vulnerabilities of African countries depending on their sources of national income (e.g. rain-fed agriculture), their geographic locations (e.g. coastal regions), and their most prominent levels of production (e.g. primary production-dependent economies). Additionally, the Google Scholar tool served as the directory I used to accumulate the most pertinent direct sources for my final research paper. This vital resource afforded me access to research, from 2019 to 2024, that covered relevant climate conditions that characterized my focus countries. I learned that the ways climate change had negatively affected these countries were quite contrasting, and would need further comparative explorations to fully assess these disparities- spotlighting the importance of country-specific analyses.

In terms of data sourcing and analysis, my regression dataset would never have come to fruition without the library’s access to a plethora of previous works on climate-related issues containing cited data and statistical sources. The *Access World News Research Collection* and the *Climate and Sustainability* library databases led me in the right direction as I discovered World Bank data on precipitation and temperature and Statista data on Migration and Unemployment

rates- which provided uniform time series and climate measurement data. The Hesburgh Library resources were also a catalyst in enabling me to conduct my empirical regressions via Stata: Statistical Software access. Initially, I had worried about the burdens of purchasing expensive coding software that would only be used for a few weeks in the semester. Thus, the availability of this software for free via the library computers aided in the execution of the data organization, data analysis, and data visualization that formed the empirical requirements of my research. Free resources like Microsoft Office, Stata, and other programs are an asset to the research that many students, including myself, explore and serve as accessories to my hopes to promote climate activism in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lastly, the library provided quiet spaces where I could do work undisturbed. It provided private group study rooms where I could have intentional study time to write my descriptive analysis after summarizing coding results. Even when the study rooms were not available I always had access to the reading room and the Scholars' Lounge to write, edit, and put final touches on a semester's worth of work. I, amongst other students, am grateful to get the opportunity to continue employing these spaces for various ranges of work, including this research topic which has a special place in the future of many Africans.

Researching the unemployment and migration rate manifestations of the climate conditions of the most climate-vulnerable continent in the world was not just an assignment. It represented my efforts to learn more and educate others about the future of the African climate and economies if governments, institutions, and fellow Africans do not alleviate these worsening conditions. It was paramount to showcase the diversity in these negative effects depending on the African region. As a Nigerian woman- I am extremely grateful to be in a school that grants me resources, which range from high-value technology to purposeful study spaces and much more,

to conduct research for the betterment of my people. These Hesburgh Library resources, which I may not have had the opportunity to operate outside of spaces like Notre Dame, continue to empower the next generation of scholars who venture into fields that will educate, empower, and impact positive change in various communities worldwide.