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Notes for Contributors

The *Journal of African Humanities Research and Development (JAHRD)*, publishes unique, ground-breaking, and innovative perspectives and approaches to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study of historical and contemporary issues on African Humanities, African Studies, the African Diaspora, Development and Policy Studies, Africa in Global Politics and Economy, Religions, African Philosophy, Arts, and Culture, and Methodologies in African Studies.

JAHRD is published annually in June, and the papers are drawn from the annual African Humanities Research and Development (AHRDC) Conference, as well as submissions made directly to the journal by scholars from across the world. All manuscripts should be sent to the editors in MS Word to editor.jahrd@ahrdc.academy For a detailed guidelines for preparing your submissions including book reviews, research notes, *et cetera* to the journal and the citation requirements, please visit ahrdc.academy/journals/

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume has its origins in a three-year environmental intervention project titled *Responsible Waste Management for University of Nigeria, Nsukka Community*, popularly known as the **#Don't-Litter-Initiative**, which was funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Germany, under its Alumni Innovative Networking Initiative. Conceived in 2022 and implemented between April 2022 and April 2025, the project sought to address one of the most visible yet insufficiently studied environmental challenges confronting Nigerian institutions and communities: irresponsible waste disposal and the behavioural attitudes that sustain it. Its central message—*Don't Litter—Be Responsible!*—was both a call to environmental consciousness and an invitation to rethink the relationship between human behaviour, waste generation and environmental sustainability.

The initiative was inspired by the recognition that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, functions not merely as a university campus but as a complex urban community whose population, infrastructure and daily activities generate substantial volumes of waste. Despite its status as Nigeria's premier indigenous university and one of the country's largest university campuses, the institution lacked a comprehensive waste-management policy. The project therefore sought to promote responsible waste handling through environmental education, behavioural transformation, policy development, stakeholder engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration. At its core was the conviction that sustainable waste management requires not only technological and institutional solutions but also a fundamental change in public attitudes towards the environment.

From the beginning, the initiative was conceived as more than a local environmental campaign. It was designed as a platform for intellectual exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of innovative approaches to environmental governance. Drawing together scholars from the humanities, social sciences, engineering, environmental studies, education and the creative arts, the project demonstrated that waste is not merely an engineering or sanitation issue. Rather, it is a social, cultural, political, economic and ecological challenge whose effective management demands multidisciplinary engagement.

The project's activities included environmental-awareness campaigns, radio programmes, policy-development initiatives, stakeholder workshops, clean-up exercises, empirical research, environmental education and capacity-building programmes. It also encouraged innovative thinking about waste as a resource rather than simply a nuisance. Particularly significant were its efforts to promote waste sorting, recycling, waste-to-art initiatives and environmentally responsible behaviour among staff, students and visitors to the University of Nigeria community.

As the project approached its final phase, attention turned towards consolidating its intellectual and practical achievements. Two major events were planned for 2025: a Waste-to-Art Exhibition and an International Conference on *Waste and the Environment*. The conference brought together scholars, researchers, environmental practitioners, policymakers and development experts from diverse disciplinary traditions to examine the challenges and possibilities associated with waste management and environmental sustainability in Africa and beyond. The richness of the discussions confirmed the

importance of creating a lasting scholarly record of the conversations initiated through the project. This volume is one of the principal scholarly outcomes of that endeavour.

This volume includes a carefully selected group of papers presented at the 2025 International Conference on *Waste and the Environment*, held at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. It is therefore not intended to represent the conference proceedings in their entirety. Most of the papers presented at the conference are currently being revised for publication in a separate edited volume, *Waste and the Environment in Nigeria: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective*, which will further extend the scholarly conversations initiated through the conference.

The decision to publish the proceedings in the *Journal of African Humanities Research and Development* reflects the journal's longstanding commitment to promoting interdisciplinary scholarship that addresses pressing African realities. The environmental questions explored during the project resonated strongly with JAHRD's mission of advancing research that bridges academic inquiry, public policy and sustainable development. Consequently, the Editorial Board considered this volume an appropriate opportunity to preserve and disseminate the important scholarly conversations generated by the initiative while inviting further engagement from researchers across the humanities and related disciplines.

Accordingly, this volume of *JAHRD* should be understood not merely as a collection of conference papers but as part of the broader legacy of the #Don't-Litter-Initiative. It embodies the project's commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, environmental responsibility, public engagement and sustainable development. It reflects three years of reflection on the environmental challenges confronting contemporary societies and the diverse pathways through which those challenges may be addressed.

The articles assembled in this volume approach environmental sustainability through a wide range of disciplinary lenses, including theology, environmental history, literary criticism, engineering, public policy, communication studies, archaeology, philosophy and the creative arts. Collectively, they demonstrate that waste is not merely a by-product of human activity but a powerful lens through which broader questions of development, environmental ethics, indigenous knowledge, governance, citizenship and sustainability may be understood.

The African Humanities Research and Development Circle (AHRDC) records its profound appreciation to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for generously supporting the networking initiative from which this project emerged. The Circle is equally grateful to Access Bank Nigeria for its partnership and support, as well as to the many collaborators, researchers, students, environmental advocates and members of the University of Nigeria community whose enthusiasm transformed the #Don't-Litter-Initiative from an idea into a vibrant platform for environmental action, public engagement and scholarly collaboration.

Ultimately, this volume affirms our conviction that environmental transformation begins with human responsibility. If the environmental crises of the twenty-first century are to be effectively addressed, societies must rethink not only how waste is managed but also how it is produced, perceived and

valued. We hope that the scholarship presented here will stimulate further research, inform public policy, enrich teaching and learning, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage practical innovations that advance environmentally sustainable, socially just and intellectually informed futures across Nigeria, Africa and the wider global community.