Green Growth, Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in Nigeria: An Accounting and Financial Governance Perspective

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Abstract
This paper examines how green growth can promote sustainable development and strengthen climate resilience in Nigeria through accounting and financial governance mechanisms that translate environmental objectives into measurable decisions and outcomes. The paper adopts a structured qualitative literature review and documentary analysis design. The thematic content analysis was carried out to conclude from existing literature, institutional, and global accounting standards, which serve as the primary sources of data for the study. The findings show that renewable energy, resource efficiency, cleaner production, resilient infrastructure, and green innovation can support productivity, energy access, and environmental improvement. Still, their contribution depends on policy credibility, financing conditions, institutional capability, and distributional safeguards. Nigerian evidence further shows that renewable-energy finance is constrained by policy and market risks, that the quality of sustainability disclosure remains uneven, and that external assurance and governance improve reporting quality. The paper finds that environmental management accounting, IFRS sustainability reporting, green budgeting, environmental-economic accounting, and credible green finance can link physical environmental performance to costs, financial statement effects, capital allocation, and accountability. It concludes that Nigeria's principal challenge is an implementation-connectivity gap between climate-policy commitments, financing, accounting systems, and verifiable outcomes. The paper recommends integrated environmental data controls, climate-sensitive investment appraisal, stronger implementation and assurance of IFRS S1/S2, transparent green finance accountability, and explicit reporting of distributional and resilience outcomes.

Keywords: *green growth; sustainable development; climate resilience; environmental management accounting; sustainability reporting; green finance; Nigeria*

1. Introduction

Climate change, environmental degradation, and resource pressures have made the ecological foundations of economic activity increasingly relevant to accounting, finance, and development policy. Green growth seeks to improve income and welfare while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, resource depletion, and vulnerability to environmental shocks. For Nigeria, the issue is especially important because the country must expand reliable energy access,

diversify production, create employment, and reduce poverty while managing substantial climate exposure. The Climate Change Act 2021 establishes a legal basis for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, while the Energy Transition Plan, the Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy, and the Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) provide linked transition pathways toward the country's longer-term 2060 ambition (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021, 2024, 2025; Nigeria Energy Transition Office, 2022).

Green growth is nevertheless a conditional development strategy rather than an assured outcome. Directed technical change and green industrial policy research explain how environmental policy, innovation, and investment can redirect production toward cleaner technologies (Acemoglu et al., 2012; Bowen & Hepburn, 2014). However, systematic evidence on decoupling shows that efficiency gains and lower environmental intensity do not necessarily generate rapid and sustained absolute reductions in emissions or material use (Haberl et al., 2020; Hickel & Kallis, 2020; Vadén et al., 2020). Nigerian power-sector research similarly shows that cleaner transition pathways are technically feasible but depend on financing, policy implementation, grid development, and broader political-economy conditions (Yetano Roche et al., 2020). Consequently, green-growth claims should be evaluated by actual economic, environmental, and social outcomes rather than by project labels or expenditure totals alone.

Accounting provides the information architecture for that evaluation. Environmental management accounting links physical information on energy, materials, waste, and emissions with monetary information on costs, revenues, and investment consequences; sustainability reporting communicates material sustainability-related risks, opportunities, metrics, and targets; and environmental-economic accounting connects economic activity with environmental assets and physical flows (Bebbington & Larrinaga, 2014; Burritt et al., 2002; United Nations et al., 2021). Nigeria's adoption of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 further increases the need for reliable data, internal controls, governance, and connectivity between sustainability information and general-purpose financial reporting (Financial Reporting Council [FRC], 2026a, 2026b; IFRS Foundation, 2023a, 2023b).

Finance is equally important because low-carbon and resilience investments are typically capital-intensive, long-lived, and exposed to policy, foreign-exchange, technology, and off-taker risks. Nigeria-specific evidence shows that weak financing mechanisms, policy uncertainty, and limited risk-sharing instruments have constrained investment in renewable energy. At the same time, multilateral and bilateral development finance have played a disproportionately large role (Isah et al., 2023). Nigeria's sovereign green-bond experience demonstrates that labelled debt can mobilise climate capital, but its effectiveness depends on the integrity of allocation, environmental outcomes, reporting, and equity (Owusu-Mante et al., 2025). These conditions place accounting, assurance, and public financial governance at the centre of the green-growth agenda.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Ideally, green growth in Nigeria should increase productive capacity, employment, energy access, and social welfare while reducing environmental degradation and strengthening resilience to climate shocks. Public and private investment decisions should therefore incorporate environmental costs, climate risk, resource productivity, and distributional effects. Green expenditures should be traceable to measurable outcomes and verifiable data, support sustainability disclosures, and ensure that material climate assumptions are consistent with budgets, capital plans, and financial statements. The Climate Change Act, NDC 3.0, and the FRC

sustainability-reporting framework provide important institutional foundations for such an integrated system (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021, 2025; FRC, 2026a, 2026b).

In practice, this ideal is not consistently achieved. Research on Nigeria identifies weak, fragmented environmental governance, implementation constraints, financing risks, and limited institutional coordination (Ogunkan, 2022; Olujobi & Odogbo, 2024; Isah et al., 2023). Corporate evidence also shows that sustainability disclosure is uneven: Nwaigwe et al. (2022) report mixed valuation effects from the extent and quality of sustainability disclosure, while Oyerogba et al. (2024) and Elaigwu et al. (2024) show that governance and external assurance materially improve reporting quality. Environmental-accounting studies similarly report mixed associations between environmental disclosure or expenditure and financial performance, indicating that accounting disclosure cannot be treated as a substitute for actual environmental outcomes (Ilelaboye & Alade, 2022; Raji et al., 2025).

The research gap is therefore not simply an insufficient body of literature on green growth, sustainability reporting, or climate finance. Existing studies tend to examine green-growth mechanisms, environmental governance, corporate sustainability reporting, environmental accounting, and green finance in separate streams. The review likewise treats sustainability accounting, green growth, and climate finance as partly distinct domains. This fragmentation leaves insufficient explanation of how physical environmental information moves through accounting systems into financial decisions, public budgets, external reporting, finance and assurance, and how those linkages condition sustainable and resilient outcomes in Nigeria. The unresolved issue is an accounting-connectivity gap between green policy ambition and verifiable implementation.

This study addresses that gap by adopting an accounting and financial-governance perspective. It synthesises international theory with Nigeria-specific empirical and policy evidence to examine how green-growth strategies contribute to development, how accounting and finance mediate climate resilience, and why institutional, financing, data, and assurance weaknesses can prevent policy commitments from producing measurable outcomes. The study, therefore, positions accounting not as a year-end reporting activity but as a governance infrastructure for green transformation.

The general objective of the study is to examine the role of green growth in promoting sustainable development and climate resilience in Nigeria, with an emphasis on the accounting and financial governance mechanisms that support implementation and accountability. The specific objectives are to:

1. examine how green-growth strategies contribute to sustainable economic, environmental, and social development in Nigeria;
2. assess how environmental accounting, sustainability reporting, financial accounting, and green finance supports the development of a climate-resilient Nigerian economy; and
3. identify the major institutional, financial, technological, and accounting-related challenges limiting green growth in Nigeria and determine improvement priorities supported by the literature.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Green Growth

Green growth is economic growth and development that preserves the natural assets and environmental services on which present and future welfare depend. In practice, it seeks to redirect technology, infrastructure, resource use, and investment toward cleaner and more

resilient forms of production. The main mechanisms include renewable energy, energy and material efficiency, circular production, cleaner transport, ecosystem restoration, and innovation policies that change the direction of technical progress (Acemoglu et al., 2012; Bowen & Hepburn, 2014). Nigeria-specific transition modelling shows that electricity access, renewable energy, and decarbonisation goals can be pursued jointly, but outcomes depend on near-term policy, financing, and infrastructure conditions (Yetano Roche et al., 2020).

The concept remains contested because efficiency improvements do not automatically imply ecological sufficiency. Global reviews find stronger evidence of relative decoupling than of absolute, rapid, and sustained reductions in environmental pressure (Haberl et al., 2020; Hickel & Kallis, 2020; Vadén et al., 2020). An accounting approach to green growth should therefore report absolute emissions, resource use, and ecosystem effects alongside indicators of intensity, expenditure, and productivity. This prevents an increase in "green" investment or revenue from being interpreted automatically as environmental improvement.

2.2 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is development that integrates economic viability, environmental integrity, and social welfare across present and future generations. In accounting scholarship, the concept broadens the boundaries of conventional reporting because present financial returns may coexist with environmental externalities, depletion of natural assets, and future climate costs that are only weakly represented in conventional accounts (Bebbington & Larrinaga, 2014). For Nigeria, sustainable development also requires attention to energy access, employment, and affordability, because transition policies can produce uneven benefits and costs across households, sectors, and regions.

2.3 Climate Resilience

Climate resilience is the capacity of social, ecological, and economic systems to absorb shocks, adapt to changing conditions, and transform when existing structures become untenable while maintaining essential functions. Economic resilience depends on infrastructure, diversified production, adaptive institutions, ecosystem services, financial buffers, and social protection (Bahadur et al., 2013; Fankhauser & McDermott, 2014). Nigeria's exposure to floods, droughts, heat, and other climate hazards makes resilience a development and accounting issue, as climate shocks can simultaneously damage assets, disrupt cash flows, raise public expenditure, and weaken borrowers (World Bank, 2026).

2.4 Accounting for Green Growth

Accounting for green growth is the identification, measurement, analysis, and reporting of physical environmental information and monetary consequences needed to evaluate green investment, environmental performance, and climate-related decisions. It links resource flows, emissions, climate risks, and natural assets to costs, revenues, asset values, financing, and accountability. The architecture includes environmental management accounting for internal decisions, sustainability reporting for external users, financial accounting for recognised climate-related effects, green-finance accountability for capital allocation, green budgeting for public expenditure, and environmental-economic accounting for economy-wide stocks and flows.

2.4.1 Environmental Management Accounting

Environmental management accounting is the identification and analysis of physical and monetary environmental information for internal organisational decisions. Physical environmental management accounting records resource inputs, outputs, waste, and emissions, while monetary environmental management accounting assigns costs, savings, revenues, and investment effects to those flows (Burritt et al., 2002; Christ & Burritt, 2013). When linked with management control, it can improve product costing, material-flow analysis, capital budgeting, internal carbon pricing, and performance evaluation (Gond et al., 2012; Henri & Journeault, 2010). Nigerian environmental accounting studies, however, report mixed effects on financial performance, reinforcing the need to distinguish accounting visibility from environmental effectiveness (Ilelaboye & Alade, 2022; Raji et al., 2025).

2.4.2 Sustainability Reporting and Financial-Statement Connectivity

Sustainability reporting is the external communication of material sustainability-related governance, strategy, risks, opportunities, metrics, and targets. IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 establish an investor-focused baseline for sustainability- and climate-related financial disclosures (IFRS Foundation, 2023a, 2023b). Nigeria's FRC issued an amended adoption roadmap and Sustainability Reporting Guideline 1 in 2026 to strengthen the implementation of these standards (FRC, 2026a, 2026b). Evidence from Nigeria shows that the quality of sustainability reporting remains variable, while governance arrangements and independent assurance improve disclosure quality (Nwaigwe et al., 2022; Oyerogba et al., 2024; Elaigwu et al., 2024).

Financial-statement connectivity is the consistency of material climate assumptions across sustainability information and the recognition, measurement, and disclosure requirements of general-purpose financial statements. Climate conditions may affect asset impairment, useful lives and residual values, provisions, expected credit losses, fair value assumptions, and disclosures about estimation uncertainty under existing IFRS Accounting Standards (IFRS Foundation, 2023c). In November 2025, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) reinforced this connectivity by issuing illustrative examples on reporting uncertainties that use climate-related scenarios to demonstrate the application of materiality, assumptions, and estimation-uncertainty disclosure requirements under existing IFRS Accounting Standards (International Accounting Standards Board [IASB], 2025). This matters for green growth because transition plans that entail changes to assets, technologies, operating costs, or financing should not be disconnected from the accounting estimates used in financial statements.

2.4.3 Green Finance

Green finance is capital directed toward activities expected to generate material environmental or climate benefits. Credibility requires transparent eligibility criteria, tracking of proceeds, baselines, impact metrics, and post-financing accountability. International evidence shows that labelled bonds can mobilise capital, while Nigeria-specific research identifies policy risk, foreign-exchange exposure, scarce long-term credit, and limited risk-sharing instruments as material constraints on renewable-energy investment (Flammer, 2021; Isah et al., 2023). Evidence from Nigeria and other emerging sovereign issuers further indicates that green bonds can mobilise climate capital but require stronger alignment between proceeds, environmental impact, and distributional outcomes (Owusu-Mante et al., 2025).

2.4.4 Green Budgeting

Green budgeting is the systematic integration of climate and environmental objectives into budget classification, appraisal, allocation, and ex-post evaluation. Nigeria's Climate Change Act requires that climate considerations be incorporated into government planning and budgeting, thereby creating a direct accountability link between climate policy and public financial management (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021). Green budgeting is therefore relevant to the question of whether public expenditure merely receives a climate label or can be traced to measurable outcomes in mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

2.4.5 Environmental-Economic Accounting

Environmental-economic accounting is the integration of environmental stocks and physical flows with the concepts and structure of national economic accounts. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting provides an internationally agreed basis for measuring environmental assets, ecosystem extent and condition, resource flows and related economic activity (United Nations et al., 2021). For Nigeria, such accounts can support natural-capital assessment, resilience planning, and evaluation of whether measured economic growth is accompanied by depletion of environmental wealth.

Table 1: Accounting Mechanisms Supporting Green Growth and Climate Resilience in Nigeria

Mechanism	Primary accounting function	Nigeria-specific relevance
Environmental management accounting	Connects physical resource and emissions data with costs, budgets, and investment appraisal.	Supports efficiency decisions, transition planning, and evidence-based capital allocation.
IFRS sustainability and financial reporting	Links material sustainability risks and targets with investor-focused disclosure and relevant financial statement estimates.	Supports FRC implementation, comparability, capital-market credibility, and cross-report consistency.
Accounting and accountability for green finance	Tracks eligibility, use of proceeds, baselines, allocations, and environmental outcomes.	Strengthens the credibility of sovereign/corporate green finance and reduces the risk of greenwashing.
Green budgeting	Integrates climate objectives into public expenditure classification, appraisal, and ex-post evaluation.	Connects Climate Change Act obligations with fiscal allocation and accountability.
Environmental-economic accounting	Links environmental assets and physical flows with national economic accounts.	Supports natural capital assessment, resilience planning, and development policy evaluation.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

2.5.1 Ecological Modernisation Theory

Joseph Huber (1982) is widely credited with originating Ecological Modernisation Theory. The theory proposes that environmental protection can be incorporated into modern economic institutions through technological innovation, cleaner production, state capacity, market reform, and organisational learning rather than being treated solely as a constraint on development (Huber, 1982; Mol & Spaargaren, 2000). It is relevant to this study because green growth assumes that technological and institutional change can improve resource productivity and environmental performance while supporting development. The theory also implies an accounting requirement: organisations need information systems that reveal physical resource use, environmental costs, investment effects, and performance changes.

The theory is applied conditionally. Decoupling research shows that efficiency and innovation may be offset by rebound effects, continued absolute growth in environmental pressure, and unequal access to transition benefits (Haberl et al., 2020; Hickel & Kallis, 2020). The Nigerian case, therefore, tests ecological modernisation through measurable outcomes rather than by the mere existence of green technologies or policy commitments.

2.5.2 Institutional Theory

Paul J. DiMaggio and Walter W. Powell (1983) developed the institutional isomorphism framework, which is widely applied in Institutional Theory. The framework explains organisational behaviour through coercive pressures from laws and regulators, normative pressures from professional standards and expertise, and mimetic pressures arising from imitation in the face of uncertainty. It is relevant to Nigeria because the Climate Change Act, FRC sustainability reporting requirements, investor expectations, and professional accounting norms can accelerate the adoption of environmental accounting and disclosure systems. However, institutional pressure may also generate ceremonial compliance, in which policies and reporting structures are adopted without corresponding operational or financial changes (Delmas & Toffel, 2008). The two theories are complementary. Ecological Modernisation Theory explains the technological and productive mechanisms through which green growth is expected to improve environmental performance. In contrast, Institutional Theory explains why organisations adopt, implement, or symbolically reproduce the accounting and governance systems required to manage that change. They therefore provide a basis for distinguishing substantive transition from formal compliance.

3. Methodology

The paper adopts a structured qualitative literature review and documentary analysis design. A structured review is suitable where a field contains diverse theories, methods, and institutional documents that must be compared and synthesised rather than statistically aggregated. Snyder (2019) explains that literature reviews can function as research methods when their purpose, search logic, selection criteria, and synthesis procedures are made explicit. The present design is integrative: it combines empirical accounting studies, systematic reviews, conceptual contributions, and authoritative standards to answer the three objectives. Thus, a thematic content analysis was carried out to conclude from the existing literature and institutional and global accounting standards, which serve as the primary sources of data for the study.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Green-Growth Strategies and Sustainable Development in Nigeria

The first goal of the study is to ascertain how green-growth strategies contribute to sustainable economic, environmental, and social development in Nigeria. The evidence supports a qualified positive relationship. Renewable energy, cleaner production, efficiency, resilient infrastructure, and green innovation can reduce production losses, lower exposure to fuel volatility, extend energy access, and support new productive capabilities. Nigerian power-sector modelling shows that electricity access and decarbonisation goals can be pursued together, although the transition depends on grid investment, financing, and enabling policy conditions (Yetano Roche et al., 2020). Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan and NDC 3.0 similarly position power, clean cooking, transport, industry, and oil-and-gas decarbonisation as linked development and climate priorities (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2025; Nigeria Energy Transition Office, 2022).

The findings partially support Ecological Modernisation Theory because cleaner technology and institutional reform can improve development and environmental performance. However, evidence from Nigeria also exposes the theory's limits. Isah et al. (2023) show that policy uncertainty, weak financing mechanisms, foreign-exchange risk, and limited long-term capital constrain renewable-energy deployment, while Ogunkan (2022) identifies weak coordination and implementation in environmental governance. Evidence of international decoupling further shows that lower environmental intensity can coexist with rising absolute pressure (Haberl et al., 2020; Hickel & Kallis, 2020). Green-growth performance in Nigeria should therefore be measured using both financial and physical indicators: capital expenditure and productivity should be interpreted alongside absolute emissions, resource use, environmental condition, energy access, and resilience.

Accounting evidence reinforces this conclusion. Nigerian studies do not show a uniform financial payoff from environmental disclosure or expenditure (Ilelaboye & Alade, 2022; Raji et al., 2025), suggesting that accounting labels and firm-level financial outcomes cannot, on their own, establish ecological success. In summary, green-growth strategies can promote sustainable development in Nigeria when they expand productive and social capabilities and produce demonstrable environmental improvements. Accounting should make the causal chain visible by connecting expenditure and operational change to absolute environmental outcomes, welfare effects, and resilience rather than treating "green" spending as the outcome itself.

4.2 Accounting, Reporting, Financial Statements, and Green Finance as Climate-Resilience Mechanisms

The second objective of the research is to determine how accounting, reporting, and finance support a climate-resilient Nigerian economy. Environmental management accounting contributes by translating physical resource use, waste, emissions, and climate exposure into costs, investment assumptions, and performance measures. This improves the visibility of inefficiencies and supports capital appraisal, material-flow decisions, and transition planning (Burritt et al., 2002; Christ & Burritt, 2013; Schaltegger et al., 2022). For resilience, the accounting function extends beyond efficiency: investment models should incorporate hazard scenarios, maintenance requirements, avoided losses, and the residual risk remaining after adaptation expenditure.

External sustainability reporting strengthens accountability when it is connected to internal systems and financial statements. Nigeria-specific research shows that disclosure quality remains uneven, but that corporate governance and external assurance significantly improve the quality

of sustainability reporting (Oyerogba et al., 2024; Elaigwu et al., 2024). International evidence likewise cautions that reporting may become symbolic where disclosure practices are weakly connected to substantive performance, and that the effects of mandatory sustainability reporting depend on enforcement and the wider institutional environment (Boiral, 2013; Christensen et al., 2021). This evidence supports Institutional Theory's normative mechanism: professional standards, governance expertise, and assurance can improve the substance of reporting. FRC implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 adds coercive pressure by creating clearer national expectations for sustainability-related financial information (FRC, 2026a, 2026b). However, institutional adoption can remain ceremonial if reported targets are disconnected from budgets, operating decisions, and financial assumptions.

Financial accounting provides a necessary connectivity test. Where climate hazards, carbon constraints, technological substitution, or transition commitments affect expected cash flows or obligations, the same conditions may also influence impairment tests, asset lives, provisions, expected credit losses, fair value, and estimation uncertainty disclosures under existing IFRS Accounting Standards (IFRS Foundation, 2023c; IASB, 2025). A credible green-growth strategy should therefore be traceable from physical environmental data and transition plans into capital expenditure and, where material, into financial-statement estimates. This reduces the risk that sustainability narratives portray a transition that conventional accounting assumptions do not recognise. Green finance and public financial management complete the mechanism by directing resources. Nigeria-specific research shows that renewable energy investment is constrained by financing structures and policy risk (Isah et al., 2023), while comparative evidence on Nigeria's sovereign green bonds indicates that such instruments can mobilise capital but require environmental-impact integrity and equitable allocation (Owusu-Mante et al., 2025). Green budgeting under the Climate Change Act and environmental-economic accounting can further link public expenditure to resilience and natural capital outcomes (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021; United Nations et al., 2021). In summary, accounting, reporting, and finance enable resilience when they function as a connected system: physical data inform monetary appraisal; financial and public budgets allocate capital; financial statements recognise material consequences; reporting exposes commitments and performance; and assurance supports reliability.

4.3 Challenges Limiting Green Growth and Improvement Priorities

The third goal of the research is to ascertain the major barriers to effective green growth and climate resilience in Nigeria. The evidence identifies five mutually reinforcing constraints: financing risk and scarcity of long-term capital; carbon-intensive and infrastructure lock-in; fragmented institutional implementation; weak environmental-data and assurance capacity; and distributional risk. Isah et al. (2023) identify policy uncertainty, scarce private capital, and limited financing instruments as material barriers to renewable-energy investment. This Nigerian evidence is consistent with the wider developing-economy finding that higher financing costs can reinforce a climate-investment trap by making low-carbon projects materially more expensive where transition needs are greatest (Ameli et al., 2021). Ogunkan (2022) reports weak and uncoordinated environmental governance structures, while Olujobi and Odogbo (2024) identify institutional capacity and implementation challenges within the Climate Change Act framework. The World Bank (2026) likewise emphasises the scale of Nigeria's climate-development and resilience challenge.

Institutional Theory helps explain why the existence of laws and standards does not guarantee

substantive implementation. Coercive pressure from legislation and FRC requirements can increase formal adoption; normative pressure from accounting and assurance professions can improve competence; and mimetic pressure can spread reporting practices across peer organisations. However, where enforcement, data systems, or incentives are weak, the same pressures can produce ceremonial conformity. Nigerian sustainability reporting studies underscore the importance of governance and assurance in advancing disclosure quality (Oyerogba et al., 2024; Elaigwu et al., 2024). The greenwashing problem is therefore partly an accounting-control problem: claims become difficult to verify when baselines, boundaries, data ownership, and reconciliation procedures are weak.

The literature supports an integrated improvement agenda. Environmental data should be governed with the same discipline applied to financially material information; climate scenarios and transition assumptions should be incorporated into project appraisal and relevant financial estimates; FRC implementation should be supported by professional training and proportionate assurance; public green expenditure should be classified and evaluated against outcomes; and green-finance instruments should disclose eligibility, allocation, baselines, and realised impact. Distributional accounting should also report employment, affordability, regional exposure, and beneficiary effects. The answer to in summary, Nigeria's central weakness is an implementation-connectivity gap rather than an absence of policy. Green-growth policy, finance, accounting, reporting, and assurance must become mutually consistent if environmental and resilience outcomes are to be credible.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The review concludes that green growth can promote sustainable development in Nigeria, but the relationship is conditional. In response to Research Question One, renewable energy, efficiency, cleaner production, resilient infrastructure, and innovation can strengthen productive capacity, energy access, and environmental performance. Nigerian transition evidence nevertheless shows that policy, finance, and infrastructure constraints materially shape what can be achieved. Green growth should therefore be judged by absolute environmental improvement, social outcomes, and resilience, as well as by investment volumes and intensity measures.

In response to Research Question Two, environmental management accounting, sustainability reporting, financial accounting, green finance, green budgeting, and environmental-economic accounting perform complementary roles. Their value lies in connectivity: physical environmental information should inform costs and investment appraisal; material climate assumptions should be reflected consistently in financial statements; public and private finance should be traceable to eligible activities and outcomes; and reporting and assurance should make performance externally testable. Nigeria’s evolving IFRS sustainability-reporting framework strengthens this architecture, while local evidence shows that governance and assurance are important determinants of disclosure quality. In response to Research Question Three, the principal research-practice gap is implementation connectivity. Financing constraints, institutional fragmentation, technological lock-in, weak data systems, limited assurance capacity, and distributional pressures can break the chain between green policy and measurable outcomes. The study, therefore, concludes that accounting should be treated as governance infrastructure for Nigeria's green transformation. A credible transition is one in which environmental performance, monetary consequences, capital allocation, public expenditure, financial statement assumptions, and external disclosures are traceable to a common and controlled evidence base.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings and the three research questions, the study recommends the following:

1. To strengthen the contribution of green growth to sustainable development, federal and state governments and implementing organisations should prioritise renewable energy, resource efficiency, cleaner production and climate-resilient infrastructure using outcome-based project appraisal. Alongside investment and productivity, each programme should track changes in absolute emissions, resource use, energy access, affordability, employment and climate resilience. This would help establish whether green-growth initiatives deliver the economic, environmental and social benefits identified in the review.
2. To close the gap between sustainability commitments and financial decisions, the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria, reporting entities and assurance providers should strengthen integrated environmental accounting and reporting. Reliable data on energy, materials, emissions and climate risks should inform costs, capital budgets, relevant financial-statement estimates, IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 disclosures, and green-finance impact reporting. Clear data responsibilities, professional training and proportionate independent assurance would address the uneven reporting quality and weak information connectivity found in the study.
3. To overcome the institutional and financial barriers identified, government agencies and financial institutions should coordinate climate-policy implementation, establish more predictable financing conditions and expand appropriate risk-sharing for green projects. Green budgets and financing arrangements should be assessed against disclosed baselines and independently verifiable environmental, resilience and distributional outcomes, including benefits across regions and communities. This would address fragmented governance, limited long-term finance, weak accountability and the risk of unequal transition outcomes.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

The study relied on published research, policy documents and accounting standards rather than primary field data. Differences in the scope and methods of the reviewed sources, together with uneven evidence across Nigerian sectors, limit the extent to which the findings can be generalised. The qualitative design also does not establish causal effects or measure the actual performance of individual green-growth projects.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

The study contributes an integrated accounting and financial-governance perspective to the Nigerian green-growth literature. It brings together environmental management accounting, sustainability and financial reporting, green finance, and public budgeting to explain the implementation-connectivity gap between climate commitments and verifiable development outcomes. It also identifies the need to assess economic progress alongside physical environmental performance, social inclusion and resilience.

5.5 Areas for Further Studies

Further studies could use firm-level or public-sector data to examine how environmental accounting, IFRS sustainability reporting and independent assurance influence actual climate and financial outcomes in Nigeria. Comparative and longitudinal research could also assess the effectiveness of green bonds, climate-related budget spending and risk-sharing mechanisms across sectors and states, including their effects on energy access, local livelihoods and climate resilience.

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