CCDA-V
Africa, sustainable development and climate change
*Prospects of Paris and beyond*

ClimDev-Africa

# CBDR(+RC), Resource Endowments and Climate Change Governance in EAC

By

**KABIRI, N.**

# Problem statement 1/2

- Mitigation objective imposes responsibility, subject to UNFCCC art 2 and CBDR(RC)
- EAC energy and dev deficit= qualify exemption; i.e. polluting space > dirty energy (coal) underestandable
- Availability of new cleaner and cheaper energy fortunes
- Yet, coal project threatens to persist alongside this new dispensation

Question:

- Given that EAC energy fortunes are seemingly delivering on the mandate of the energy sector within the context of article 2, can coal projects still be (morally/contractually) justified on the basis of CBDR(RC)?

# Problem statement 2/2

**Why this que. arises**

- EAC 2010 C/Change Policy restatement of UNFCCC art 2 and CBDR(RC)
- Growing lexicon of c/change as moral issue = mitigation good in itself (not just for the "guilty"?)

**Answer offered**

- EAC observer status in UNFCCC process
- C/ change governance sticking point: decarbonisation of economy

  -absence of clean energy = excuse for less ambitious emissions obligations

  -friendly cleaner/cheaper energy portfolio undermines this excuse
- Simultaneous pursuit of cleaner/cheaper and dirty energy = Credibility crisis

# Methods

- Content analysis; Process tracing
- Conceptual framework

    -Ingradients of de-carbonization

    -Energy fortunes

    -EAC pre-energy fortunes UNFCCC commitments
- Data:
    - [archival/primary documents)
        - policy documents
        - reports of various activities/actors in c/change and energy sectors
        - Public discussions/opinions
    - Oral interviews
    - Secondary literature

# Key Findings

EAC Energy Sector and Socio-Econ Dev

- **Challenges**

  i) affordable clean energy for all

- **Sectoral Objective**

  Increase availability and access to sufficient, reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy sources

**Era of cheaper/cleaner energy fortunes**

- Kenya

  -Geothermal > 44-50% of electricity prod.

  - wind power: L. Turkana >20% current prod.

- **Tanzania**

  - about 50 trillion cubic feet of gas

  -secured funding wind power project in Singida, to add an initial 50MW to the national grid.

# Key Findings

**How these fortunes playing out?** = Sufficient and affordable energy era

- Kenya:

- Reduced monthly electric bills

-state stimulating demand >supply exceeding demand?

-Independent generator Power producers redundant?

-Energy as export commodity market

- Tanzania

- Govt campaign for investors to transform to gas power

- Gas-based industries in the gas corridor (Mtwara)

⇒Thus: EAC pre-cleaner/cheaper energy fortunes UNFCCC's commitments can be met.

=> Yet: Kenya and Tanzania: investing in coal mining and power plants

# Conclusions/Recommendations

**Conclusion:**

- Under circumstances c/change negotiations, negotiating for (coal) pollution space in context of abundant cheaper/cleaner energy regimes = credibility crisis {c/c def. greatest human challenge]

**Recommendations**

- Coal project problematic for Africa even if it was good for c/change [health]
- Problem worse when coal is bad for c/change

  i) worst impact c/change: Africa [Mitigation Africa's best interests]

  ii) Bad economics: post-Paris global economy hostile to coal > stranded asserts
- Alternatives to coal exploitation

  -Re-imagine UNFCCC instruments compatible with non-expl.: Loss/Damage > compensation
- Role of civil society c/change coalition: giving vested economic interests a free pass?