Reviewing the Local and Global Implications of Air Pollution Trends in Zaria, Northern Nigeria

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Highlights

• Pioneer outdoor air pollution time-series data for a Nigerian city

- Validates MSA Altair 5× gas detector and CW-HAT200 particulate counter.
- Alarming outdoor pollution measurements
- A candidate into the list of World's most polluted cities is revealed.

Abstract

Air pollution is an unnoticed problem in many Nigerian urban cities. This is mainly attributed to the usage of power generating sets, indiscriminate refuse burning, biomass consumption and import/recycle of timeworn automobiles, which dominates the Nigerian automobile fleet. Reduced economic infrastructure and the Nigerian climate, are a major factor for the dense outdoor population activities. This is contributing to the increasing population health risk resulting from pollution exposure. Literature on the seasonal spatial-temporal distribution of air pollutants within Nigerian urban cities is presently scanty. This study evaluates the local and global implications of air pollution trends in northern Nigeria's educational hub. The study utilized validated costeffective devices (MSA Altair 5x gas detector and the CW-HAT200 particulate counter) to assess the outdoor air quality in Zaria. The findings revealed the one-year day-time weighted average concentration level for CO, SO₂ PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ as 29.22 ppm, 0.32 ppm, 219.73 and 451.96 µgm⁻ ³ respectively. These concentration levels were above the locally and globally stipulated air quality indices. In particular, the concentration levels of the particulate matter pollutants (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) were high enough to place Zaria amongst the World Health Organization's list of polluted cities. We are optimistic that our findings would instigate Nigerian policy makers to take decisive steps for air quality management across its cities.

Keywords: Air pollution; Air quality index; MSA Altair 5x gas detector; Chinaway CW-HAT200 particulate counter; Nigeria

1. Introduction

Urban air pollution is a major ecological threat in most developing countries (Gorai et al., 2017). The consistent rise in greenhouse gas emissions is also intensifying and therefore affects the earth's climate system (Nsubuga et al., 2013). Studies have expressed concerns over outdoor air pollution especially since the anthropogenic sources in the urban cities are positioned at ground level, thus aggregating exposure profile of the population within (Aliyu et al., 2014; Patton et al., 2016).

In Africa, air quality studies are very challenging especially when it comes to accessing observed station series data. This is due to difficulties regarding the availability, accessibility and consistency of pollution datasets. Some of the cited studies revealed that they depended on remote sensing re-analysis data (e.g. top-down estimates), to fill this gap (DeMott et al., 2003; Hopkins et al., 2009; Marais et al., 2014; Marais and Chance, 2015). Proper management of city-scale air pollution can be complex, especially when there is no accurate and organized geospatial data for up-to-date identification of specie pollutants, distribution of sample sites, regularity/period of sampling, sampling methods, infrastructural amenities, man power and maintenance expenditures (Al-Awadi et al., 2015).

Nigeria is Africa's leading economy. It has a rapidly growing population with little information available about its air quality (Marais et al., 2014). Air pollution is a serious threat to public health in most Nigerian urban cities resulting from poorly managed private/commercial vehicles, unregulated recreational activities, trash burning, traffic congestions and biomass consumption. These often leads to high air pollution from unproductive fuel combustion in the socio-economical scheme (Hopkins et al., 2009; Aliyu et al., 2014). The challenges with urban air pollution in Nigerian urban cities is well-known, however the attitude towards tackling it remains uncertain. Air quality studies across Nigerian cities demonstrate that pollution measurements are collected on makeshift basis and in most cases, the monitoring network is scantily distributed. With such situation, it is therefore difficult to develop an air quality management plan for its cities. To instigate this process, we appraise the ramifications of air quality for northern Nigeria's educational hub, Zaria.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guideline continues to reflect on the need for policy makers to create emission inventories that are accurate and consistent. This will encourage continuous improvement of emission inventory compilation to international standards (Francesco et al., 2014). For effective air pollution management, there must be collaboration between various key sector players including transportation, energy, water resources, urban planning and health (Hasenfratz et al., 2015). In addition, air pollution is usually regulated by air quality guidelines. Presently, organizations and countries e.g. World Health Organization (WHO); South African National Standards (SANS); Nigeria's Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), have adopted varying air quality indices (AQIs) (Table 1). These AQIs are centred on the ambient concentrations of criteria pollutants including, but not limited to – CO (Carbon Monoxide), PM₁₀ (Particulate Matter of less than 10 μ m in aerodynamic diameter) and SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), while in some cases PM_{2.5} (less than 2.5 μ m in aerodynamic diameter) is taken into consideration (Cairncross et al., 2007).

Table 1. Threshold of selected air pollutants, modified after (FEPA, 1999; SANS, 2011; WHO, 2017).

Pollutants	AQIs				
	WHO^a	$SANS^{b}$	<i>FEPA^c</i>		
СО	9 ppm	26 ppm	20 ppm		
PM _{2.5}	25 µgm ⁻³	-	-		
PM_{10}	50 µgm ⁻³	75 μgm ⁻³	150 μgm ⁻³		
SO_2	0.01 ppm	0.13 ppm	0.1 ppm		

^a24-hour time weighted average for listed pollutants except CO (8-hour); ^b1-hr time weighted average for listed pollutants; ^ctime weighted average is not indicated; ppm (parts per million); µgm⁻³ (microgram per meter cube)

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Area

Zaria metropolis is the educational hub of Northern Nigeria (Figure 1). It occupies an area of approximately 296.04 km². It has an estimated population of 938, 521 from the 2006 census considering its growth rate of 3.0 percent per year. The study area is stationed at an altitude of mainly about 670 m above mean sea level (MSL) (NPC, 2010). Its climate is characterized by 2 seasons: dry (October – May) and rainy (June – September). The respective seasonal average values for dry and rainy seasons are: precipitation (24.6 mm and 213.8 mm), minimum temperature (14.1°C and 19.5°C) and maximum temperature (35.2°C and 28.9°C) (Grace et al., 2015).



Figure 1. The study area highlighting the distribution of pollution sample sites. The sampling sites are described in Table 2.

S/No	Description	Longitude (deg.)	Latitude (deg.)	Dense population activity
1	Kofar Kibo	7.695	11.080	Yes
2	Danmagaji, Wusasa	7.686	11.078	Yes
3	Madaci, Saye	7.673	11.064	No
4	Gwargwaje	7.682	11.054	Yes
5	Kofar Gayan	7.701	11.044	Yes
6	Kofar Kona	7.720	11.041	No
7	Zaria City Market	7.699	11.051	Yes
8	Babban Dodo	7.706	11.066	Yes
9	Kofar Doka	7.710	11.081	Yes
10	Banzazzau	7.725	11.074	Yes
11	FCE/Ungwan Kaya	7.735	11.079	Yes
12	Agwaro, Tudun Wada	7.717	11.093	Yes
13	PZ	7.721	11.104	Yes
14	Sabon Gari Market	7.730	11.113	Yes
15	MTD	7.715	11.124	Yes
16	Kwangila Bridge	7.703	11.130	Yes
17	Aviation by NITT Road	7.686	11.139	Yes
18	Basawa by Hayin Dogo	7.672	11.177	No
19	Samaru Market	7.651	11.159	Yes

Table 2. Description of pollution sample signature

2.2. Method and Instrumentation

The nineteen sampling sites were identified across study area (Table 2). All the sites are located along major road intersections. 16 sites are positioned within dense population activities which cuts across the residential and commercial settlements, while the remaining 3 control sites are positioned strategically at the outskirts of the city with minimal population activity. The control sites were used to aid in result comparison. The most convenient route across the 19 sample stations for effective cost and timing was identified and tagged serially as 1 - 19 (Figure 1). This covers a distance of 42.8 km.

Four criteria air pollutants CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ were monitored to achieve study objectives. The MSA Altair 5x gas detector (Figure 2a) and CW-HAT200 particulate counter (Figure 2b) were used to collect ground level pollution concentrations, for December 2015 – November 2016. Ground in-situ samples were retrieved daily across three epochs. They are: morning (0730 - 0845 hrs), afternoon (1300 - 1415 hrs) and evening (1700 - 1815 hrs). The reason for adopting these epochs is to ensure adequate representation of pollution related activities at peak (morning and evening) and less peak (afternoon) periods (Pattinson et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2014; Yazdi et al., 2015). The observed concentration levels for the criteria pollutants were recorded based on instrument configuration (Table 3). To ensure assurance and control of data quality, detectors were calibrated using the procedures described in the producer manual. The instrument background and pump flow were also examined prior to conducting each monitoring session. Pollutant concentration levels for CO and SO₂ were obtained using the MSA Altair 5x in parts per million (ppm) units, while the CW-HAT200 collected particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in microgram per meter cube (μ g m⁻³). The day-time observations were collected with devices positioned at 1.5m above ground level (average height of an adult).



Figure 2. Portable air pollutant detectors (a) MSA Altair 5x gas detector; (b) Chinaway CW-HAT200) particulate counter

Specifications	MSA Altair 5x Gas Detector ^a	Chinaway CW-HAT200 Particle Counter
Dimension (cm)	17 (H) x 8.94 (W) x 4.88 (D)	18 (H) x 9.3 (W) x 4.8 (D)
Weight (kg)	0.45	0.60
Measuring method	Internal pump;	Internal pump; laser light
	Catalytic/electrochemical sensor	scattering
Pollutant measured	CO; SO ₂ ; H_2S ; LEL	PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀
	(Combustible)	
Concentration Range	CO (0 - 500 ppm)	PM _{2.5} (0 - 500 μgm ⁻³)
	SO ₂ (0 - 25 ppm)	$PM_{10} (0 - 1000 \mu gm^{-3})$
	H ₂ S (0 - 100 ppm)	
	LEL (0 - 100 %)	
Sample/Response	CO (15 secs)	PM _{2.5} (60 secs)
Time	SO_2 (20 secs)	PM_{10} (60 secs)
	H_2S (15 secs)	
Accuracy	$\pm 10\%$ of reading	$\pm 5\%$ of reading
Operating temperature	-10 °C to 40 °C	$5 ^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ to $45 ^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$
Operating humidity	15 - 90% RH	<90% RH
Calibration Due	6 months	1 year
Battery	Rechargeable lithium-ion	Rechargeable lithium-ion
		polymer
Display	Monochrome	LCD
Certification	CE, UL, CSA, IEC, IP	CE

 Table 3. Specifications of portable pollutant monitors utilized for the study

^aInstrument re-calibration was carried out in January 2016 and June 2016 (6 months intervals after factory calibration) using span calibration mixed gas specifications: CO - 50 ppm; $SO_2 - 5$ ppm; $H_2S - 15$ ppm; LEL – 58 %.

2.3. Statistical Analysis

The observed data were entered and analysed in Microsoft Excel 2013, SPSS version 18 and Matlab. Geo-statistical analysis was conducted using the Surfer 8 software. The day-time weighted average (Llanes, 2016) for criteria pollutants concentrations were adopted to compute the 1-year running average. The outdoor pollution exposure categories were determined using the WHO, FEPA and SANS stipulated limits.

3. **Results and Discussion**

The results highlight the weighted day-time average of criteria pollutants (CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) obtained in Zaria from December 2015 - November 2016. Table 4 presents the descriptive statistics of criteria pollutants concentrations averaged across the various seasons of the study period. The 1-year averaged concentration values of criteria pollutants reveals that CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ recorded 29.22 ppm, 0.32 ppm, 219.73 μ gm⁻³ and 451.96 μ gm⁻³ respectively. The

concentration level for observed criteria pollutants were lowest during the December-January-February (harmattan) season. This can be attributed to the restricted outdoor activities due low ambient temperature especially during morning and evening periods. Another factor is the windy harmattan season which quickly disperses pollutant emissions. Correlation values between the observed criteria pollutants averaged 0.985, 0.988, 0.988 and 0.986 for CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. They were all significant at the 0.01 level.

Criteria Pollutants		Mean	SD	Median	Q1	<i>Q3</i>	Min ^a	Max
CO (ppm)	Whole Year	29.22	28.28	23.0	12.0	38.0	0.0	413.0
	DJF	20.34	20.09	16.0	6.0	29.0	0.0	269.0
	MAM	34.33	30.20	28.0	17.0	42.0	0.0	407.0
	JJA	34.20	32.24	27.0	14.0	44.0	0.0	386.0
	SON	28.00	27.14	23.0	12.0	36.0	0.0	413.0
	Whole Year	0.32	0.26	0.20	0.10	0.40	0.0	3.50
	DJF	0.28	0.25	0.10	0.10	0.30	0.0	1.70
SO ₂ (ppm)	MAM	0.21	0.17	0.20	0.10	0.40	0.0	3.50
	JJA	0.37	0.30	0.30	0.10	0.50	0.0	3.20
	SON	0.42	0.27	0.40	0.20	0.60	0.1	2.80
	Whole Year	219.73	123.46	197.0	127.0	304.0	6.0	500.0 ^b
	DJF	196.15	103.95	173.0	118.0	250.5	11.0	500.0 ^b
$PM_{2.5} (\mu gm^{-3})$	MAM	216.36	122.09	197.0	123.0	300.0	9.0	500.0 ^b
	JJA	190.40	123.42	181.0	106.0	277.0	6.0	500.0 ^b
	SON	276.01	130.64	261.0	172.0	371.0	7.0	500.0 ^b
PM ₁₀ (µgm ⁻³)	Whole Year	451.96	251.42	403.0	259.0	615.0	12.0	1000.0 ^b
	DJF	401.82	213.45	350.0	243.0	505.0	16.0	1000.0 ^b
	MAM	442.45	248.13	405.0	250.0	608.0	17.0	1000.0 ^b
	JJA	405.72	250.98	363.0	214.0	561.0	12.0	1000.0 ^b
	SON	557.58	265.89	529.0	349.3	758.0	180	1000.0 ^b

Table 4. Descriptive statistics of criteria pollutants: CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in Zaria metropolis in 2015 - 2016 (N = 19, 104)

^a values recorded mostly at control sites, ^b maximum concentration range for CW-HAT200 particulate counter

Figure 3 displays the time-series plots of criteria pollutants for control site 6 and two other sites (9 and 15). Site 14 recorded the highest concentration levels for the criteria pollutants studied. This could be attributed to the site being positioned at the study area's main market. The 1-year average concentration of CO measured were above WHO stipulated limit in 16 of the 19 sample sites; FEPA limit (in 15 sample sites) and 10 sites exceeded the SANS limit. Averaged SO₂ and PM₁₀ levels were above WHO, FEPA and SANS limit in all the sampling sites. Averaged PM_{2.5} concentrations were also above WHO limit in all the sample sites (Nigeria's FEPA and South

Africa's SANS guidelines do not have specified threshold for $PM_{2.5}$); PM_{10} was above WHO, FEPA and SANS limit in all the sites (Figure 4). The predicted spatial distribution of criteria pollutants from the network relationship over the 19 sample sites is also displayed in Figure 4. The pollution map process was achieved by averaging the spatio-temporal pollutant concentrations based on the Kriging function (Araki et al., 2015). This spatial pollution distribution is often used for predicting air pollutants measurements over unmeasured locations (Contreras and Ferri, 2016).



Figure 3. Time-series of criteria pollutants (CO, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) concentrations for randomly selected (a) site 6 (b) site 9 and (c) site 15 for the 366 days of the study period



Figure 4. Box plots of pollutant concentrations from the 19 sample sites showing the performance against the WHO/FEPA/SANS stipulated limits and the predicted exposure maps in 2015 - 2016 (a) CO (b) SO₂ (c) PM_{2.5} (d) PM₁₀ (Sites 3, 6 and 18 are control sites)

Taking into consideration, the global ambient air pollution update (WHO, 2016) in addition to the observed yearly day-time average concentration level for $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} as 219.73 and 451.96 μ gm⁻³ respectively revealed by our study, we can categorically report that the study area, Zaria metropolis, is a major contender for the World's top 5 polluted cities (Figures 5a and b).



Figure 5. The 1-year weighted average of measurement $PM_{2.5}$ (a) and PM_{10} (b) for Zaria, in contrast with the 10 most polluted cities of the World. This is modified after the (WHO 2016). *Zaria is placed in 1st and 4th position respectively.

3.1. Instrument Reliability

Studies have evaluated the reliability of these low-power and relatively low-cost pollutant sensors for air pollution monitoring application. They have been adjudged to have acceptable potential when compared to reference monitoring instruments (Walker, 2012; Lin et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2014; Mishra et al., 2015; Shibata et al., 2015; Li and Biswas, 2017). However, considering that our study area has no existing reference pollution monitoring stations, we decided to adopt

validated theories on air pollution contribution to global warming (Hansen et al., 2000; Duan et al., 2017). We utilized the retrieved criteria pollutant concentrations for analysis with independent collocating ground air temperature and land surface temperature (LST) data for the study period. The ground air temperature data are collected using the Casella and Co. wall thermometer stationed at the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET) Zaria office, while the LST were extracted from Landsat 8. This is a unique approach. For the LST, the Landsat 8 at Path/Row 189/52 (which collocates with image tile covering the area of interest) was downloaded from the USGS website (https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/). The criterion of Landsat 8 image file was set at cloud cover of less than 10 percent. The Landsat scene information is described in Table 5.

Table 5. Landsat image parameters which fulfilled the criteria for the study period of interest

Acquisition date	Scene ID	Scene centre time (GMT)	Cloud cover (%)	Sun Azimuth (deg.)	Sun elevation (deg.)
10-Dec-15	LC81890522015344LGN00	09:49:29	4.41	146.47	48.65
11-Jan-16	LC81890522016011LGN00	09:49:27	0.01	141.42	47.28
12-Feb-16	LC81890522016043LGN00	09:49:20	0.03	130.87	51.81
28-Feb-16	LC81890522016059LGN00	09:49:16	0.01	129.59	55.58
31-Mar-16	LC81890522016091LGN00	09:49:02	7.56	103.26	62.99
16-Apr-16	LC81890522016107LGN00	09:48:57	0.50	90.34	65.17
02-May-16	LC81890522016123LGN00	09:49:00	5.10	77.74	65.76
25-Oct-16	LC81890522016299LGN00	09:49:44	0.01	138.01	58.21
10-Nov-16	LC81890522016315LGN00	09:49:42	0.00	143.79	54.37
26-Nov-16	LC81890522016331LGN00	09:49:43	0.89	146.36	50.87

The LST extracted from Landsat 8 OLI and TIRS images was achieved using thermal bands 10 and 11, which retrieve information at 100-meter resolution, but are resampled to 30-meter for data delivery. LST was retrieved from thermal bands 10 and 11 using ArcGIS 10.2.2 software with Equations (1-3) below.

$$LST = [T/1 + w \times (T/p) \times \ln(e)]$$
⁽¹⁾

where T is satellite brightness temperature derived from inversion of Planck's Law (Equation 2); w is wavelength of emittance (11.5 μ m); p is 14380 and e is the land surface emissivity derived from normalized vegetation difference index (NDVI).

$$T = \frac{K_2}{\ln\left(\frac{K_1}{L_\lambda} + 1\right)}$$
(2)

where K_2 and K_1 are the band specific thermal conversion constant for thermal bands, 1321.0789 and 774.8853 respectively; L_{λ} is top of atmosphere radiance described in Equation 3.

$$L_{\lambda} = M_{L} \times Q_{CAL} + A_{L} \tag{3}$$

where L_{λ} is top of atmosphere radiance; M_L is 0.0003342 (radiance multiplicative scaling factor for thermal bands); Q_{CAL} is the quantized digital number; A_L is 0.1 (radiance additive scaling factor for thermal bands).

For improvement of reliability, the 10 LSTs days derived from the Landsat 8 thermal bands were first correlated with collocating day-time ground air temperature data and then the weighted averaged pollutant measurements. The correlation coefficient revealed compelling relationship between the Landsat 8 retrieved LST with ground air temperature and pollutant concentration (Figure 6). The analysis showed that ground air temperature and Landsat LST correlated highest as expected (R = 0.94), then followed by PM_{10} (R = 0.91) in Figure 6b. These coefficient values certified the reliability of the portable pollutant monitors.



Figure 6. Correlation coefficient between (a) ground air temperatures with Landsat LST estimates; (b) observed ground pollution measurements and ground temperature/Landsat LST confirming instrument reliability

4. Conclusions

There is a need for Nigeria to improve on its management of air pollution. Our conclusion is based on the alarming results revealed by this study. The study revealed a one-year day-time weighted average of 29.22 ppm for CO, 0.32 ppm for SO₂, 219.73 μ gm⁻³ for PM_{2.5} and 451.96 μ gm⁻³ for PM₁₀. The recorded PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ pollutants sadly predicts Zaria metropolis, as a major contender for the top five of the World Health Organization's most polluted cities (Figure 5). Measured concentration levels of CO were above WHO, FEPA and SANS stipulated limit in most of the sample sites; SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration levels were above WHO, FEPA and SANS limit in all the sites. The need for in-situ pollution data in Nigerian cities cannot be overemphasized. With the disturbing findings of this study, other fields of study that should be explored include the population health risk due to air pollution exposure and existing remote sensing capabilities for air pollution monitoring.

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