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Scientific Impetus to guarantee continuous hydro-measurements on Nigerian River Basins

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Globally, Engineering works aimed at utilization of water in one form or another usually have profound effects on the local economic and social conditions as well as on the environment. But in situation where there is no reliable data or no data at all to carry out engineering works calls for urgent attention. Nigeria has more than eleven River Basin Development Authorities across the entire country whose functions are among others (1) development of surface and ground water resources for multipurpose use; (2) control of floods, erosion and watershed management and (3) provision of water from reservoirs for municipal water supply, agriculture and livestock purposes. But quite unfortunately, hydro-data collection had long been dead for more than 50 years in most of the Nigerian River Basins and yet gigantic water projects are areas of focus of the government. Therefore the objectives of this paper are to (i) assess the stream flow measurements on the Nigerian rivers, (ii) determine the scientific and economic approach to salvage the worsening situations and (iii) solicit local and international support to guarantee and sustain water planning for socio-economic development of the country.

Key words: River Basins, Hydro measurements, Scientific approach, Multi purpose functions of River Basins and economic sustenance