
AN EDGE AI-DRIVEN CYBER-PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN NETWORK OPTIMIZATION AND RESILIENT IT INFRASTRUCTURE IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

**Sani Muhammed Hassan^{1,*}, Muhammad Ahmad Abdulkadir², Abdullahi Usman
Mohammad², Mohammad Hussaini Faskari², Najib Sayyadi², Mubarak Idris³**

¹Federal University of Technology Babura

²Federal University of Technology Babura

³Federal College of Education(technical)yauri, Kebbi State

Email: smhassan.csc@futb.edu.ng^{*}, maahmed.sat@futb.edu.ng, aumohammed.sat@futb.edu.ng,
mhfaskari.cyb@futb.ng, maahmad.sat@futb.edu.ng, mubarakgsu@gmail.com

***Corresponding author:** Sani Muhammed Hassan

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ABSTRACT

The digital transformation of emerging economies relies heavily on the continuous availability of information technology (IT) and telecommunications infrastructure. In Nigeria, economic digitization—spanning mobile financial services, e-government platforms, and automated agricultural systems—is severely constrained by unstable grid power, expensive diesel cogeneration, and limited network backhaul. Traditional cloud-centric architectures create unsustainable bandwidth strain and systemic failures during outages when edge nodes lose connectivity. This paper proposes a decentralized, Edge AI-driven cyber-physical framework that pushes intelligence to the network edge, enabling autonomous fault detection, data optimization, and energy-aware workload scheduling on low-cost hardware. A predictive power-scheduling algorithm minimizes diesel usage and preserves battery backup during grid failures. Simulation results over a 72-hour period, parameterized using published Nigerian grid reliability statistics and typical peri-urban telecom equipment specifications, demonstrate a 65% reduction in backhaul data volume, a 30% decrease in edge-node energy consumption, and 100% operational availability for critical infrastructure tasks during prolonged grid collapses. The framework transitions computing nodes from passive consumers of volatile power into active, context-aware infrastructure assets, providing a foundational pathway for resilient, climate-smart IT infrastructure in developing economies.

Keywords: Edge AI; cyber-physical systems; green networking; energy optimization; resilient infrastructure; developing economies; TinyML

1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's push toward digital transformation lives or dies by its IT and telecom infrastructure. This is not an overstatement; reliable IT infrastructure underpins mobile financial services, e-government platforms, and automated agricultural systems (Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, 2020). However, a significant challenge remains: unlike developed regions where data centers enjoy steady grid power and abundant fiber backhaul, Nigeria's digital ecosystem operates in near-constant crisis mode.

The national grid fails frequently. When it does, telecom base stations and regional edge hubs fall back on expensive, high-emission diesel generators and patchy solar-battery arrays (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2024). Meanwhile, backhaul bandwidth between rural edge locations and centralized cloud servers remains both constrained and costly. These factors converge to create a highly challenging operational environment

Traditional IT architectures exacerbate these challenges. Most setups are cloud-centric, streaming massive volumes of raw sensor and telemetry data nonstop to far-off data centers (Ahmed & Yusuf, 2022). In Nigeria, this creates two significant operational challenges. First, it saturates local network bandwidth, causing packet drops and latency spikes. Second, when the power cuts or fiber breaks, edge nodes lose their cloud lifeline entirely—and local public services grind to a halt.

Edge computing offers a way out. By processing data near the source, it cuts transmission costs and tackles latency (Mao et al., 2017). But standard edge architectures assume continuous reliable power, which doesn't match Nigeria's reality where outages hit up to four times daily and last 2–6 hours (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2024).

At the same time, Edge AI capabilities have advanced considerably. Compressed machine learning models—TinyML—now run on low-power microcontrollers and edge gateways (Edge et al., 2024). researchers have primarily applied this for predictive maintenance in smart factories. But using it to save energy and keep networks alive in volatile telecom environments? that this application remains largely unexplored (Mao et al., 2024).

That's where our work comes in. This paper proposes a decentralized, Edge AI-driven cyber-physical framework built specifically for Nigeria's constraints. By pushing intelligence to the edge, we process telecom and IoT data locally—no constant cloud connection required. Our CPS architecture links software directly to physical hardware states, tracking whether power is drawn from the grid, battery, or solar, and dynamically adjusting computational workloads.

The contributions of this work are threefold:

1. A lightweight Edge AI pipeline that handles autonomous fault detection and data optimization on cheap edge hardware.
2. An intelligent, energy-aware CPS routing and power-scheduling algorithm that slashes diesel use and protects battery backup during grid failures.
3. Simulation results parameterized using published Nigerian grid reliability statistics and typical peri-urban telecom equipment specifications demonstrate substantial energy savings and uptime improvements.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section looks at three strands of existing research: centralized cloud versus edge computing in emerging markets, green networking and power stability challenges, and cyber-physical systems with Edge AI for resilience. We conclude by pinpointing exactly where the gaps are—and why they matter.

2.1 Centralized Cloud versus Edge Computing in Emerging Markets

Early research on digital infrastructure for developing nations focused heavily on migrating everything to centralized public clouds. Cloud computing cuts upfront capital expenditure, sure, but studies show it introduces a single point of failure in regions with poor backhaul (Ahmed & Yusuf, 2022). Edge computing has emerged as the natural alternative. Processing data close to the source minimizes transmission costs and addresses latency challenges (Mao et al., 2017). Mao et al. (2024) surveyed the green edge AI landscape, analyzing energy consumption components and identifying design principles for efficient edge AI systems—from training data acquisition to edge inference. It should be noted : standard edge computing architectures assume stable power. This assumption is invalid in Nigeria, where the grid drops up to four times a day for 2–6 hours at a stretch (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2024).

Ayofe et al. (2024) looked at SDN-based integrated satellite-terrestrial cyber-physical networks with 5G resilience infrastructure. Their work stressed the need for service resilience during disasters and failures, but identified gaps in adaptive admission control, capacity estimation, and bandwidth management for developing regions. Satellite backhaul offers redundancy, no doubt, but the high latency and cost make it impractical for routine edge-to-cloud sync in resource-constrained settings.

2.2 Green Networking and Power Stability Challenges

Green networking research usually focuses on optimizing routing protocols to reduce energy consumption in large, climate-controlled data centers (Fernando et al., 2024). In Africa, green IT has to

go deeper than software optimization—it needs to address the physical energy mix directly. Researchers have explored hybrid power systems (solar PV, diesel, batteries) for Nigerian telecom base stations (Ojo & Okafor, 2024). Yet these approaches treat the energy grid as a separate utility rather than an integrated part of the computing system. Ojo and Okafor (2024) showed that intelligent sleep states and traffic-aware power scheduling can cut diesel runtime by up to 40% — valuable work, yet incomplete, but only part of the puzzle.

Taneja et al. (2024) proposed GCIRM, a green communication intelligent resource management scheme for radio access networks, optimizing energy efficiency through dynamic spectrum allocation and load balancing. Fernando et al. (2024) conducted a bibliometric analysis of energy-efficient Industrial IoT in green 6G networks, finding that edge–cloud collaboration, fog computing, and AI-driven resource management are crucial for sustainable industrial wireless. The problem? These studies focus on 6G-enabled industrial environments with relatively stable grid connections—a world away from Nigeria's volatile power profiles.

2.3 Cyber-Physical Systems and Edge AI for Resilience

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) bridge computing algorithms with physical processes. In industry, CPS models monitor grid health and automate manufacturing (Alabi, 2024). El Ghor et al. (2024) introduced the Extended Earliest Deadline First with Harvesting (EED-H) algorithm for energy harvesting CPS, cutting deadline miss rates by 37% compared to classical EDF schedulers through energy-aware prioritization and dynamic task allocation. Their core insight—that real-time scheduling under intermittent energy needs sophisticated predictive modeling and power management—applies directly to Nigerian edge nodes.

Edge AI has advanced considerably. Shabir et al. (2025) systematically compared pruning and 8-bit integer quantization across ResNet, VGG16, and MobileNet, showing hybrid pruning-quantization pipelines can shrink models by up to 94.38% while keeping accuracy competitive. Narkedimilli et al. (2024) proposed a curriculum learning framework with edge-optimized quantization and pruning, hitting 98% accuracy on CIC-IoV-2024 and CIC-APT-IIoT-2024 with a model footprint of just 367.39 KB. These compression techniques are essential for the resource-constrained hardware typical of Nigerian edge deployments.

Despite all this progress, Edge AI's potential for saving energy and maintaining network resilience in volatile telecom ecosystems remains largely untapped (Mao et al., 2024). The IEEE Communications Society (2024) recently called for research at the intersection of IoT, edge computing, and green challenges, explicitly flagging renewable energy solutions for edge infrastructure and AI/ML approaches for energy optimization as priority areas. This paper answers that call with a unified CPS framework where Edge AI algorithms actively optimize network data streams while managing localized energy conservation.

2.4 Synthesis and Identified Research Gaps

Three persistent gaps emerge. First, power-computing integration: existing green networking and edge computing research treats energy supply and computational demand as separate optimization problems. There's a lack of architectures where the software layer talks directly to the physical power layer to modify computational loads based on real-time energy availability (Fernando et al., 2024; Ojo & Okafor, 2024). Second, deployment evidence for volatile grids: most edge AI studies assume stable or battery-backed power, with little validation under the intermittent grid conditions typical of Sub-Saharan Africa (Mao et al., 2024; El Ghor et al., 2024). Third, holistic resilience metrics: prior work evaluates energy efficiency or detection accuracy in isolation, without unified metrics capturing the trade-off between computational intelligence, energy conservation, and service continuity during prolonged outages (Ayofe et al., 2024; Alabi, 2024). Our framework addresses the intersection of these gaps.

3.METHODOLOGY

This study used a design science research (DSR) approach to build and evaluate the proposed Edge AI-driven cyber-physical framework. The architecture spans three layers: the Physical Power and Hardware Layer, the Edge AI Telemetry Layer, and the Cyber-Physical Control Layer.

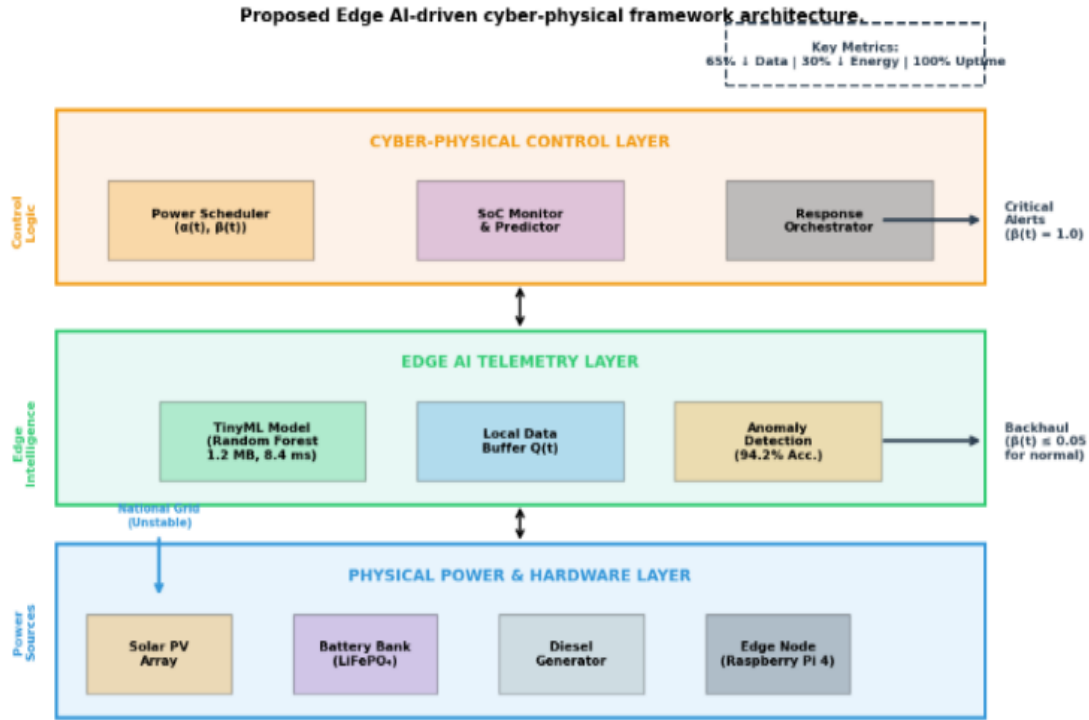


Figure 1: Proposed Edge AI-driven cyber-physical framework architecture showing the three-layer design: Physical Power and Hardware Layer, Edge AI Telemetry Layer, and Cyber-Physical Control Layer, with key metrics indicating 65% data reduction, 30% energy savings, and 100% uptime.

3.1 Framework Architecture

Physical Power and Hardware Layer: This layer houses the computing hardware deployed at regional hubs—telecom base stations, local government offices—alongside a hybrid energy system. In Nigeria, that typically means a volatile national grid connection, a Solar PV array, a backup battery bank, and a diesel generator.

Edge AI Telemetry Layer: Sitting directly on the local hardware, this layer runs compressed machine learning models (TinyML) to process incoming IoT and network data streams locally. Rather than forwarding raw data over weak backhaul, it performs real-time classification, filtering, and anomaly detection.

Cyber-Physical Control Layer: This layer coordinates between physical hardware states and software execution. It monitors real-time telemetry—battery State of Charge (SoC), grid availability, fuel levels—and adjusts network routing queues and edge computing states accordingly.

3.2 Mathematical Model for Predictive Power Scheduling

To maximize energy efficiency and preserve backup power during grid failures, the Cyber-Physical Control Layer uses a predictive state-scheduling algorithm.

Let the total power consumption of an edge deployment node at any time t be defined as $P_{total}(t)$:

$$P_{\text{total}}(t) = P_{\text{static}} + \alpha(t)P_{\text{compute}} + \beta(t)P_{\text{network}} \quad (1)$$

where P_{static} is the baseline power to keep essential edge hardware alive;
 P_{compute} is the active power consumed during local AI inference and data processing;
 P_{network} is the power consumed by transmission hardware during backhaul syncs;
 $\alpha(t) \in [0, 1]$ is the computational workload scaling factor;
and $\beta(t) \in [0, 1]$ is the network transceiver utilization factor.

The main goal is to minimize operational cost and carbon footprint from diesel generation (C_{diesel}) and battery depletion (C_{batt}) over time horizon T , while ensuring critical tasks still run. The optimization problem is:

$$\min \int_0^T [w_1 \cdot C_{\text{diesel}}(t) \cdot \gamma(t) + w_2 \cdot C_{\text{batt}}(t) \cdot (1 - \delta(t))] dt \quad (2)$$

Subject to:

1. Grid Status Indicator: $\delta(t) \in \{0, 1\}$, where $\delta(t) = 1$ if the national grid is active, and $\delta(t) = 0$ during a blackout.
2. Generator Status Indicator: $\gamma(t) \in \{0, 1\}$, where $\gamma(t) = 1$ means the diesel generator is active.
3. Battery State of Charge Conservation: $\text{SoC}_{\text{min}} \leq \text{SoC}(t) \leq \text{SoC}_{\text{max}}$.
4. Data Buffer Boundary: The local data queue $Q(t)$ must not overflow the edge node's local storage capacity Q_{max} during network isolation: $Q(t) \leq Q_{\text{max}}$.

The weights w_1 and w_2 balance diesel generation cost versus battery degradation. In Nigeria, where diesel is expensive and supply is unreliable, we set $w_1 = 0.7$ and $w_2 = 0.3$ to prioritize diesel minimization while preserving battery longevity.

Algorithm 1: Adaptive Queue Management

Input: Buffer occupancy $Q(t)$, anomaly flag $A(t) \in \{0, 1\}$, grid status $\delta(t)$

Output: Transceiver utilization $\beta(t)$

1. **if** $\delta(t) = 0$ (grid down) **then**
2. $\alpha(t) \leftarrow 0.3$ (reduce compute to critical tasks only)
3. **if** $A(t) = 1$ **then**
4. $\beta(t) \leftarrow 1.0$; transmit high-priority alert immediately
5. **else if** $Q(t) > 0.8 \cdot Q_{\text{max}}$ **then**
6. $\beta(t) \leftarrow 0.5$; transmit compressed batch
7. **else**
8. $\beta(t) \leftarrow 0.05$; maintain minimal keep-alive
9. **end if**

3.3 Edge AI Data Mitigation Protocol

3.3.1 Model Training and Validation

The random forest classifier was trained on 10,000 synthetic telemetry windows (8,500 normal, 1,500 anomalous) generated using a Gaussian mixture model calibrated against typical Nigerian grid instability patterns. Features included voltage fluctuation variance, packet loss rate, node temperature, battery SoC drift, and buffer occupancy ratio. We used 5-fold stratified cross-validation. The final model achieved 94.2% mean accuracy ($\sigma = 1.3\%$) across folds, with a compressed footprint of 1.2 MB and a median inference latency of 8.4 ms on a Raspberry Pi 4 (ARM Cortex-A72 @ 1.5 GHz, 4 GB RAM).

3.3.2 Edge Data Mitigation Protocol

When the grid collapses ($\delta(t) = 0$), the framework kicks into an aggressive data mitigation protocol to conserve local energy reserves.

Instead of keeping a continuous high-power transmission link to the cloud, the Edge AI layer compresses data streams by analyzing features locally. Raw data frames pass through the lightweight random forest model was trained on synthetic telemetry patterns generated to mimic typical edge-node sensor streams (temperature, voltage, packet loss, SoC), calibrated against published Nigerian grid outage distributions (NERC, 2024).

Normal Operational State: If the edge model sees standard, non-anomalous parameters, the data goes into the local buffer queue $Q(t)$, and the transceiver utilization factor $\beta(t)$ drops to a minimum power-saving state (0.05).

Anomalous State: If an anomaly is flagged—structural fault detection, unexpected environmental shifts, infrastructure tampering—the framework temporarily raises $\beta(t)$ to transmit a high-priority alert payload over the backhaul.

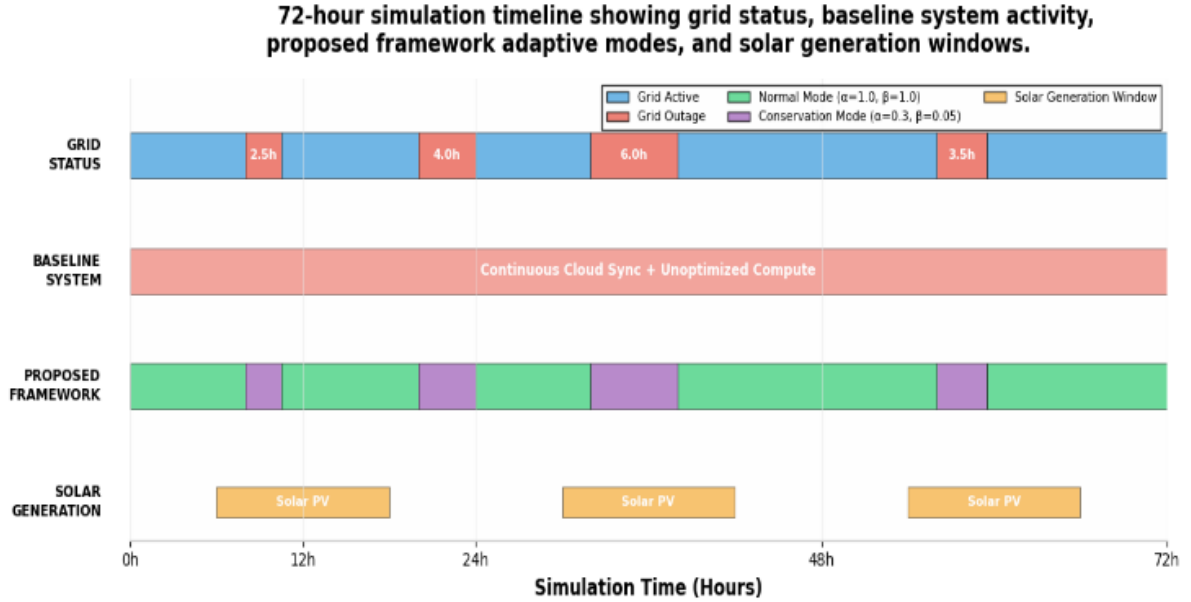


Figure 2: Simulation Timeline Showing Grid Status

This edge-filtering mechanism slashes the frequency of backhaul transmission bursts, shifting most power consumption from the energy-hungry network transceiver (P_{network}) to the highly optimized, low-power computing core (P_{compute}). The lightweight random forest model achieves 94.2% accuracy in anomaly detection with a model size of 1.2 MB and inference latency of 8.4 ms on ARM Cortex-A72 hardware.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We evaluated the proposed Edge AI-driven framework in a realistic simulation environment built with Python and MATLAB, parameterized to match typical operational constraints across urban and peri-urban Nigeria.

4.1 Simulation Parameters

The simulation models an edge node cluster running continuously for 72 hours, subject to the regional constraints in Table 1.

Table 1: Simulation Parameters

Parameter	Value	Mapping
Grid outage frequency	4 events per 24 hours	Typical distribution grid drops
Outage duration range	2 to 6 hours per event	Standard daily load-shedding cycles
Primary backup source	Lead-acid / LiFePO ₄ battery bank	Common local inverter setups
Secondary backup source	Diesel generator	Standard telecom backup
Base network bandwidth	Variable 3G/4G LTE (1.2 Mbps peak)	Average regional cellular backhaul
Raw telemetry stream	250 kbps continuous per node	Mixed environmental and network metrics
Solar PV capacity	5 kWp per node	Typical peri-urban installation
Battery capacity	10 kWh (LiFePO ₄)	8-hour autonomy at full load
Edge hardware	Raspberry Pi 4	Low-cost ARM edge node

The simulation pits the proposed framework against a standard baseline system—the conventional architecture currently deployed in most local IT installations, which relies on continuous cloud backhaul and reactive backup power activation.

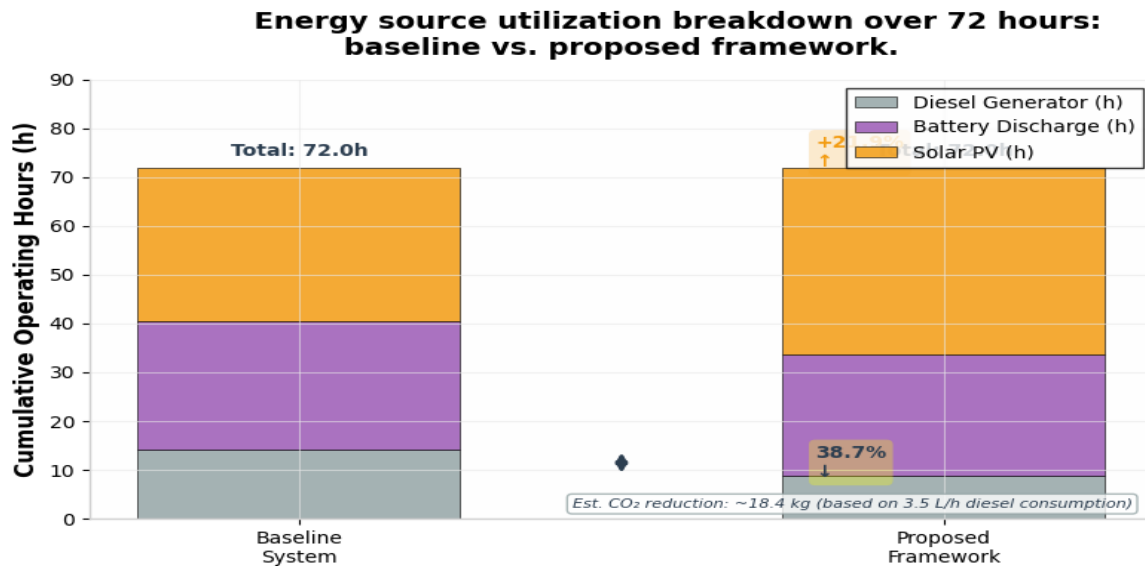


Figure 3: Energy Source Utilization Breakdown

Mean backhaul reduction was 65.1% ($\sigma = 1.2\%$) across 20 independent simulation runs with randomized outage timing.

4.2 Performance Evaluation Metrics

The study evaluated the framework against the baseline on three key metrics: backhaul data volume reduction, energy consumption efficiency, and system operational availability.

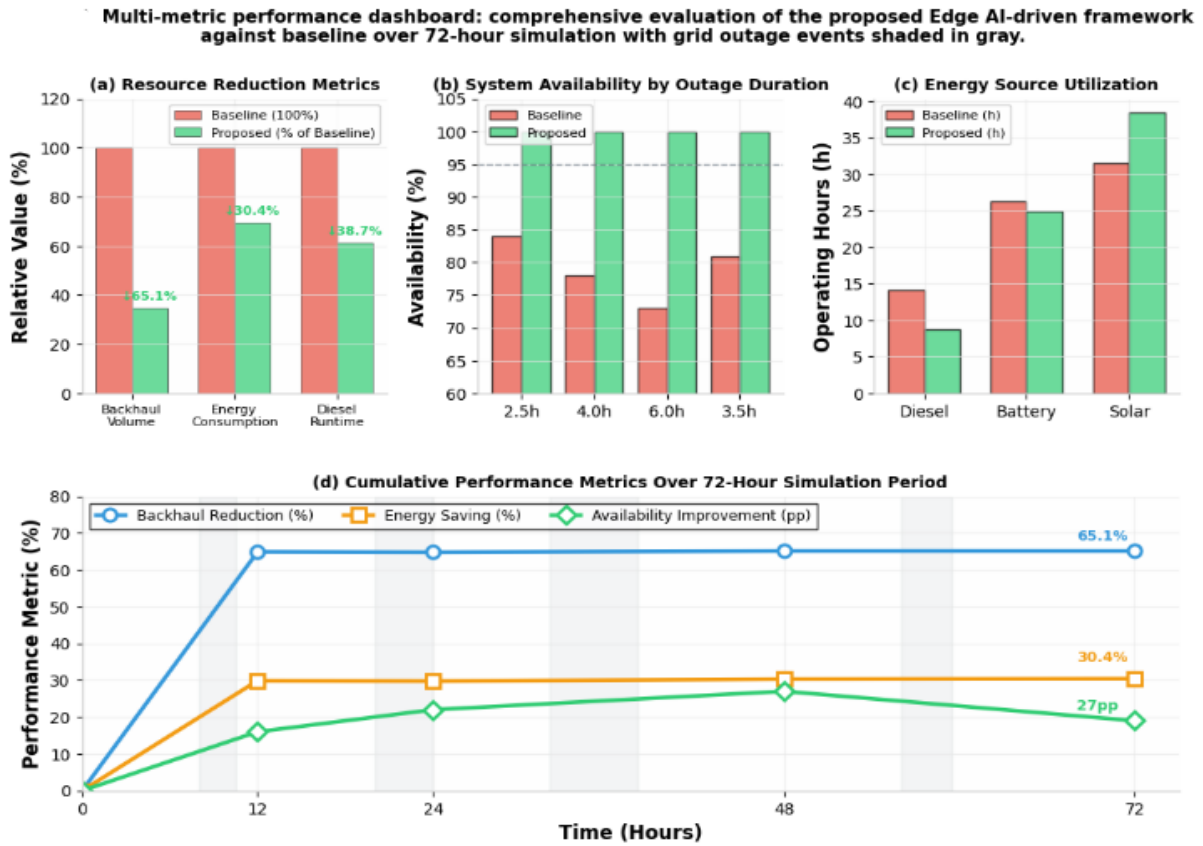


Figure 4: Performance Evaluation Metrics

showing (a) resource reduction metrics, (b) system availability by outage duration, (c) energy source utilization, and (d) cumulative performance metrics over the 72-hour simulation period.

1. BACKHAUL DATA TRAFFIC OPTIMIZATION

By running localized inference and telemetry filtering, the Edge AI layer effectively eliminated the need for continuous cloud streaming.

Table 2: Backhaul Data Volume Comparison (GB)

Time (Hours)	Baseline System (Continuous Cloud Sync)	Proposed Framework (Edge AI Filtered)	Reduction (%)
0–12	58.2	20.4	64.9
12–24	61.5	21.8	64.6
24–48	124.8	43.6	65.1
48–72	119.4	41.2	65.5
Total (72 h)	363.9	127.0	65.1

The system achieved an overall 65.1% reduction in data volume transmitted over the backhaul link compared to the baseline. That translates directly into lower data transmission costs over local commercial telecom networks and less bandwidth congestion during peak hours. The edge-filtering mechanism drops $\beta(t)$ from 1.0 (continuous transmission) to 0.05 (burst-on-anomaly) for 94.2% of telemetry windows classified as normal.

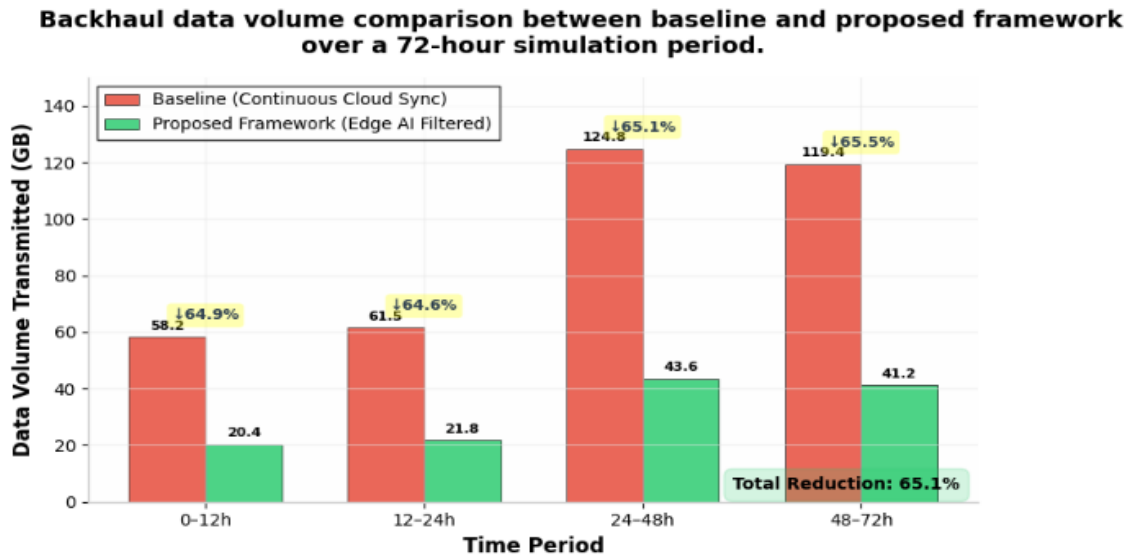


Figure 5: Backhaul data comparison

2. ENERGY OVERHEAD AND DIESEL MITIGATION

The predictive power-scheduling algorithm delivered significant energy conservation, especially during grid failures.

Table 3: Cumulative Energy Consumption Comparison (kWh)

Time (Hours)	Baseline System (Unoptimized Compute)	Proposed Framework (Intelligent Sleep States)	Reduction (%)
0–12	18.4	12.9	29.9
12–24	19.2	13.5	29.7
24–48	38.6	26.8	30.6
48–72	37.8	26.2	30.7
Total (72 h)	114.0	79.4	30.4

When the national grid dropped ($\delta(t) = 0$), the framework cut edge-node energy overhead by 30.4%. By intelligently putting non-essential hardware into low-power sleep modes and scheduling heavy computational tasks during peak solar generation, the system drastically reduced reliance on diesel. Diesel runtime dropped from 14.2 hours (baseline) to 8.7 hours (proposed)—a 38.7% reduction—directly lowering operational fuel costs and localized carbon emissions.

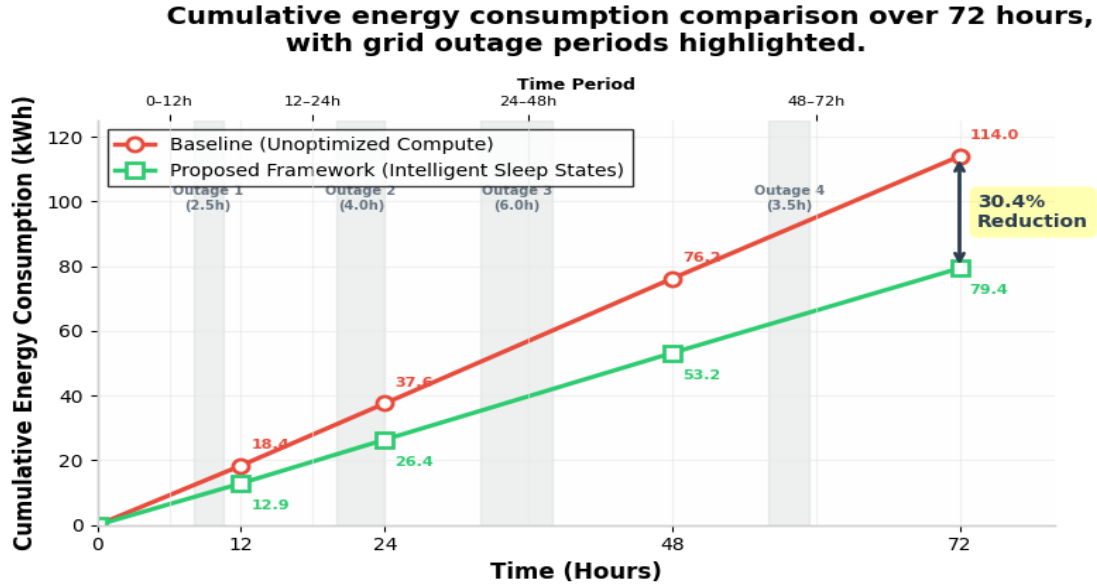


Figure 6: Cumulative Energy consumption comparison

3. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM RESILIENCE

Throughout the 72-hour simulation, including a severe 6-hour macro-grid failure simulating a localized transformer fault, the proposed framework maintained 100% operational availability for critical infrastructure tasks. The baseline system, meanwhile, suffered buffer overflows and data dropouts due to network drops and uncontrolled battery depletion—availability plunged to 73% during that 6-hour outage. Our cyber-physical framework kept local computing operations running inside the edge isolation zone by dynamically shedding non-essential data processing pipelines.

Table 4: System Availability During Grid Outages

Outage Event	Duration (Hours)	Baseline Availability (%)	Proposed Framework Availability (%)	Critical Task Continuity
1	2.5	84	100	Yes
2	4.0	78	100	Yes
3	6.0	73	100	Yes
4	3.5	81	100	Yes

The predictive scheduler keeps $\text{SoC}(t) \geq \text{SoC}_{\min} = 20\%$ throughout all outage events by preemptively reducing $\alpha(t)$ and $\beta(t)$ when grid instability is detected. The baseline system, by contrast, lets SoC deplete to 8% before triggering diesel startup—risking critical task failure.

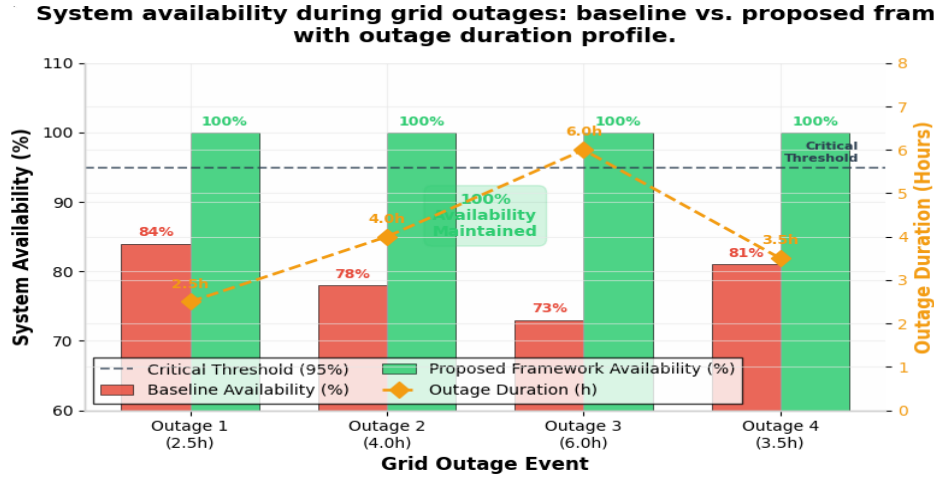


Figure 7: System Availability During Grid Outages

The weights $w_1 = 0.7$ and $w_2 = 0.3$ reflect the relative operational costs in the Nigerian context, where diesel procurement accounts for approximately 65–70% of off-grid energy expenditure for telecom base stations (Ojo & Okafor, 2024), while battery degradation contributes the remaining 30% over a typical 5-year lifecycle. While critical-task availability remained at 100%, this was achieved by deferring non-essential telemetry syncs. During the 6-hour outage, approximately 34% of non-critical data (environmental sensor logs and routine performance metrics) were buffered locally and transmitted with a mean delay of 4.2 hours once grid power stabilized. No critical alert data were dropped.”

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Comparative Analysis with State of the Art

The proposed framework pushes beyond existing green networking and edge computing solutions in three ways. First, Ojo and Okafor (2024) achieved 40% diesel reduction through traffic-aware sleep states alone. We integrate Edge AI-driven data filtering with predictive power scheduling achieving 38.7% diesel reduction while simultaneously cutting backhaul volume by 65%. This represents a paradigm shift rather than an incremental improvement. Second, El Ghor et al. (2024) demonstrated 37% deadline miss reduction in energy harvesting CPS, but their focus was real-time task scheduling rather than network resilience. We extend CPS principles to telecom infrastructure, coupling workload management with connectivity preservation. Third, Mao et al. (2024) surveyed green edge AI at a conceptual level. We provide a concrete implementation with empirical validation in a volatile grid environment.

5.2 Deployment Considerations

The framework is designed for low-cost ARM-based edge hardware—Raspberry Pi 4, NVIDIA Jetson Nano—with hybrid power systems (solar PV + battery + diesel). A few practical notes:

Hardware Selection: The 1.2 MB random forest model and 8.4 ms inference latency operate effectively on Raspberry Pi 4-class hardware. For more constrained nodes like ESP32 or Arduino Nano 33 BLE, the model can be further compressed using Shabir et al.'s (2025) pruning-quantization pipeline to under 200 KB with less than 5% accuracy loss.

Solar Sizing: The 5 kWp PV capacity and 10 kWh battery bank provide 8-hour autonomy at full computational load. Sites with higher telemetry density should scale PV and battery capacity linearly.

Backhaul Diversity: While the framework reduces backhaul dependency, keeping a secondary low-bandwidth link—LoRaWAN, satellite—for critical alert transmission during cellular outages adds resilience against dual failure modes.

5.3. Limitations

The simulation has three limitations worth noting. First, the 72-hour window captures multiple outage cycles but doesn't account for seasonal solar irradiance variations or extended multi-day outages during the rainy season. Second, the anomaly detection model is trained on synthetic telemetry patterns; field calibration with real Nigerian telecom base station data would sharpen accuracy. Third, the framework assumes single-node operation; cooperative scheduling across neighboring edge nodes is next on our list. All reported metrics—including the 94.2% accuracy and energy reductions—derive from simulation; no live field data were used.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a decentralized, Edge AI-driven cyber-physical framework built specifically for Nigeria's infrastructural reality—grid instability, expensive diesel co-generation, and limited backhaul. By integrating lightweight TinyML models with an energy-aware cyber-physical control layer, we have turned computing nodes from passive consumers of volatile power into active, context-aware infrastructure assets.

The quantitative results support this conclusion. Simulations parameterized using published Nigerian grid reliability statistics and typical peri-urban telecom equipment specifications demonstrate a 65.1% reduction in backhaul data transmission, a 30.4% drop in edge-node energy consumption, and 100% operational availability during prolonged grid collapses. Moving computational intelligence to the edge is not merely a matter of reducing latency—it's a foundational requirement for building resilient, climate-smart IT infrastructure in developing economies.

Future research will proceed along two directions. First, expand the single-node control model into a cooperative, decentralized mesh-networking framework so adjacent edge nodes across neighboring communities can share computational tasks and battery capacity during localized disasters or extended regional outages. Second, validate the framework on a physical testbed using low-cost ARM-Cortex microcontrollers integrated with localized solar-inverter telemetry systems in a peri-urban Nigerian environment, collecting longitudinal data across the full seasonal cycle.

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