



**CCDA-V**

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



Knowledge for Better Livelihoods

**ClimDev-Africa**



# Enhancing Africa's Engagement in International Climate Change Negotiations through Minilateralism

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# Problem statement 1/2

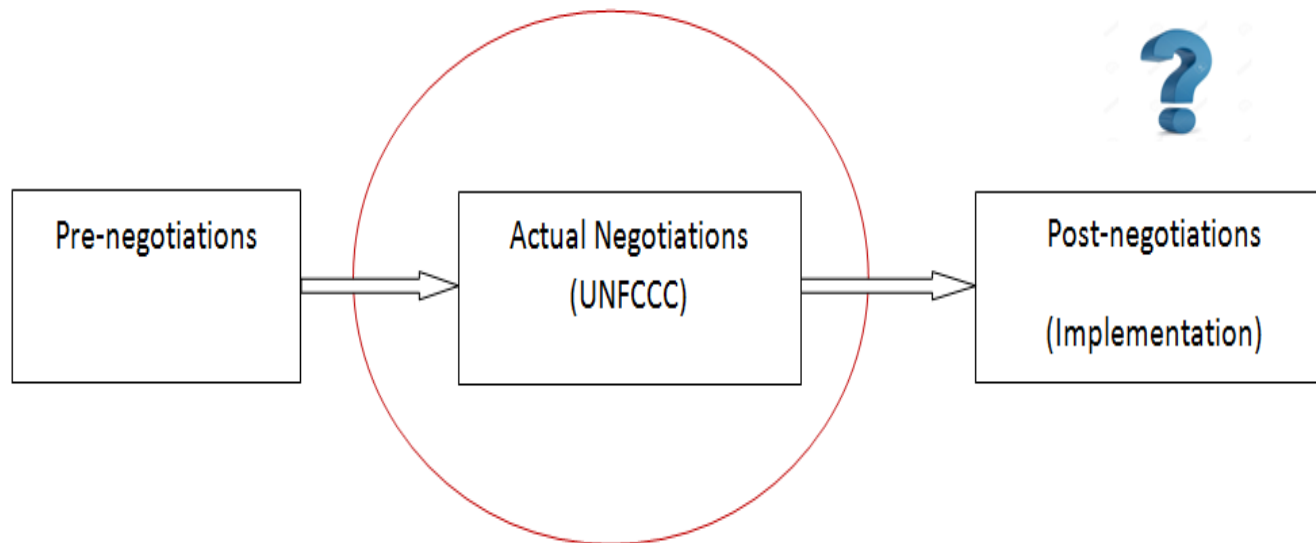
- Africa's engagement in the (fragmenting) international climate change negotiations has been challenging

Regime complex for  
Climate Change



# Problem statement 2/2

- There is minimal research on how African countries can innovatively engage in implementation of the international climate regime (post-negotiations)

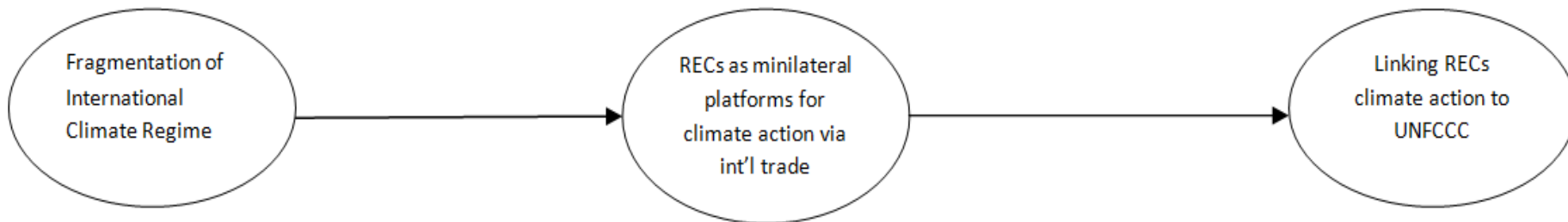


# Methods

**Methods:** Literature review/document analysis; interviews with key policy makers & scholars

## Conceptual Framework:

- **Minilateralism:** ‘Subgroup of multilateral actors/countries’ e.g G8, Major Economies Forum (MEF). Focus on RECs as minilateral platforms
- Leveraging **international trade** to foster climate action
- Focus on **post-negotiations (implementation)** phase of international climate negotiations



# Key Findings

- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa have been **platforms for climate initiatives**, though disparate
- RECs, if improved and reconfigured, can be **viable minilateral platforms** that can contribute to realising Africa's climate commitments, by leveraging on international trade
- **Challenges:**
  - **Coordination (weak)** between national governments & RECs
  - **Overlapping memberships** in RECs
  - Lack of adequate **capacity (institutional, technical, huma)**

# Key Findings

- **Carbon leakage:** relocation of polluting industries to Africa
- Persistent failure of realising sustainable development via international trade
- **Opportunities:**
  - **Transformation to clean energy:** through liberalisation of environmental goods & services (WTO rules)
  - **Enhanced coordination** between RECs and international trading/development partners, e.g on emissions trading
  - **Bargaining efficiency:** overcome individual country limitations e.g technical & institutional capacity

# Conclusions/Recommendations

- RECs , as **minilateral platforms**, can leverage international trade to foster Africa's climate actions
- Improvements in RECs should **integrate capabilities** to foster climate action
- **Further research** is needed on how specific RECs can leverage on international trade to foster climate action

- Thank You -