



## Effect of Anti-Smuggling Policies on Land Border Management in South West, Nigeria

**Yakubu Mohammed<sup>1</sup> Ifeoma L. Nnaji (PhD)<sup>2</sup>**

Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State, Nigeria

Email: -

### Abstract

The study examined the effect of anti-smuggling policies on land border management in South-West Nigeria, focusing on the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states. The objectives of the study were to examine the effect of border closure policy on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria, and ascertain the effect of import tariff regimes on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria. Flowing from the objectives of the study, two research questions and hypotheses were tested in the study. The research was based on Stakeholders' theory. For the purposes of this research, the survey design method was adopted. Both primary and secondary data sources were utilized. A self-administered structured questionnaire was developed and administered to the respondents, and the resultant data was presented in tabular form, computed mean scores, and analyzed using the simple regression model. The key conclusions derived from the research were that the border closure policy impacts the management of physical land borders in South West Nigeria and that tariff regimes impact the operational management of land borders at Seme and Idiroko borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West Nigeria. On the basis of the findings from this study, the study recommended, among others, that technological tools like aerial surveillance drones, electronic scanner machines for Customs officials, automated border control systems, electronic toll gates, should be acquired by government. All of these will help to enhance border patrol, surveillance, monitoring and inspection at various points of entry into the country.

**Keywords:** Smuggling, Anti-smuggling, Land Border, Management, Nigeria.

### 1. Introduction

Countries all over the world are largely becoming interdependent on one another. The interdependence of countries manifests in various aspects, notably through international trade import and export; security military equipment, training, logistics support etc.; finance loans, credit, Foreign Direct Investment, financial advisory services etc.; technology transfer among others [1]. A consequence of these international collaborations is the movement of persons, goods and services from one country to another. To this end, various agencies are set up by individual countries to manage various aspects of these interrelationships. Notably, the Immigration Service in any country manages the movement of people in and out of the country, while the Customs Services manages the movement of goods in and out of the country.

\*Corresponding author  
Article history

: -  
: submitted; 2025/8/15 revised; 2025/9/23 accepted; 2025/10/10 published; 2025/11/26



The Customs service, as an organization, is a universal body in the sense that there is no country in the world where it does not exist. It is usually one of the agencies through which government generates money in the form of collection of revenue – import/excise duties and other taxes and levies [2]. Beyond the collection of taxes, Customs engage in other functions such as the enforcement of anti-smuggling activities through its enforcement directorate, security functions, generating statistics for budgetary planning, licensing and registration of customs agents, collaborating with other agencies of government in all approved ports and border stations, among others. All of these are geared towards the effective management of the nation's land borders.

Nigeria has extensive land borders in various parts of the country. According to Ezeobi, Nigeria's land borders, particularly those in the South-West region of the country, play crucial roles in its trade and security dynamics. The South West region shares borders with Benin Republic and Togo, which has historically been instrumental in the facilitation of significant levels of legitimate and illegitimate trade transactions, particularly smuggling [3]. According to a World Bank report cited by Mohammed, goods worth more than 5 billion dollars are smuggled into Nigeria through Benin Republic alone every year. This amount is worth over 8.5 trillion naira at an exchange rate of 1,700 naira to a dollar, and represents about 15 per cent of the total smuggled goods through various land borders in the country.

In the World Bank Report, it was stated that more than \$400 million, which is about ₦680 billion, is associated with the nefarious smuggling that is currently taking place across the sub-region, which represents about 25 per cent of the total annual revenue collection of the Nigerian Customs Service. The economy of smuggling in South-West Nigeria particularly, and everywhere it exists, is driven by a variety of factors, including porous borders, inadequate law enforcement, and economic disparities between countries in this case, Nigeria and its neighboring countries. Products such as fuel, rice, vehicles, and even small arms and prohibited light weapons often move illicitly across these borders, undermining national security and economic stability [4].

No country leaves its borders porous; otherwise, all sort of things - including arms, expired and substandard goods will come into the country. To ensure effective border control, the Federal Government of Nigeria has a list of prohibited goods. Some goods, even though allowed are placed on different tariff plans in proportion to how they will contribute to the growth of the local economy, thus, raw materials and other forms of primary goods may attract lesser duties or tariffs than luxury and consumer goods. Therefore, the implementation of various tariff regimes and the publication of a list of prohibited goods are economic as well as anti-smuggling policies that are implemented to control the importation and exportation of certain kinds of goods, encourage economic stabilization and growth, and generate revenue for the government [5].

In a bid to strengthen its anti-smuggling policies and ensure better enforcement and management of the nation's borders, the federal government of Nigeria, in 2016, through a Presidential directive, as reported on the Nigeria Customs website in a press release on December 5, 2016, banned the importation of vehicles through the nation's land borders. The prohibition order, according to the press release signed by Wale Adeniyi, the then Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Customs Service, covers all new and used vehicles. In the implementation of the directive, which took effect from January first 2017, all imported vehicles into the country are to come through the nation's Sea Ports. This ban is a sequel to an earlier directive from the Federal Government on the importation of foreign parboiled rice, which was banned since April 2016. The bans were intended to protect the local economy and enhance border security, as well as improving anti-smuggling activities by the Nigeria Customs Service. The Nigerian government has also had course to close certain border posts, increased surveillance using technology, and fostering closer collaboration with neighboring countries to track and combat smuggling activities. In view of the foregoing, this study examines the effect of anti-smuggling policies on land border management in South-West Nigeria, focusing on the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In recent years, the Nigerian government has escalated its anti-smuggling efforts by adopting policies such as border closures, list of prohibited items, stricter customs regulations, outright bans on the importation of certain goods, and cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries. These measures, including the high-profile land border closure of 2019, have been aimed at curbing the flow of smuggled goods, protecting local industries, and enhancing security both at the borders and in the country at large. However, the effectiveness of these policies is still a subject of considerable debate.

Smuggling across Nigeria's South-West land borders has long been a persistent challenge, undermining national security, economic development, and border management efforts [6]. Despite various government interventions, including stringent anti-smuggling policies, the problem remains deeply entrenched. The porous nature of these borders and the economic lure of smuggling, has allowed illicit trade in goods such as petroleum products, rice, and small arms to thrive [7]. This not only deprives the Nigerian government of critical customs revenue but also fosters insecurity by enabling the influx of dangerous goods like arms and ammunition [8]. To address this menace, this study examines the effect of anti-smuggling policies on land border management in South-West Nigeria, focusing on the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of this study is to examine the effect of anti-smuggling policies on land border management in South-West Nigeria, focusing on the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states. The specific objectives are to;

1. Examine the effect of border closure policy on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.
2. Ascertain the effect of import tariff regimes on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study;

1. What effect does the border closure policy have on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria?
2. How do import tariff regimes affect operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria?

## HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study:

1. **H<sub>0</sub>**: Border closure policy has no effect on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.
2. **H<sub>A</sub>**: Tariff regimes have no effect on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

**SMUGGLING AND ANTI-SMUGGLING:** Movement beyond the borders of the law are almost always for the sake of smoothing the business which involves the trade of arms and ammunition, the import and export of objects lacking proof of legality, and those which purportedly fall within the realm of protection of animals and democracy, the constant elimination of boundaries which tether living beings within borders, and the infallible provision of such borders in the monotonous cage of iron and concrete. According to Ani and Ome, it is apparent that new borders have been drawn for the smuggler. To put it more plainly, it is the movement of goods and services across borders without undergoing the mandatory bureaucratic processes which ensure 'control' to the sovereign government of the territory.

Smuggling occurs in different ways. It could be people smuggling whereby some people actually pay others to smuggle them to other countries for agreed fees. This is rampant where two countries of unequal economies share boundaries, the people from the poorer countries do everything possible, including paying to be smuggled into the other country. Smuggling could be in the form of human trafficking. This is facilitating the entrance of people, mostly women and children into other countries to be subjected to sex trade. While in people

trafficking, the victim is free to fend for himself once trafficked, but in the case of human trafficking, the victims are held bondage through various means and are forced to pay specific amount of money before regaining their freedom. Child trafficking is facilitating the movement of children from one place to the other. Sometimes is with the consent of parents on the understanding that the children will be used as maids, but they end up being used for sex and child labor [9].

The aspect of smuggling that is germane to this research is that of goods. This type of smuggling occurs when merchants bring in prohibited goods or bring in goods without passing through normal channels that would allow them pay taxes. Sometime prohibited good like arms and ammunition are brought in. This is the type of smuggling that customs guide against. Thus, customs are stationed in all the port of entries into a country to prevent merchants from bringing in contraband. There are other agencies that work against smuggling. For instance, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) are stationed at our borders to catch those who smuggle prohibited drugs in or out of the country. Smuggling as an organized crime has various effects on the economy of any nation. Aside from being an act of economic sabotage, it undermines the attainment of government's policy objectives. Some of its effects on the economy are discussed below as follows;

1. **Loss of Revenue:** Smugglers do not pay necessary taxes on goods being smuggled. The effect of smuggling on the economy is tremendous. It makes Government to lose money that would have been earned through taxes.
2. **Hurts domestic industry:** When taxes are not paid on smuggled goods, it makes the goods to be sold at lower rates. When this happens, it makes the sale of locally produced goods difficult, thus affecting the productive bases of any country's economy. In Nigeria, for instance, the massive smuggling of rice has affected the production and marketing of locally-produced rice.
3. **Promotes crime:** Smuggling is a risky business but very profitable. They are most times funded by syndicates. Thus, money generated from it is utilized by the crime syndicate to fund further crimes.
4. **Reduces Investment:** Smuggling reduces confidence in the economy thus affecting investment. Nobody will like to invest in goods that are smuggled indiscriminately.

**LAND BORDER MANAGEMENT:** Land border management refers to the strategies, systems, and mechanisms put in place by governments to monitor and control the movement of goods and people across terrestrial borders. Effective land border management aims to balance two main objectives: facilitating legitimate trade and travel while curbing illicit activities such as smuggling, illegal migration, and trafficking [10]. The management of land borders is a critical component of national security and economic development for countries that share borders with neighboring states. Efficient border management systems are essential to control the flow of goods, people, and to control illicit activities such as smuggling and human trafficking. In regions like West Africa, where borders are often porous and poorly monitored, land border management poses significant challenges. Nigeria, particularly in its South-West region, grapples with a complex set of issues that complicate border management, ranging from smuggling to inadequate security infrastructure. Effective management of these borders is crucial not only for national security but also for fostering legitimate trade and regional cooperation.

Land borders are often characterized by high levels of mobility, making them more susceptible to smuggling and trafficking than sea or air borders [11]. Therefore, efficient border management systems rely on technology, manpower, and cooperation with neighboring states to achieve security and economic goals. Across the world, countries are increasingly adopting sophisticated technologies to enhance border management. For instance, the U.S.-Mexico border is equipped with advanced surveillance systems, drones, and sensors that help monitor vast stretches of the border. Similarly, the European Union, through its IBM strategy, relies on integrated technologies and cross-border cooperation to manage the Schengen Area's external borders. These models emphasize a balance between facilitating legitimate trade and enforcing security.

Effective border management requires a multi-pronged approach that integrates technology, manpower, and regional cooperation. Public-private partnerships can also play a crucial role in equipping border agencies with the necessary tools to monitor and control borders. Moreover, strengthening cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries like Benin Republic is essential, as smuggling often involves networks that span multiple countries [12]. Capacity building for border officials, including customs and immigration officers, is another critical area that needs to be addressed. This includes not only training in modern surveillance and enforcement techniques but also addressing issues of corruption that undermine the efficacy of border management [13].

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theoretical framework for this study is Stakeholder Theory. The first person to define stakeholder theory was organizational theorist Ian Mitroff in his book *Stakeholders of the Organizational Mind* which he published in 1983. Around the same time and the same year, an article about stakeholder theory was published in the *California Management Review* by philosopher and business administration professor R. Edward Freeman. Freeman doesn't credit Mitroff; rather, he attributes stakeholder theory to conversations he claims to have had at the Stanford Research Institute. Freeman later published his own book which was an expansion of the article he wrote, and it was titled *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach*. This book virtually came out around the same time as the article.

A stakeholder is defined as someone who has an interest in a project, business or organization. In project management, a stakeholder is defined as an individual or a group who is likely to be impacted by the outcome of the project. Stakeholders may be found in and outside the organization, yet they are equally concerned about the project and the processes involved. Stakeholders are crucial. They fund a project or an organization and they have a potential interest in its successful execution. This does not, however, imply they just relax and observe [14].

Depending on the context, the user's influence may be either beneficial or detrimental. In the context of a project or a business, a stakeholder has the capability to influence literally everybody and anybody like the upper management, project managers, colleagues, clients, and several more. In such a situation, the manager has to be pragmatic and concentrate on the key stakeholders, the ones who possess power, are nearby, and are demanding. This marks the commencement of stakeholder theory. Stakeholder theory attempts to optimize business efficiency and serves the project or organization in making the most out of efficiencies with the stakeholders [15].

The thoughts of the stakeholders in the theory are applicable in the case. The Nigerian public sector can be regarded as a mini company with an array of stakeholders. In accordance with the theory of externalities, any individual affected from the actions of a business becomes a stakeholder in the business. In this case, every Nigerian is a stakeholder in the Nigerian public sector, and the public servants, as per the agency principle in the stakeholder theory, are the principals to the Nigerians and therefore have obligations towards the stakeholders.

## **2. Research Method**

**Research Design:** Survey research design.

**Area of the Study:** Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

**Source of Data:** Primary and Secondary.

**Population of Study:** 728 Officers of the Nigeria Customs Service serving at the borders in the area of the study

**Sample Size Determination:** We obtained a sample size of 258 using the Taro Yamane formula.



**Method of Data Analysis:** The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics; frequency counts, and percentages to answer research questions. Consequently, in order to test the hypotheses, simple regression model was adopted.

Two hundred and fifty-eight copies of questionnaires were issued to the respondents and two hundred and forty-five were completed and returned. This is equivalent to 95 percent of the respondents.

### DATA ANALYSIS

*The focus of table 1.* presents issues related to border closure. Border closure is one of the anti-smuggling policies of the federal government formulated and implemented with the aim to better manage the nation's land borders. The respondents agreed to all the issues raised in the table. In the first statement, the respondents were of the opinion that as a strategy, border closure is not sustainable in the medium and long terms. While agreeing to the view that a complete closure of the nation's borders helps to halt all forms of smuggling activities perpetrated through the nation's land borders, the respondents also supported the idea that the economic consequences of border closure, as an anti-smuggling policy, outweighs its proposed benefits.

Table 1. Responses to the variable; Border Closure					N = 245	
S/N	QUESTIONS	Σ fx	X	Decision		
1	As a strategy, border closure is not sustainable in the medium and long terms.	909	3.7	Agreed		
2	Complete closure of the nation's borders helps to halt all forms of smuggling activities perpetrated through the nation's land borders.	884	3.6	Agreed		
3	The economic consequences of border closure, as an anti-smuggling policy, outweighs its proposed benefits.	810	3.3	Agreed		
4	Closure of legal border channels often lead to the opening of illegal smuggling routes, thus, defeating the intended objectives of the policy.	1005	4.1	Agreed		
5	The 2019 border closure policy did not achieve much of its intended objectives.	1030	4.2	Agreed		

### Source: Field Survey, 2025

On the reduction or elimination of smuggling, the respondents, in the fourth statement, accepted the view that the closure of legal border channels often lead to the opening of illegal smuggling routes, thus, defeating the intended objectives of the policy. This is supported by the view in the last statement that the 2019 border closure policy did not achieve much of its intended objectives. The implication of the responses of the respondents to the issues raised on border closure is that it is not a sustainable anti-smuggling policy because Nigeria cannot remain closed to her neighbors since such gestures can be reciprocated by other countries to the detriment of Nigeria (Table 2).

Table 2. Responses to the variable; Tariff Regimes					N = 245	
S/N	QUESTIONS	Σ fx	X	Decision		
6	Tariffs are used to encourage or discourage the importation of certain goods based on government preferences and economic conditions in the country.	934	3.8	Agreed		
7	Government policies on import tariffs are sometimes conflicting and inconsistent.	834	3.4	Agreed		
8	Tariff regimes are economic policies that helps to protect local industries, especially the manufacturing sector from cheap imports from abroad.	957	3.9	Agreed		

9	In some cases, tariff regimes create incentives for smuggling of those goods with high import tariff.	762	3.1	Agreed
10	Implementing government tariff regimes for certain kinds of essential goods that are in high demand can lead to inflation.	909	3.7	Agreed

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

One common feature of the ways that the government control the movement of goods within and outside its borders is through tariff regimes. A tariff is a tax imposed by the government on goods that are imported into the country. In the sixth to tenth statement, the statements put forward by the respondents were all accepted. The first statement highlighted the functions of a tariff and the respondents agreed that tariffs are used to encourage or discourage the importation of certain goods based on government preferences and economic conditions in the country.

In the second statement, the respondents admitted that government policies on import tariffs are sometimes conflicting and inconsistent. In the third statement, the local industries were identified as one of the beneficiaries of government tariff regimes as the respondents accepted the idea that tariff regimes are economic policies that helps to protect local industries, especially the manufacturing sector from cheap imports from abroad.

On the flip side, the respondents agreed to the warning statement that in some cases, tariff regimes create incentives for smuggling of those goods with high import tariff. This is usually the case with many contraband goods, because the bans on their importation creates a scarcity that increases their economic values, thus, providing incentives to smugglers. The tenth statement also warned that implementing government tariff regimes for certain kinds of essential goods that are in high demand can lead to inflation. The respondents also agreed to this assertion, showing that the happenings at the nation's borders have wider economic and social implication on the country at large.

**3. Results and Discussion****Test of Hypothesis One**

**Ho:** Border closure policy has no effect on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

**Hi:** Border closure policy has an effect on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.495 <sup>a</sup>	.245	.060	.7756966692
a. Predictors: (Constant), Border Closure				

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table one model summary relates to the first hypothesis which postulates that the border closure policy does not affect the management of the physical land borders in South West Nigeria'. In the summary, the regression coefficient (R) which asserts that the border closure policy impacts the physical land border management in South West Nigeria and the R-Square

(R<sup>2</sup>) which indicates the ratio of the dependent variable to the changes in the independent variable, confirms that the variables possess a positive association ( $R = .495$ ).

#### ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	.335	2	.215	1.482	.035 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	.429	3	.145		
Total	.674	4			

a. Dependent Variable: Physical land border management

b. Predictors: (Constant), Border Closure

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

The ANOVA results concerning the first hypothesis indicate that the border closure policy has no impact on the management of physical land borders in the South West of Nigeria. However, in the case of a significance level of 5% (0.05), and in comparison, with the p-value as denoted by sig in the Table, the null hypothesis is somewhat forced to be accepted due to the alternative hypothesis; thus, it is concluded that the border closure policy does in fact have an impact with regard to the land borders in the South West of Nigeria.

**Decision:** Accept the alternate hypothesis.

#### Test of Hypothesis Two

**Ho:** Tariff regimes have no effect on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

**Hi:** Tariff regimes have an effect on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.245 <sup>a</sup>	.060	.0036	.060

a. Predictors: (Constant), Tariff Regimes

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

The table presents the description of the model summary and summarises the second hypothesis which suggests that SC-Tariff regimes have no relation to operational land border management for southwestern Nigeria. From the description, the regression coefficient (R) suggests that SC-Tariff regimes have no relation to operational land border management for southwestern Nigeria, and the R Square ( $R^2$ ) indicates the proportion of the dependent variable that is changed as a result of the independent variable, indicating that there is a set of independent and dependent variables that are positively correlated ( $R = .245$ ).

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	.011	2	.011	.057	.038 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	.783	3	.196		
Total	.794	4			

a. Dependent Variable: Operational land border management

b. Predictors: (Constant), Tariff Regimes

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

You may refer to my analysis of the second hypothesis regarding the effects of tariffs on the management of borderland operations in South West Nigeria. The output from the ANOVA exhibits the same significance level at 0.05 and the same p value (sig) as the Holt region. As a corollary to the Hangar region, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, it is advocated that the tariffs in fact do impact the operational land border management in South West Nigeria.



**Decision:** Accept the alternate hypothesis.

#### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

1. That border closure policy has an effect on physical land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.
2. That tariff regimes have an effect on operational land border management at the Seme and Idiroko land borders in Lagos and Ogun states, South West, Nigeria.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In view of the findings from the study, we conclude by stating that the activities of the Nigerian Customs Service, with respect to border management and anti-smuggling operations, have huge implications on government policy, revenue generation, economic growth and development. To this end, it behooves on those at the helm of affairs to do their best to ensure that the needed technology, manpower and infrastructure necessary to enhance the border management framework are made available to improve efficiency and effectiveness in land border management. At various times, government releases various policy directives on tariff regimes for various imported goods, but the enormity of the challenges encountered in the process of implementing these policies, constitute serious obstacles to the government and its economic, political and social objectives in that regard. Effective land border management will ensure that the economic policy objectives of the government are achieved effectively, including the drastic reduction or complete elimination of smuggling. Therefore, to achieve this, we recommend as follows.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relative to the findings of this study, the following recommendations were suggested;

1. To forestall the future closing of the nation's borders and enhance better physical management of the country's land borders, the government should invest in the deployment of adequate technology at the nation's borders. Technological tools like aerial surveillance drones, electronic scanner machines for Customs officials, automated border control systems, electronic toll gates, etc, should be acquired by the government. All these will help to enhance border patrol, surveillance, monitoring and inspection at various points of entry into the country.
2. Streamlining the different tariff regimes and communicating same appropriately and timely will go a long way to ensure that the operations of the officers and men of the Nigeria Customs Service at the borders are seamless and without ambiguity. This is because the Nigeria Customs Service implements any decisions of the government as it relates to importation and exportation of goods.

#### **6. References**

- [1] O. T. Abayomi, "Nigeria's Border Porosity and Implications for National and International Security," *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 211–245, 2024.
- [2] P. Andreas, *Border Games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide*. Cornell University Press, 2020.
- [3] S. Carrera, L. den Hertog, and J. Parkin, "EU Border Security: Towards a More Integrated Approach," *Journal of Border Studies*, vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 317–335, 2020.
- [4] J. N. Chigozie, "Consequences of Land Border Closure: Evidences from a Natural Experiment in Nigeria," Master's thesis, Central European University, 2020.
- [5] I. Chilwa, "Border Control and Smuggling in the ECOWAS Region: Issues and Challenges," *African Review of Security Studies*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 88–100, 2021.
- [6] F. M. Edoho, "Regional Trade and Border Diplomacy: A Case Study of Nigeria and Benin Republic," *African Journal of International Relations*, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 45–60, 2023.

- [7] C. Ezeobi, "Challenges of Border Management in Nigeria: A Need for Policy Overhaul," *Journal of African Security*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 211–229, 2023.
- [8] A. A. Lamptey, "Rethinking Border Management Strategies in West Africa: Experiences from the Sahel," Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Policy Brief, 12/2023, 2023.
- [9] G. McLinden, "Modernizing Border Management: Trade Facilitation and Security in the 21st Century," *World Customs Organization Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 20–35, 2021.
- [10] A. Mohammed, "Fighting Smuggling in the North," *This Day*, Dec. 11, 2017. Available: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/12/11/fighting-smuggling-in-the-north> , [Accessed: Oct. 4, 2024].
- [11] J. Okonkwo, "The Shifting Patterns of Smuggling in South-West Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis," *Journal of Border Studies*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 99–112, 2022.
- [12] M. Omale, *Nigerian Customs Service and Practice*. Lagos: Cinnamon Press, International, 2020.
- [13] E. Ome and C. Ani, "Re-Examining Religious Insecurity in the Africa State: The Menace and Security Challenges of Boko Haram in Nigeria," *Journal of Political Science*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 20–35, 2015.
- [14] F. C. Onuoha and G. E. Ezirim, "Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime in West Africa," *Aljazeera Center for Studies*, Jun. 24, 2013. Available: <http://studies.aljazeera.net/en/reports/2013/06/2013624102946689517.html>
- [15] World Customs Organization (WCO), "WCO Launches Operation STOP to Combat COVID-19 Related Illicit Trade," Brussels: WCO, 2020.