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**The history of environmental policy and pollution of water sources in Nigeria (1960-2004): The way forward**

Water pollution has continued to generate unpleasant implications for health and economic development in Nigeria and the third world in general. However, despite the public and international agencies policy focus on this problem, the situation in Nigeria seems degenerating and therefore demands increased attention.

Right from the inception of British Rule in the 1900s in Nigeria, the colonial economic development policies and plans contain little or no stringent rules to conserve the natural resources or to limit pollution. Thus the formative years of institutional environmental regulation in Nigeria could be said to have been characterized by the absence of clear scientific criteria and standards on toxic wastes and on pollution levels.

Hence, in December 1988, as part of the emerging coordinated approach to environmental issues, the Federal Environment Protection Agency (FEPA) was established due to discovery of an Italian ship in May 1988 of some imported toxic chemical wastes.

So far, there are no clear formulated policies in Nigeria aimed at coordinating and monitoring the relationship between environmental management and sustainable development. Presently, the environmental protection legislation in Nigeria is poorly enforced. Hence, policy makers need to understand the extent to which resource and environmental conditions impinge upon macroeconomic performance.