



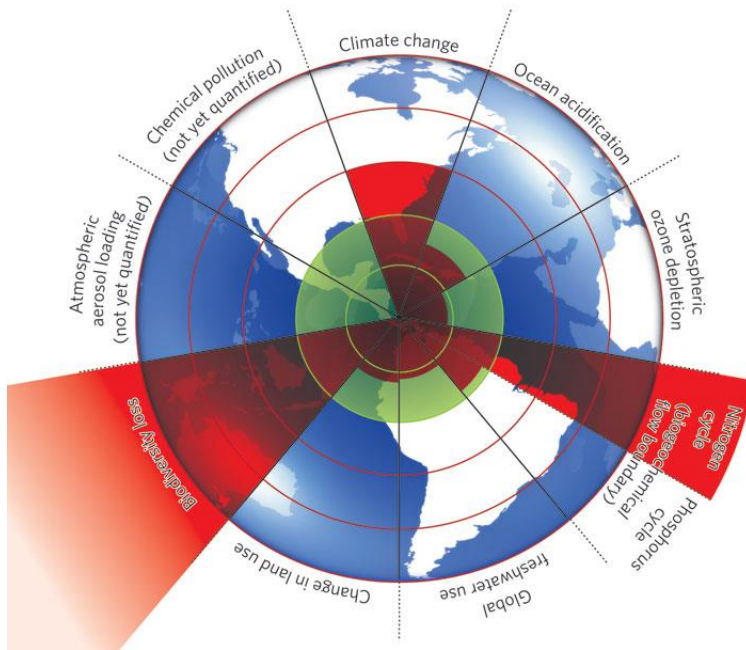
CCDA-V

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

ClimDev-Africa



Earth System Governance in Africa – Agency and Art 2 UNFCCC



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Problem statement 1/2

Main question:

- What is the role of diverse governance actors, systems and processes, and interactions among same, Africa vis-à-vis GEC? Stressors? Drivers? How well-researched is this nexus?

8-10 Oct. 2014, Mai

Table 1

Priority research questions

Architecture

- How can existing institutional frameworks be operationalized for the effective governance of earth systems through the use of available traditional knowledge?
- There is a need for scientists to effectively interface with government and the local people through evidence-based research that has direct bearing on the life of local people. How do we, therefore, reform the academia to better integrate research, policy and practice?
- Traditional authority is respected in Africa, including in crucial environmental and natural resource issues such as water, land, and biodiversity. Do people respect local authority that was not appointed by them through democratic processes? Why are some traditional authority regimes more effective than others? Which model of traditional systems is best suited for GEC governance – more assertive role for traditional authority (Nigeria and Ghana) or weaker/ceremonial role (e.g. Uganda)?
- How do we integrate government and faith-based organizations for effective GEC governance?

Agency

- What could be done to make national and local governments in Africa more responsive to GEC challenges? How can implementation of existing national policies and frameworks be improved?
- What is the role of traditional authority in responding to GEC? How does this augment or limit action at national and local government scales? What is the relevance of indigenous and traditional knowledge and knowledge systems in GEC response?
- How do we promote the meaningful inclusion of marginalized communities in identifying GEC challenges and response options?
- What are the needs and vulnerabilities of African cities and what can be done to address these vulnerabilities? What is the status of devolution of governance in Africa, and how does this affect adaptive, mitigative, and disaster risk reduction and management efforts in the region? How do we empower cities to tackle GEC at their scale?

Adaptiveness

- What is the political context of adaptation to GEC and adaptiveness in Africa? Are there shared trends and tendencies?
- How does the political and institutional context of adaptation contrast with political undercurrents of development in the region and beyond?
- What factors promote or inhibit adaptiveness at the local government and city government scales? How do we leverage funding (e.g. climate finance) to promote devolution in Africa?
- What is the role of traditional authority for adaptation and how does this role vary across state lines?
- What GEC governance schemes have been successful and what factors contributed to their success?

Accountability and legitimacy

- What are the sources of accountability and legitimacy in earth system governance in Africa? To what extent do democratic or non-democratic processes affect accountability and legitimacy? To what extent does public participation improve accountability and legitimacy? What are the roles of traditional authority and local communities in promoting accountability and legitimacy?
- How do we hold CSOs, NGOs and MNCs accountable in earth system governance given the increasing power they exercise in Africa? Are there workable mechanisms for holding non-state actors (CSOs, NGOs and MNCs) accountable for how their actions influence or impact GEC? How do we make the operations of CSOs, NGOs and MNCs more transparent?
- What are the effects of different modes of accountability and legitimacy on the efficiency of the performance of earth system governance?
- How do we ensure that decentralization translates into accountability and efficiency in earth system governance? How do we balance the imperatives of decentralization with appropriate accountability and transparency mechanisms?

Access and allocation

- What policy and regulatory tools would be helpful in ensuring effective and equitable handling or management of resources? How do we minimize corruption?
- How do we promote equitable sharing of the burdens (and benefits) of GEC in Africa? Given Africa's minimal historical GHG contributions, how do we frame the ethical obligation of developed countries to mitigate adverse effects of GEC that accrue to Africa? What more can Africa do on its part in GEC mitigation?
- How do we provide clarity and tools to identify opportunities for financing for Africa?
- What is the best way to define the rules of access to (human and financial) resources and accompanying capacity and economic limitations for Africa?

Problem statement 2/2

Sub-questions

- **Agency:** How do the d/t governance typologies further/thwart GEC response in the region?
- What is the role of **devolved governance** (including state & **non-state actors**) to address GEC impacts in Africa? LGs? Cities?
- What does this mean for **post-2015** global climate change regime?

Methods

- Scoping Workshop
Accra/IESS (Sep, 2013)
- COSUST article
- Lit review

				ARCHITECTURE
				AGENCY
				ADAPTIVENESS
				ACCOUNTABILITY
				ALLOCATION & ACCESS
POWER	KNOWLEDGE	NORMS	SCALE	Research Domains such as
				• Food Systems
				• Global Water System
				• Global Climate System
				• Global Economic System
				• Other Research Domains



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Earth System Governance in Africa: knowledge and capacity needs

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Traditional approaches for understanding environmental governance — such as environmental policy analysis or natural resources management — do not adequately address the gamut of human-natural system interactions within the context of the complex biogeophysical cycles and processes of the planet. This is perhaps more so in the African regional context where the complex relationships between modern and traditional governance systems and global change dynamics are arguably more pronounced. The Earth System Governance (ESG) Analytical Framework encompasses diverse systems

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Key Findings

- Traditional approaches for understanding environmental governance do not adequately address the gamut of human–natural system interactions within the context of the complex biogeophysical cycles and processes of the planet (more so in the African regional context) – **ESG-GEC nexus in Africa is under-researched.**

*“(T)here has been **relatively little thinking about the political context of climate adaptation policy in sub-Saharan Africa**, what this means for the quality of governance, and the capacity to plan and deliver what are often quite complex policies and programmes. This is all the more surprising given the quantity and depth of what is already known about politics and governance in Africa.”* Lockwood (2013)

Key Findings – *Agency focus*

- **LGs/Cities at the forefront of advocacy for polycentric approaches for GEC response** – will likely become key players in the post–2015 climate regime.
- Difficult to generalize on how polycentrism would impact the climate effort in Africa - **historical and geopolitical context of devolution is different for different countries.**
- **Need for increased understanding of ESG-GEC linkages in the context of devolution** – LGs? Cities? Traditional authority? LG-Central relations?
- **Non-climatic global change drivers and stressors** have a big role: Urbanization (2030: 50%) & Population growth (2050: 2 Bil Africans)

Conclusions/Recommendations

- The **governance typologies – GEC nexus** in Africa is understudied - the **ESG analytical framework** - good tool to guide future effort in knowledge generation.
- **Polycentrism**: Likely direction of the post - 2015 global climate regime - need to recognize the changing landscape
- **Long-term** - conscious and sustained effort should be made to leverage municipal empowerment
- **CB in LGs**, in of it self, a win-win adaptation option – consistent with AR5 & Art 2 (*may need explicit referencing*) - fostering robust **research capacity**
- Need for **pan-African knowledge network** on ESG.