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Author: Jonah Tersue Terngu

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Title: Mitigating Environmental Risk and Climate Vulnerability through Circular Economy: Cassava Peel Valorization in Benue State, Nigeria.

Abstract: In Benue State, Nigeria, the nation's "Food Basket", the intersection of shifting climatic conditions and inefficient agricultural waste management has created a brewing environmental crisis. As traditional weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable, the massive accumulation of cassava peels in rural processing hubs poses a severe risk to local ecosystems and public health. These peels, often discarded indiscriminately, undergo anaerobic decomposition, releasing potent greenhouse gases such as methane and leaching toxic hydrocyanic acid into the soil and groundwater. This process not only acidifies arable land, reducing crop resilience in an already volatile climate but also creates "dead zones" that threaten rural biodiversity.

This paper proposes a transition from waste-burden to wealth-creation by evaluating the efficacy of cassava peel meal (CPM) as a sustainable nutritional alternative for livestock, specifically focusing on its biochemical impact on grower rabbits. Through a controlled study, the research demonstrates that properly processed, sun-dried cassava peels can replace significant portions of expensive maize-based feeds without compromising animal health or growth indices.

By integrating cassava waste into a circular livestock production system, rural communities in Benue can achieve a dual-impact solution: mitigating the environmental hazards of cyanide leaching and atmospheric pollution while lowering the cost of animal protein production. This practice addresses the "Age of Risk" by building localized, resilient food systems that are less dependent on global supply chain shocks. The study concludes that inclusive climate governance must prioritize such grassroots, practice-facing innovations that empower smallholder farmers to lead environmental stewardship. Translating this research into regional policy will reduce the ecological footprint of the cassava value chain and enhance the socio-economic stability of Nigeria's rural heartlands.

Keywords: Cassava Peel Meal; Circular Economy; Climate Resilience; Benue State; Sustainable Livestock; Waste Valorization.

Author: Michael Ayokunle Osagie

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Title: Bridging Evidence and Accountability: Leveraging Community Grievance Mechanisms for Gender-Inclusive Climate Governance in Nigeria.

Abstract: Climate governance often fails to fully integrate the voices of women and marginalized communities, resulting in unequal access to climate finance, knowledge, and decision making. In Nigeria, community grievance mechanisms, such as those facilitated by the Public Complaints Commission, provide a practical, locally grounded avenue for accountability, evidence generation, and inclusive participation.

This research investigates how these mechanisms can inform gender-responsive climate governance reforms. Using a mixed-methods approach, I combine participatory fieldwork, stakeholder interviews, and document analysis of complaints and resolutions across multiple Nigerian states. Findings demonstrate that structured grievance processes enhance transparency, empower women and vulnerable groups, and generate actionable data that can guide policy and climate adaptation initiatives.

By linking formal governance structures with grassroots voices, this study contributes to understanding how decentralized mechanisms can strengthen legitimacy, inform climate knowledge production, and foster equitable policy outcomes. It directly engages with the gaps highlighted in recent scholarship on gender justice and decentralized energy and climate governance in Africa (Obani et al., 2024).

This work resonates with the GenCGov conference themes by showing how locally driven, gender-inclusive accountability tools can reshape climate governance, improve policy responsiveness, and ensure equitable distribution of climate resources. The insights are relevant not only for Nigeria but for broader contexts where governance structures intersect with climate risk, gender equity, and social justice.

Keywords: Gender; Climate Governance; Accountability; Nigeria; Participatory Research.

Author: Josephine Ilesanmi

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Title: Transformative governance as a tool for the advancement of gender-inclusive climate action and low-carbon transition plans.

Abstract: Global climate change effects manifest as socio-economic, political and cultural differential vulnerabilities from a gender perspective. The peculiar challenges faced by women, youth, and marginalised communities include limited access to food, water, and healthcare, as well as risks of economic insecurity and job loss. Global policy frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals have spurred national climate action and low-carbon transition plans to decarbonise economies in line with the net-zero agenda. These climate action plans cannot be achieved without addressing the gender-related challenges and formulating inclusive solutions. This includes leveraging local knowledge and resource management skills through grassroot and female-led initiatives to design disaster preparedness, water management and sustainable agriculture measures.

Furthermore, the integration of gender-based perspectives in policy design and fiscal provisions is imperative to attainment of net-zero plans. Despite the potential of gender-responsive strategies to advance climate action and low-carbon transition plans, developing nations such as Nigeria still face socio-economic, political, and institutional barriers to formulating initiatives and programs that promote social equity. To address this, gender-sensitive transformative governance frameworks must be formulated to interrogate barriers such as a lack of gender inclusion in policy formulation, low skills, and insufficient financial provisions.

While several studies have examined the importance of an inclusive governance framework in promoting gender sensitivity and social equity within Nigeria's climate action and low-carbon transition plans, a comprehensive assessment of the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal barriers to advancing gender-inclusive climate-related measures remains lacking. This article aims to fill this gap. It unpacks the scope of gender sensitivity in climate-related policy formulation and examines the specificities affecting women, men, and marginalised communities. Using Nigeria as a case study, it examines the enablers and barriers to advancing gender-sensitive climate action plans, after

which recommendations are derived and contextualised from jurisdictions with high Climate Change Performance Index scores, such as the United Kingdom, ranked 5th, while Nigeria is ranked 17th. Recommendations are made to leverage enablers and interrogate barriers to gender-inclusive measures that promote fair and equitable participation in national climate action and low-carbon transition plans.

Keywords: Transformative Governance; Gender Inclusion; Social Equity; Sustainability; Climate Action; Low-Carbon Transition Plans.

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Title: Reclaiming Legitimacy in Climate Governance: Youth, Gender, and Justice from the Congo Basin.

Abstract: Current climate governance frameworks face a growing legitimacy crisis as climate risks intensify while decision-making power remains unevenly distributed. This challenge is particularly evident in the Congo Basin, where communities most affected by climate change, especially young people and women, remain marginal in global and national governance processes.

This paper adopts a qualitative, practice-informed approach, drawing on the author's engagement with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, including participation in the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP), as well as youth-led advocacy initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It combines experiential insights with policy analysis to assess the inclusiveness and responsiveness of current climate governance structures.

The findings demonstrate that limited access to decision-making spaces and climate finance continues to reinforce structural inequalities, undermining both effectiveness and legitimacy. In response, the paper proposes a governance reform framework centred on three pillars: (1) institutionalising youth and gender-responsive participation mechanisms; (2) improving equitable access to climate finance for local actors; and (3) integrating community-based knowledge into policy design and implementation.

The paper contributes to debates on governance redesign by arguing for a shift from technocratic and top-down approaches towards inclusive, justice-oriented systems. It highlights how embedding youth and gender perspectives within governance structures can enhance accountability, strengthen legitimacy, and support more resilient and equitable climate outcomes amid geopolitical uncertainty.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Youth Participation; Gender Equality; Climate Justice; Congo Basin.

Author: Opeyemi A. Gbadegesin, Ph.D

Affiliation: University of Ibadan

Title: Legitimacy Without Romanticism: Non-State Authority, Gendered Exclusion, and Climate Finance Accountability in Nigeria.

Abstract: Climate governance in Nigeria is increasingly organised through formal statutory and administrative frameworks, yet legitimacy does not travel automatically with legal design. In practice, trust, social influence, and implementation capacity remain widely dispersed across faith communities, traditional institutions, and informal community structures. The problem is not simply that climate governance extends beyond the state. It is that these non-state sites of authority are often treated either as irrelevant to governance design or as inherently legitimate alternatives to the state. Both moves are analytically weak. The first ignores how climate action is actually mediated; the second romanticises community authority and obscures gendered exclusion, weak accountability, and the risk of informal domination.

This paper argues that the central challenge is one of structured legitimacy: how to recognise non-state authority in climate governance without sacrificing legality, transparency, or gender justice. Using a doctrinal and institutional methodology, the paper analyses Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021 and related governance arrangements alongside climate-finance accountability pathways, focusing on disclosure, oversight, participation, and grievance structures. It shows that legitimacy failures arise both where formal institutions lack social traction and where socially trusted actors operate without procedural discipline or meaningful inclusion of women. The paper therefore proposes a hybrid accountability model in which non-state actors are institutionally recognised, but only through rule-bound, reviewable, and gender-responsive mechanisms. In doing so, it reframes

climate governance beyond the state as a problem of institutional design, not merely participation.

Keywords: Climate Legitimacy; Non-State Authority; Climate Finance Accountability; Gender-Responsive Governance; Nigeria.

Author: Ngozi Edith Iyoho

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Title: Invisible Labour in Climate Governance: A Gendered Analysis of Women's Unrecognised Work in Industrial Spaces in Nigeria.

Abstract: Climate governance comprises a multidimensional structure of laws, procedures, and actors, including governments, businesses, and civil society, that manage climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, within these efforts, much of the labour contributing to climate resilience and sustainability remains invisible, especially the women's work, despite growing international attention to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Invisible labour is the unpaid, or undervalued, underappreciated work that sustains daily life, homes, people and workplaces. But it is frequently disregarded in formal governance and policy frameworks. Therefore, this study explored the invisible labour. The study focused on the invisible labour, specifically on the gendered analysis of women's unrecognised work in industrial spaces in Ogun State, Nigeria, using a qualitative phenomenological design method. The study employed feminist theory. In all, 30 participants aged 18 years and above were included in the study population. Data were collected using multiple qualitative approaches, including the in-depth interviews (IDIs). Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The findings showed that economic, social, cultural, and institutional factors contributed to the underappreciation of women's contributions to climate governance. The study concludes by stressing the need for gender-sensitive approaches to climate policy that embrace both paid and unpaid labour, support women's leadership, and use gender-disaggregated data to allow more inclusive decision-making. The study recommended that governments, industries, and civil society should recognise and empower women's labour, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and equity of climate governance in industrial settings.

Keywords: Climate; Governance; Invisible Labour; Workplaces; Ogun State; Nigeria.

Author: Dunbe Birsan

Title: From Criminalization to Co-Creation: Redesigning Gender-Responsive Climate Governance through Poverty-Aligned Interventions - A Case Study of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Abstract: Across Sub-Saharan Africa, climate governance is frequently undermined by 'command-and-control' frameworks that criminalize survival-based practices such as biomass harvesting and informal waste disposal. In selected societies, specifically within Adamawa State, Nigeria, there exists a widening 'legitimacy gap' between state-enforced environmental mandates and the socio-economic realities of the local population. Current laws prohibiting deforestation and bush burning often fail because they do not provide viable energy or waste-management alternatives, forcing a choice between legal compliance and immediate survival. This dynamic disproportionately impacts women, who bear the burden of energy procurement, thus deepening gender inequality through punitive climate policy. This paper employs a socio-technical case study analysis to evaluate the friction between state mandates and communal survival strategies. We propose a 'Governance Redesign' methodology that shifts from punitive exclusion to a Community-Led Resource Model. The intervention explores the integration of decentralized waste-to-energy systems converting municipal waste into affordable fuel briquettes as a technical and economic substitute for firewood and charcoal. Preliminary analysis indicates that top-down bans are ineffective without Poverty-Aligned Incentives. The proposed reform suggests a transition toward 'Inclusive Forest Tenancy,' where local communities are granted management rights and technical tools to monetize sustainable practices. By formalizing the informal waste sector and providing infrastructure for clean energy, the state can transform 'polluters' into active governance partners. This research offers a scalable blueprint for African climate policy to move 'Beyond the State.' It demonstrates how local-led technical solutions can restore institutional legitimacy, ensuring that climate action is built on consent, economic viability, and gender equity rather than coercion.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Gender Equity; Biomass Energy; Waste-to-Energy; Community-Led Resource Management; Forest Tenancy; Poverty-Aligned Policy; Adamawa State; Nigeria; Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Title: Risk Without Consent: Gender-Responsive Land Use Planning for Climate Resilience in Nigeria's Informal Settlements.

Abstract: In an era of climate retreat, geopolitical re-alignment, and constrained finance, climate risks such as flooding, poor sanitation, and environmental degradation are increasingly redistributed onto informal settlements in Nigeria's secondary cities without meaningful consent of residents: especially women, who often bear responsibility for household water, waste, and livelihoods.

This paper examines the governance challenge of embedding gender-responsive approaches into sustainable land use planning. Drawing on research on sustainable land use planning and informal settlements in Akure, together with practical experience in urban planning, teaching courses in Land Use Planning and Environmental Science and Ecology, and leading community sanitation campaigns during NYSC, the study adopts a mixed-methods approach. This includes spatial analysis using GIS and AutoCAD, gender-disaggregated surveys, and stakeholder interviews.

Key findings reveal that conventional top-down planning standards frequently overlook women's specific vulnerabilities and contributions, leading to inequitable adaptation outcomes. The paper proposes a reform framework for consent-based, participatory planning: mandatory gender audits in zoning, women-led community mapping, and integration of nature-based solutions tailored to local realities. This work advances governance redesign by centering gender, power, and inclusive climate futures. It provides practical pathways for equitable urban resilience in Nigeria without reproducing inequality amid retreating global support.

Keywords: Risk Without Consent; Gender-Responsive Planning; Informal Settlements; Land-Use Governance; Climate Resilience; Nigeria.

Author: Bridget Owojoku Idoko

Affiliation: University of Abuja

Title: Governing Ecological Loss: Biodiversity Vulnerability and Justice in Climate Adaptation Policy.

Abstract: Climate governance has historically focused on human systems infrastructure, economies, and livelihoods – while ecological dimensions of loss remain systematically underaddressed. This paper argues that biodiversity loss driven by climate change constitutes a critical governance gap, particularly in the Global South, where adaptation and loss-and-damage frameworks rarely account for non-human vulnerability or ecosystem justice.

Through a critical review of climate governance literature and policy documents (including UNFCCC decisions, NDCs, and loss-and-damage architectures), this paper identifies three interconnected failures: the exclusion of biodiversity indicators from climate risk assessments; the absence of procedural justice for communities whose livelihoods depend on collapsing ecosystems; and the geopolitical imbalance in how ecological loss is financed and governed.

The paper then proposes institutional redesign: integrating ecological baseline data into national adaptation plans; creating participatory governance mechanisms that include local and Indigenous ecological knowledge; and reimagining loss-and-damage finance to cover ecosystem restoration and non-human loss.

Ultimately, governing climate without governing biodiversity loss is neither just nor effective. Geopolitical realignment offers an opening to embed ecological justice into the next generation of climate institutions.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Biodiversity Loss; Loss and Damage; Ecological Justice.

Author: Dr. Joseph Paulinus Ekong

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Title: Climate Change-Induced Displacement and Insecurity Crisis in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region.

Abstract: The new waves of displacement of individuals, households, farmlands and communities being experienced in the Nigeria's Niger Delta region are triggered by changes, alterations, fluctuations, and disruptions in the global climatic conditions resulting in excessive rainfalls & drought and the consequent ravaging flooding. These climate change skewed displacements contribute significantly to the high turnover of intra-communal and inter-communal conflicts in the region, thereby compounding the existing livelihoods and security crises therein. A number of remedies have been applied to these issues by both State and non-State actors & institutions, yet they remain incurable but keep mutating into more dangerous and monstrous dimensions. The core objectives of the study are to; assess the degree of intersectionality among climate change, displacement and insecurity in the Nigeria's Niger Delta region; track the various trends of displacement caused by climate change activities in the region; evaluate the level of interconnectivity between climate change induced displacement in the region, and trans-border crimes; examine the impacts of oil & gas exploration and exploitation on climatic disequilibrium in the region; and offer sustainable blueprints in addressing the key variables in the study. The Sustainable Development theoretical framework will be employed in analyzing and explaining the interplay between the key study's variables. The mixed research methods will be utilized in the collection of data, while simple percentages, graphs and tables will be used in analyzing the generated data. The preliminary findings of the study are; oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities contribute immensely to climatic disruptions in the Niger Delta; the grave impacts of climate change contribute to the displacement of persons, households, and communities in the region; and displacements trigger a number of intra-communal & inter-communal conflicts in the region, amongst others. In reversing the current curve of displacement and the associated issues in the region, the study tentatively recommends the following; The Niger Delta State governments should launch comprehensive resettlement plans for floods displaced communities, as well as those with such potential of risks in future; oil and gas companies should employ



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climate-friendly technologies in their operations; the Niger Delta State governments should activate early warning-early response architecture in all the communities in the region to address emerging conflict issues; the government should routinely dredge the waterways; the government should scale up environmental preservation & protection education; all relevant state and non-state stakeholders should increase afforestation drive; the government at all levels, oil and gas companies & development partners should provide more skills acquisition and empowerment programmes on the blue, green (climate-smart) and digital economies, and increase support grants for existing businesses in the impacted & resettled communities, especially the ones owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Key Words: Climate Change; Displacement; Insecurity; Niger Delta; Nigeria.

Author: Dr. Sylvanus G. Barnabas

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Title: Beyond the State: Climate Legitimacy, Indigenous Women, and Legal Pluralism.

Abstract: This paper addresses the governance challenge of legitimacy deficits in contemporary climate governance, with particular attention to the gendered exclusions embedded in state-centric frameworks. In an era of ecological crisis, geopolitical re-alignment, and regulatory retreat, dominant governance models continue to marginalize Indigenous women, who are key custodians of ecological knowledge and frontline actors in climate resilience, thereby undermining both normative legitimacy and practical effectiveness. Methodologically, the paper adopts a doctrinal and interdisciplinary approach grounded in legal pluralism and feminist legal theory. It integrates normative legal analysis with socio-legal and decolonial feminist perspectives to reconceptualize climate governance as a polycentric and gender-responsive normative order. The intervention lies in repositioning Indigenous women's legal traditions, knowledge systems, and leadership practices as co-equal sources of authority within climate governance, rather than as peripheral or consultative inputs. The paper finds that Indigenous women's governance practices embody relational, care-centred, and stewardship-based approaches that are critical to sustainable environmental management but remain systematically under-recognized in international and

domestic legal regimes. While frameworks on participation, free, prior and informed consent, and gender inclusion provide partial openings, they remain constrained by masculinist biases and state sovereignty. As a reform proposal, the paper advances the institutionalization of gendered legal pluralism through hybrid governance mechanisms that formally integrate Indigenous women's authority into climate decision-making. The paper contributes to governance redesign debates by offering a transformative model that enhances legitimacy through gender justice and normative plurality. It argues that centring Indigenous women is indispensable to building inclusive, adaptive, and resilient climate governance systems in an age of crisis.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Indigenous Women; Legal Pluralism; Legitimacy; Gender Justice.

Author: Enobong Essien, CFE

Affiliation: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Nigeria

Title: Risk Without Consent: Financial Crime, Power Asymmetries and Accountability Gaps in the New Climate Order.

Abstract: This paper discusses the governance issue of unregulated and poorly managed climate finance schemes, which transfer risk to vulnerable communities without their consent. Climate governance frameworks are increasingly operating alongside opaque finance channels at a time of fractured multilateralism and geopolitical retreat, which opens the door to fraud, corruption, and illegal financial flows. Using a doctrinal and practice-informed approach, the paper incorporates new research on climate financing and regulatory governance with lessons from fraud investigations and prosecutions. It investigates enforcement gaps in carbon markets, adaptation funds, and green investment plans, especially in developing nations where regulatory arbitrage is made possible by institutional capacity limitations.

The paper finds that current climate governance structures insufficiently integrate financial crime prevention mechanisms, thereby enabling systemic abuse and weakening public trust. It proposes a reform framework that embeds anti-fraud, anti-money laundering, and prosecutorial oversight into climate governance systems. This includes enhanced transparency standards, cross-border enforcement cooperation, and the alignment of climate finance regulations with existing financial integrity frameworks. The paper contributes to governance

redesign by advancing a multidisciplinary approach that positions financial crime enforcement as central, not peripheral, to climate governance. It argues that without integrating accountability mechanisms capable of addressing economic exploitation, the emerging climate order risks reproducing inequities under the guise of environmental action.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Regulatory Accountability; Climate Finance Integrity.

Author: Yakubu Dogara

Title: Gender, Power, and Climate Futures: Reframing Climate Finance and Governance for Inclusive Sustainability

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of gender and power roles on climate futures, with specific focus on how the systems of climate finance and governance substantially reproduce gender inequality. The study uses a qualitative design and a case study of Bauchi State, where key informant interviews were conducted with 15 officials across 15 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) that constitute the state's interministerial committee on climate change. The research also reviewed the institutional and policy framework to contextualize findings.

The findings of the study reveal significant gender disparities in climate governance and access to finance. Women occupy just 20% of decision-making positions within the committee. Also at the local level, only 1 out of 20 Local Government Area climate desk officers is female, depicting 5% female and 95% male representation. The findings further reveals that 30% of women and 70% of men respectively benefit from the ongoing climate finance projects. These gaps are engendered by the intersection of institutional, socio-cultural, and capacity-related barriers. Religious and cultural norms restrict women's participation in economic activities, limit interaction with male counterparts, and discourage female leadership in mixed-gender settings. In addition, the study shows that there is huge professional gap between men and women. Only very few women possess professional training in environmental and climate-related fields, further constraining the ability of women's involvement in technical and policy processes.

The findings demonstrate that the present climate finance is not gender-neutral but shaped by existing power structures that influence access, participation, and outcomes. The paper argues for a transformative, gender-responsive approach to climate governance that addresses structural inequalities, enhances women's

capacity, and promotes inclusive decision-making. Such an approach is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable climate futures in Nigeria and similar developing societies.

Keywords: Gender; Power; Climate Futures; Climate Finance; Governance; Climate Justice.

Author: Amos Luka

Title: Climate Finance That Does Not Reproduce Inequality: A Case Study Of Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project In Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Abstract: Climate finance is one of the central instruments for addressing environmental degradation and the impact of climate change, especially in vulnerable regions such as Northern Nigeria. There is therefore, a great concern that climate finance interventions may result in reproduce existing social and gender inequalities except if it is deliberately designed to be inclusive. This paper examines the extent to which the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) in Bauchi State entrench equity considerations into the implementation of its project. A qualitative research design was adopted. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with five project officers in Bauchi State. Findings reveal that deliberate efforts are made to ensure women are moderately represented in climate decision-making. The findings also reveal that 6 out of the 20 senior officers who participate in the daily decision-making are female while 14 are male, show a gap of 40:60. Similarly, 30% of women and 70% of men respectively, are actively engaged in nursery plant management sub-projects across the 20 Local Government Areas of the state, contributing to both environmental sustainability and their livelihood improvement. The project also promotes inclusion where women are encouraged to form cooperative groups in order to enhance their access to climate finance and related benefits. Despite these efforts and the gains, numerous challenges abound, such as cultural barriers, limited technical expertise among women, and restricted participation in leadership roles. The study concludes that though ACReSAL is demonstrating deliberate practices for inclusive climate finance, more policy and practical measures are needed to prevent the reinforcement of existing inequalities. It is therefore apparent that strengthening gender-responsive frameworks and

capacity building initiatives will be critical to achieving equitable climate resilience.

Keywords: Climate Finance; Gender Inclusion; Social Equity; ACRReSAL; Climate Resilience; Women's Participation; Northern Nigeria.

Author: Oluwasegun Ogunsakin, Ph.D.

Affiliation: Department of Peace and Security Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Title: Rethinking Public–Private Partnerships in Climate Adaptation Programming: Opportunities and Risks in Nigeria.

Abstract: The study examines public-private partnerships (PPP) in climate adaptation programming in Nigeria. With climate change effects becoming more pronounced in Nigeria, especially flooding, desertification, coastal erosion, and agricultural disturbances, PPP models have been increasingly recommended as ways to address the financial and capacity gaps that exist in adaptation programs in the country.

This study outlines the opportunities and outcomes of PPPs for climate adaptation programming, mainly through the utilisation of private capital, expert knowledge, and efficient infrastructure delivery. Such opportunities are presented by projects such as flood prevention infrastructure, climate-adapted agriculture, and renewable energy infrastructure development. The risks associated with the PPPs are centred on negative impacts on vulnerable populations when profit-making motives are given greater weight than public benefits, as well as a lack of regulation and stakeholder inclusion in decision-making.

In terms of methodology, this study utilises a qualitative approach, including policy document analysis and secondary data from climate governance reports and cases. Political economy theory will be used to examine how power dynamics affect the availability of climate finance and its results. The findings show that the potential contribution of PPPs to climate adaptation can only occur if regulatory policies are in place. The study's contribution to knowledge and policy is centred on the need for knowledge and policy actions to ensure that climate adaptation programming is successful in Nigeria.

Keywords: Climate Change; Public–Private Partnership; Climate Adaptation Programming; Policy.

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Title: Connecting the Dots on Climate Change and Oil Pollution in Nigeria: Legal Analysis.

Abstract: Chronic oil spills in the Niger Delta and the effects of climate change across Nigeria are closely linked. This paper presents a legal discussion of the nexus between these two issues and argues that oil pollution, particularly through sustained gas flaring, pipeline spills, and localised refining, is a major contributor to Nigeria's carbon footprint and ecological vulnerability.

Although there have been progressive legislative interventions in recent years, including the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 and the Climate Change Act 2021, major gaps remain in enforcement, corporate responsibility, and the harmonisation of environmental laws. This paper assesses the effectiveness of Nigeria's domestic legal systems and international obligations, including the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement. It finds that ineffective regulatory oversight, institutional overlaps, and lengthy judicial procedures have impeded environmental justice and climate resilience.

Ultimately, this paper recommends a coherent and unified legal approach that takes climate governance seriously. It suggests that anti-flaring provisions should be strictly enforced, judicial capacity to handle environmental litigation should be increased, and special climate funds should be operationalised to clean up polluted communities. This legal analysis is grounded in the understanding that sustainable climate mitigation in Nigeria is inseparably connected to the decisive and progressive resolution of the historic and current ecological catastrophe caused by the oil and gas industry.

Keywords: Oil Pollution; Climate Change; Niger Delta; Environmental Justice; Petroleum Industry Act 2021; Climate Governance; Gas Flaring.

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Title: Climate Finance and the Prisoner's Dilemma: Game of Chess or Global Bailout?

Abstract: Over the last two and a half decades, an astonishing influx of climate finance commitment has shaped the efforts towards supporting the vulnerable countries in addressing the disproportionate global climate risks. These amounts of resources are rooted in international commitments, multilateral agreements, donor pledges and "benevolence" of the richer countries towards achieving sustainable global peace. However, in spite of ambitious targets, resources continue to be distributed in ways that reflect inequality and strategic maneuvering. Rich countries pursue their own interests, hence the poor, particularly in Africa, only receive help at the late hour and most time, selectively. This study thereby attempts to understand the question of politics embedded in climate finance distribution. Specifically, the study employs a qualitative research approach subjected to a thematic analysis in order to examine the agreements and policies regarding international climate change and interrogate how different bargaining positions and self-interest influence resource distribution. Findings reveal that there are fundamental issues with the current mechanisms in its potential to drive inequality by favouring donor control and frustrating the marginalized communities. The study proposes a tectonic shift from competitive bargaining toward cooperative governance mechanisms. These include the question of Decentralised access, gender-sensitive financing models, and accountability structures that prioritise recipient needs. This study adds weights to the yearnings for redesignation of global climate governance frameworks that are more equitable and impactful by rethinking climate finance as a communal rescue effort rather than a strategic conflict.

Keywords: Climate finance; Inequality; New Order, Prisoner's Dilemma; Climate governance.

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Title: Legal Perspectives on The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Green Entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a global revolution in our 21st Century. Almost every sector in the developed countries of the world has utilized AI to deepen their technological efficiency and enhance socio-economic growth. AI holds the potential to bring about transformative advancements in environmental data monitoring, climate resilience, green entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. Through systematic literature review and participant observation, this study highlights the legal perspectives on the impact of artificial intelligence on green entrepreneurship for climate resilience and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. Findings indicate that the legal landscape regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on green entrepreneurship in Nigeria is in a transitional phase, moving from a lack of dedicated regulation to the development of frameworks focused on data protection and, recently, comprehensive AI legislation. This study further identifies the great need to promote a better understanding of the benefits of integrating legal perspectives to green entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence in Nigeria. It recommends eco-musicology, eco-poetry and eco-photography as innovative tools which can be used to enhance green entrepreneurship with the aid of AI in Nigeria. It concludes by asserting that strong legal frameworks are needed to regulate AI's moral application, safeguard privacy, and guarantee accountability and transparency towards enhancing green entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Climate Change; Green Entrepreneurship; Legal Perspectives; Sustainable Economic Growth.

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Title: Beyond The State, Beneath the Crisis: Rethinking Climate Governance Legitimacy Through Hybrid Institutions in Nigeria.

Abstract: As geopolitical fragmentation weakens multilateral climate commitments and fiscal pressures erode state capacity across sub-Saharan Africa, the legitimacy of formal climate governance is increasingly contested. In Nigeria, federal climate policy has been marked by institutional inconsistency, elite capture, and weak subnational implementation. Women and marginalized groups bear disproportionate climate burdens yet remain structurally excluded from the governance arrangements meant to address them. In this gap, traditional rulers, civil society organizations, community-based adaptation networks, and women-led local groups are filling governance roles with varying degrees of authority, accountability, and reach. This paper develops a conceptual framework for hybrid climate governance legitimacy in fragile state contexts through a systematic literature synthesis and comparative institutional analysis of governance arrangements across Nigerian states. Drawing on legitimacy theory, polycentric governance scholarship, and feminist political ecology, it interrogates how legitimacy is claimed, contested, and negotiated across formal and informal governance boundaries, and what conditions enable or undermine gender-responsive hybrid arrangements. The paper argues that legitimacy in climate governance cannot be reduced to legal mandate or technical capacity. It is a relational and situated property, shaped by colonial statecraft, gendered power hierarchies, and uneven resource access. Rather than treating non-state actors as provisional substitutes for state failure, this paper proposes a governance redesign framework that formally recognizes hybrid institutions as co-governors, with gender-equitable deliberative spaces, structured accountability mechanisms, and sustained capacity investments.

Keywords: Climate Legitimacy; Gender-Responsive Governance; Hybrid Governance; Polycentric Governance; Nigeria.

Author: Maryam Suleiman Babaji

Affiliation: Founder YAMAN Foundation.

Title: Gendered Gaps in Crisis: Climate Governance, Displacement, and the Alau Dam Collapse in Borno State, Nigeria.

Abstract: This paper explores how weak climate governance structures and mismanaged climate-induced mobilities are polarised following the 2024 collapse of the Alau Dam in Borno State, Nigeria. The dam's failure unleashed massive flooding, causing over 150 deaths and the displacement of an estimated 414,000 – 419,000 people, revealing severe gaps in governance, infrastructure maintenance, and disaster planning.

The study addresses the lack of gender inclusion in framework planning, protection, and financing of mobility in the context of climate disaster infrastructure development, alongside the absence of marginalised women and youth in decision-making around relocation, reconstruction, and livelihood management. Using a qualitative, document-based approach, the paper analyses federal and state policy documents, post-disaster assessments, and media and published articles to show how decision-making around evacuation, camp management, and reconstruction excludes women and youth, deepening their vulnerability.

Key findings reveal that displaced women, youth, and children face heightened risks of gender-based violence, disrupted education, loss of informal livelihoods, and housing insecurity, while climate finance and reconstruction efforts remain skewed towards infrastructure over community-based interventions.

This paper proposes governance policy reforms that recenter consent and participation by integrating gender-responsive climate mobility protocols into Nigeria's disaster risk framework, establishing community-led relocation and camp management mechanisms, and ensuring equitable climate finance distribution for displaced women and youth.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Gender Inclusion; Disaster Displacement; Alau Dam; Nigeria.

Author: Chibuikem Ukwani Awa

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Title: Gender and Climate Displacement: Gaps in Nigeria's Response to Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Communities.

Abstract: Climate change inarguably remains one of the factors influencing internal displacement in communities in Northern Nigeria. Although Nigeria contributes a small percentage to global greenhouse gas emissions, it bears the brunt of the climate crisis. The impacts of climate change are felt mostly by communities in Borno and Adamawa States. Desertification, flooding, drought, and the gradual shrinkage of the Lake Chad Basin have forcibly displaced millions of Nigerians from their homes and sources of livelihood. As communities splinter under this archetypal environmental challenge, the burden of displacement mostly falls on a vulnerable class of persons. This paper examines the gaps in Nigeria's response to climate displacement, with particular focus on women and children in affected northern communities. It argues that despite the adoption of the 2021 National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, the regulatory environment remains characterised by ineffective policy implementation and inadequate financial infrastructure. Thus, displaced women and children are neither adequately cared for nor protected. Research has shown that women and children in displaced communities are exposed to sexual violence, food insecurity, poor sanitary conditions and restricted access to healthcare and education. By exploring recent field reports and online surveys, this paper identifies the vulnerabilities experienced by women and children in affected communities. This paper further contends that if deliberate attention is not paid to how gender issues are managed during displacement, the interests of women and children will remain invisible. It concludes with recommendations aimed at improving the protection and welfare of the aforementioned class of persons in Nigeria.

Keywords: Climate Change; Climate Displacement; Gender; National Response; Internally Displaced Persons.

Author: Faith Kaminus

Affiliation: The Ebaidebheki Initiative (TEI).

Title: Reclaiming Climate Evidence: How Teen-Led Summits Challenge the Exclusion of Young Women from Climate Knowledge Systems in Nigeria.

Abstract: Who counts as a legitimate producer of climate knowledge in Nigeria? National frameworks and policy consultations routinely exclude young women in rural and peri-urban communities, despite these being the populations absorbing the most acute climate impacts daily. This exclusion is structural: it reflects entrenched assumptions about whose experience is counted, whose solutions are fundable, and who gets to imagine the future. This paper examines one deliberate intervention into that structure. On 29 January 2026, The Ebaidebheki Initiative, in partnership with Nigeria's National Council on Climate Change, convened 507 participants from 40 secondary schools across three states at the National Universities Commission Auditorium, Abuja. Seventy percent of the 365 student delegates were girls. Students did not attend as observers; they moderated every panel, facilitated all ten breakout groups, and delivered keynote addresses. One student delegate had attended COP30 in Brazil weeks earlier, directly connecting community-level knowledge to global climate diplomacy. Pre and post-summit self-reported data showed average climate knowledge scores rising from 2.3 to 4.2 out of 5. Critically, student-generated policy recommendations included a demand to create institutional safe spaces for girls to lead climate initiatives, evidence that young women, given governance space, produce governance demands. The paper argues that repairing Nigeria's broken climate knowledge system requires structural redistribution of epistemic authority, not incremental inclusion. Teen-led summits with government co-ownership offer a tested, scalable model for that redistribution.

Keywords: Climate Knowledge Systems; Epistemic Justice; Youth Governance; Gender Exclusion; Nigeria.

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Title: Normative Reconciliation or Race for Relevance? Evidence on IMF Climate Policy and Lending Conditionality.

Abstract: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently repositioned itself as a key actor for global climate action. Yet it is unclear how a neoliberal institution can credibly pursue climate mandates. This paper thus examines the emergence of the IMF's climate policy and its impact on the institution's lending conditions. The Fund's climate engagement is proxied by a climate strategy index (CSI), which I constructed using text analysis of 1,705 IMF Article IV reports from 2000 to 2023. I investigate how this index has evolved alongside fiscal policy and external debt conditionalities across 131 developing countries, with panel models, such as fixed effects and cross-lagged models, as the estimation strategy. There is weak evidence that the IMF's climate policy has materialised in the two policy areas of conditionality examined. Specifically, while policy stringency tends to be responsive to CSI, the scope of conditionality (policy incidence) remains the same or even increases. Moreover, the Paris Agreement may have intensified the institution's climate policy, particularly in countries with higher climate vulnerability. These findings are consistent across other policy areas of conditionality and highlight the need to recalibrate the lending conditionality through higher concessionality, a results-based climate approach, and fiscal flexibility to better align IMF lending with climate goals.

Keywords: International Monetary Fund (IMF); Conditionality; Institutional Change; Climate Finance Additionality; Global Climate Governance.

Author: Aisha Ajoke Abdussalam

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Title: Rethinking Climate Knowledge: Gendered Early Warning and Regenerative Approaches to Climate Governance in Northwest Nigeria.

Abstract: Climate governance in fragile contexts continues to rely on research systems that are often technocratic, extractive, and poorly aligned with lived realities. It is on the basis of that this paper seeks to establish how prevailing approaches to climate knowledge production are insufficient for anticipating and responding to emerging climate–security risks in Northwest Nigeria. Specifically,

the paper interrogates the dominant climate knowledge systems in Northwest Nigeria. It also examined how gendered lived experiences function as early-warning signals of climate stress, livelihood disruption, and governance failure across climate- and conflict-affected communities. Drawing on qualitative data across climate-affected and conflict-prone communities, the paper adopts a transdisciplinary design that integrates local knowledge, policy analysis, and practitioner engagement to bridge the gap between evidence and implementation. The findings reveal significant gaps between formal climate knowledge systems and context-specific realities, thereby limiting the effectiveness of policy responses in high-risk settings. The paper argues for a reorientation of climate knowledge production toward gender-responsive, regenerative, and ethically grounded approaches that prioritise co-production and inclusivity. It recommends the establishment of community climate observatories led by women's groups, alongside the development of Local–State Climate Policy Interfaces (LCPis) to strengthen linkages between local knowledge and formal policy processes to institutionalised co-produced governance frameworks that integrate indigenous and scientific knowledge systems. Such reforms are essential for enhancing early-warning capacities, strengthening adaptive governance, and improving policy uptake in fragile contexts.

Keywords: Climate Knowledge; Gendered Early Warning; Regenerative Approaches; Climate Governance.

Author: Florence Chikumba

Affiliation: The Environmentalist.

Title: Broken Knowledge Systems - Epistemic Injustice and the Governance Failures of Climate Evidence.

Abstract: Climate governance is facing a fundamental crisis of knowledge, the systems that produce and validate climate evidence are deeply unequal. Dominant western scientific frameworks decontextualized models while marginalizing the lived realities and culturally embedded knowledge of local and Indigenous communities. This epistemic imbalance narrows the range of perspectives informing climate action and reinforces broader political and economic injustices. Consequently, those most affected by climate change are excluded from shaping responses and are framed as passive victims rather than active knowledge holders. Climate knowledge is thus “broken” not due to lack of

information but because of whose knowledge counts and whose realities inform decisions. This paper aims to address the governance challenge of epistemic injustice through a qualitative critical literature analysis of interdisciplinary research on climate science, media representation and Indigenous knowledge systems. Through discourse analysis it examines how knowledge hierarchies are constructed and how they influence adaptation strategies and policy outcomes. Findings reveal that local and Indigenous knowledge are selectively incorporated only when they align with dominant scientific paradigms reducing complex systems to fragmented observations. Governance models grounded in assumptions of predictability and control are ill suited to the uncertainty and dynamism of climate change reinforcing exclusionary practices. These dynamics create a persistent gap between available knowledge and effective adaptation. The paper calls for a shift toward epistemic justice through co-production and mutual learning advancing inclusive governance designs that integrate diverse knowledge systems for more equitable and contexts responsive climate action

Keywords: Epistemic Injustice; Climate Governance; Indigenous Knowledge; Co-production of Knowledge; Climate Adaptation.

Author: Kuzi Charamba

Affiliation: Founder & CEO, Tese.io

Title: The Governance Gap: Classification Without Infrastructure and the Exclusion of Developing-Country SMEs from Environmental Finance.

Abstract: The global environmental finance architecture is not retreating from governance — it never arrived. Over 70 jurisdictions are developing classification systems for sustainable finance: taxonomies, biodiversity credit standards, nature-based solution frameworks. These instruments define which activities qualify. None has built the governance infrastructure to enforce, monitor, evidence, and remediate compliance over time. The consequence is structural exclusion: developing-country SMEs are locked out of environmental finance flows even when their activities genuinely qualify, because the governance infrastructure to demonstrate qualification does not exist.

This paper argues that governance absence is not accidental. A political economy analysis identifies actors with structural incentives to maintain weak governance: sovereign actors benefiting from definitional ambiguity, a verification industry sustained by interpretive complexity, large incumbents advantaged by

compliance barriers, and a positivist regulatory approach that treats classification as sufficient. In an age of geopolitical retreat from multilateral commitments, these dynamics are intensifying — making governance infrastructure a site of contestation, not merely a technical gap.

The consequences are adjudicated. Courts across African and international fora have held states and corporations liable for classification without governance: the African Court in *Ogiek v. Kenya* (conservation classification without indigenous rights governance), the African Court in *LIDHO v. Côte d'Ivoire* (industrial classification without environmental governance), and Kenya's Environment and Land Court in *Biliqo Bulesa* (Verra-certified carbon credits suspended for governance failures). These rulings establish an emerging jurisprudence: classification without governance infrastructure constitutes a failure of legal obligation, not merely policy design.

The paper proposes six governance primitives as minimum specifications, demonstrated through a concrete application to Kenyan coffee cooperatives under existing regulatory frameworks. Governance infrastructure is not a technical afterthought — it determines who benefits from the environmental transition.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Developing Countries; Environmental Finance; Governance Infrastructure; Political Economy; Africa; SME Exclusion.

Author: Tovia Omoijahe

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Title: Governing Climate in an Age of Retreat, Risk, and Geopolitical Re-Alignment: Who Produces Climate Evidence and Whom Does it Serve.

Abstract: The fractured essence of the extant climate repository captures a growing crisis of how climate evidence is generated, validated and utilised. Despite the widespread expansion of climate science, consequential imbalances persist in who produces knowledge and whose realities are represented. This paper examines the prominent governance hurdles posed by unequal knowledge frameworks, where expertise is often concentrated in institutions of the Global North, while the lived experiences and localised knowledge of vulnerable communities suffer underrepresentation or outright exclusion.

Adopting a qualitative and critical approach, the study integrates political ecology and decolonial frameworks to analyse the production and dissemination of

climate evidence. It reviews institutional practices in climate research, funding flows, and data governance, alongside case studies of community-based knowledge systems and participatory research models. The focal point of the analysis rests on how power dynamics shape what counts as valid, authentic or conventional evidence and whose voices influence policy decisions.

The findings reveal that dominant climate knowledge systems frequently prioritize technical, data-driven approaches that waters down the social, cultural, and gendered dimensions of climate impacts. This reinforces inequities, as policies informed by such data often fail to address the needs of marginalised populations. However, alternative models that draw from local knowledge, indigenous perspectives, and gender-responsive methodologies demonstrate more inclusive, comprehensive and context-sensitive outcomes.

The paper proposes a reimagining of climate knowledge governance that reallocates authority over knowledge production, values varied and heterogeneous epistemologies and embeds accountability to affected communities. It argues that transforming who generates climate evidence and who it serves is imperative for building a more just legitimate climate action in an increasingly disproportionate world.

Keywords: Climate Knowledge Governance; Decoloniality; Political Ecology; Indigenous Knowledge; Data Governance; Epistemic Justice; Participatory Research.

Author: Patience Ukange

Affiliation: The Confident Woman (TCW) Africa Initiative

Title: Community-Driven Climate Governance and Climate-Smart Agriculture: Policy Pathways for Climate Adaptation in Benue State, Nigeria.

Abstract: Across most agrarian contexts of sub-Saharan Africa, climate governance interventions face continuous challenges transferring national climate objectives into community-based adaptation approaches. Although global climate frameworks emphasize climate justice and participation, rural communities are often left out in policy design and implementation processes. In Nigeria, these governance gaps are visible across many states including Benue State, popularly called “Food Basket of the Nation” due to its substantial role to food production in Nigeria but now significantly disrupted by conflict-related

displacement, environmental degradation, decreasing soil fertility, and weak waste management mechanisms that loom over agricultural livelihoods. This study investigates how community-powered climate governance can reinforce climate and livelihood adaptability across vulnerable agrarian communities. It expounds on a developing policy framework that combines climate-smart vegetable farming practices, economic tree planting environmental restoration, and locally-controlled organic fertilizer production obtained from biodegradable waste streams. The research employs a qualitative policy research methodology, incorporating participatory community consultations, stakeholder mapping, and well-defined survey tools coordinated across selected communities and educational institutions in Benue State. These consultations examines environmental challenges including waste management behaviors, land-use patterns, and institutional readiness for community driven environmental interventions. Exploratory results highlight governance gaps, alongside finite awareness of sustainable land use practices, deficient waste management infrastructure, and limited coordination between communities and environmental authorities. Nonetheless, findings also communicate deep community readiness to participate in climate interventions when outcomes improve livelihood and solutions are locally accessed. The paper introduces a community-centred climate governance framework sound in circular environmental approaches that converts biodegradable waste into organic fertilizer to support agroforestry and small-scale food production. By integrating climate tailoring within local livelihood practices, and community institutions, the study strengthens proceedings on inclusive climate governance and highlights applicable policy frameworks for consolidating adaptability in Nigeria and similar agro-based contexts.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Community-Based Adaptation; Climate-Smart Agriculture; Waste-to-Fertiliser Systems; Climate Resilience.

Author: Okoliko Ufedojo Victory

Affiliation: Shadow Country Director, Plan International Nigeria.

Title: Beyond Tokenism: Centring Young Women and Girls in Nigeria's Climate Governance Futures.

Abstract: In Nigeria, young women and girls are at the forefront of climate vulnerability, facing disproportionate impacts from displacement, food insecurity, and resource scarcity. Yet, they remain largely excluded from shaping the climate

futures they are expected to endure. This paper engages directly with the question of who gets to imagine and construct climate futures by interrogating the persistent gap between inclusion rhetoric and lived realities. The study introduces the concept of climate governance illusions to capture the presence of progressive gender and youth language in policy frameworks without corresponding shifts in power, access, or outcomes. Using the doctrinal methodology, it critically examines key Nigerian climate instruments, including the Climate Change Act 2021 and the National Climate Policy, through a feminist legal lens. Insights from youth-led advocacy engagements are incorporated to evaluate how participation is experienced in practice. Findings reveal that current governance structures position young women as symbolic participants rather than decision-makers, with limited access to financial resources and institutional power. In response, the paper proposes a Power-Shift Model grounded in two pillars: structural inclusion in technical and decision-making bodies, and direct access climate financing for women-led initiatives. By centring those historically excluded from decision-making, this paper reframes climate governance as a question of power, not just policy design. It contributes to building climate futures without illusions, where those most affected are not only heard but are equipped to lead.

Keywords: Gender-Responsive Governance; Climate Justice; Youth Participation; Climate Governance Illusions; Nigeria.

Author: Asmau Benzies Leo

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Title: Climate Change, Insecurity, and Gender-Based Violence: Towards Integrated Protection Systems in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings.

Abstract: Across fragile and conflict affected contexts, the convergence of climate change, insecurity, and gender inequality is intensifying risks for vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. In North East Nigeria, climate induced resource scarcity, displacement, and livelihood disruption are exacerbating existing patterns of violence, including gender-based violence (GBV). Yet, current climate governance and humanitarian protection systems remain fragmented, underfunded, and insufficiently gender-responsive.

Drawing on over two decades of field and policy experience in Nigeria, this paper examines how climate shocks intersect with conflict dynamics to heighten GBV risks in displacement settings and host communities. It identifies critical gaps in institutional coordination, early warning systems, and accountability mechanisms, particularly within climate financing and disaster risk management frameworks.

The study is guided by four key questions: (1) how climate shocks and conflict interact to increase GBV risks; (2) what institutional gaps limit integration of GBV into climate governance; (3) how current programmes address GBV risks; and (4) what reforms are required for effective integration. Using a qualitative, practice-informed methodology, the research will draw on case studies from North East Nigeria, policy analysis, and programme evidence from resilience and humanitarian interventions.

The paper argues for a shift toward integrated, gender-responsive protection systems embedded within climate governance and proposes actionable strategies for institutional reform, accountability, and inclusive climate action.

Keywords: Climate Change; Gender-Based Violence; Conflict-Affected Communities; Displacement; Gender-Responsive Climate Governance; Humanitarian Protection; North-East Nigeria.

Author: Maryam Yadudu

Affiliation: Department of Private and Commercial Law, Bayero University, Kano State.

Title: Beyond The State: The Role of Traditional and Community Leadership in Inclusive Climate Governance in Northern Nigeria.

Abstract: In the African context, governance historically operates through a pluralistic system where traditional and community leadership structures play a significant role in shaping resource management and environmental practices. Northern Nigeria is no exception. Despite this, states have been privileged in climate governance frameworks and positioned as central actor in addressing climate change. This paper examines how traditional rulers and community-based institutions contribute to climate governance beyond formal state mechanisms, with a focus on inclusivity and localized climate action. This paper adopts a qualitative and interdisciplinary approach in exploring the role of traditional

authorities in influencing inclusive governance in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. It argues that while these institutions are critical in influencing community behaviour and fostering environmental stewardship, their structures often reflect entrenched social hierarchies that can marginalize women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. This paper develops an inclusive climate governance framework that recognizes traditional and community leaders as important partners in climate action, while calling for more participatory and gender-responsive approaches. It explores practical ways in which women and marginalized groups can be more effectively included within customary governance systems, with the aim of strengthening legitimacy, accountability, and the overall quality of climate decision-making. By placing traditional authority within wider discussions on climate justice, decentralized governance, and legal pluralism, the paper engages with and contributes to growing scholarship on the role of non-state actors in climate governance. It argues that achieving sustainable and equitable climate outcomes in Northern Nigeria requires closer alignment between formal and informal governance systems, designed in ways that center inclusion, build resilience, and support community agency.

Keywords: Keywords: Climate Justice; Inclusive Climate Governance; Gender Inclusion; Traditional Governance Systems.

Author: Bolaji Ramos, Ebere Akwuebu

Title: The New Climate Order: Restructuring Climate Finance as a Legal Obligation of the Global North and Industrialised States Towards Africa.

Abstract: Empirical studies have shown that Africa contributes less than 4% of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, it suffers disproportionately from climate change impacts arising from the emissions from the Global North and industrial nations. Severe impacts of climate change that African has been confronted with include droughts, flooding, heatwaves, food insecurity and economic instability. This article examines whether these impacts, considering that they result from external climate-unfriendly activities, constitute violations of fundamental human and environmental rights in Africa. Adopting a doctrinal methodology, the article assesses the legal responsibility of high-emitting states under international law and interrogates key principles of international environmental law, particularly the polluter pays principle and relevant human rights norms. It also engages with emerging scholarship on

climate justice and liability, with a focus on critical evaluation of the role of scientific climate evidence in establishing causal links between emissions from the Global North and localised harms in Africa. The article finds that the unequal distribution of climate burdens reflects a broader pattern of climate injustice that can be framed as violations of the rights to life, dignity and a healthy environment. It argues that high-emitting countries in the Global North should bear continuing legal obligations to finance mitigation and adaptation efforts in Africa and to remedy ecological, economic and social harms already sustained. It further demonstrates that the retreat of industrialised nations from climate commitments should not extinguish their obligations under the polluter pays principle nor negate emerging norms of climate liability but instead underscores the need for strengthened accountability mechanisms. While acknowledging epistemic gaps in attribution, the article concludes that access to credible scientific climate evidence is integral to the right to information and essential for establishing climate liability of the Global North towards Africa.

Keywords: Global North; Africa; Climate Change; Climate Justice; Human Rights; Climate Evidence; Climate Liability.

Author: Henos Negusse Berhe

Affiliation: University of South Africa and High Court, Eritrea.

Title: Establishing an Integrated Mechanism of Carbon Trade in Africa.

Abstract: Although Africa contributed less to the phenomenon of global climate crisis, the latter has brought two dire realities to the continent – the reality of vulnerability in terms of survival-hood and the imposition of environmental duties in which developed countries have never carried out during their economic progression. Quite unfair as it may seem, this new phenomenon also sets out useful mechanisms such as carbon trading that might benefit Africa while equalising accountability as well. Conceptually, carbon trading relies on effective governance (e.g. showing commitment in Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying and integrity), comprehensive legal framework and synchronised system. Unfortunately, despite the slight existence of transparency (MRVs) in regional blocks such as COMESA, Africa has not traded well in carbon market. According to the findings of the paper, Africa earns less than 10USD per ton of carbon while other regions receives over 100USD for the same amount. Although there is no fixed price of carbon worldwide, the writer firmly believes that minimum price

should be set either regionally or continentally in Africa; because, in default of such fixture, the continent ill risk marginalization, international competitiveness and economic regression. In an effort to resolve such recurring challenges, the writer recommends that Africa must create a continental/ regional block that maintains robust institutional frameworks with a view to achieve transparency, stakeholder participation, and alignment of carbon trading with wider developmental objectives.

Keywords: Africa; Climate Change; Carbon Trading; Regional Integration; Fairness.

Author: Dr Mary Jimoh

Affiliation: Gender Researcher, Heworth Green Enterprises.

Title: Knowledge has Power: Ecofeminism and Climate Action in Kenya.

Abstract: Indigenous Knowledge (IK) or Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) refer to a variety of techniques and skills that have been acquired over generations within communities and are integrated into their way of life. Climate change is one of the most critical issues affecting agricultural production and people's livelihoods worldwide. In Africa, climate change has had a significant impact on women in rural Kenya. IK is considered one of the most effective ways to mitigate climate change and its effects on rural farmlands, particularly for women in Kenya. This paper discusses women and nature using ecofeminism as a theoretical framework highlighting the deep connection between the two. This connection drives their efforts to protect the environment. The paper explores the importance of IK in communities and emphasizes the need for both practice and policy to be central to climate mitigation efforts. It introduces the Multiple Evidence Approach (MEA) as an example of how communities can integrate IK into climate change mitigation strategies. In conclusion, the paper stresses the importance of sharing IK within communities while encouraging the participation of both women and men, as climate change affects all genders, not just women.

Key Words: Climate Change; Indigenous Knowledge; Women; Ecofeminism; Kenya.

Author: Nethmi Weerakoon

Affiliation: University of Colombo.

Title: Climate-induced gender-based violence and the limits of criminal law: A Sri Lankan perspective.

Abstract: Climate change is increasingly recognised as a structural driver of vulnerability, yet its implications for criminal law and gender-based violence (GBV) remain insufficiently integrated into climate governance frameworks. This paper examines how climate-induced disasters in Sri Lanka, particularly recurrent flooding, landslides and displacement events, intensify conditions that heighten the risk of gender-based violence in domestic, communal and emergency settings. While Sri Lanka's criminal law provides general protections against GBV through offences such as assault and domestic violence provisions, these frameworks remain event-based and fail to account for the situational and structural risks produced by climate-related disruption. Drawing on doctrinal legal analysis and secondary socio-legal evidence, this study identifies a critical governance gap between disaster management frameworks and criminal justice responses, particularly in relation to prevention, reporting mechanisms and victim protection during climate emergencies. It argues that this gap reflects a broader Global South pattern in which climate governance systems remain disconnected from gendered harm and criminal accountability structures. The paper further contends that without climate-sensitive and gender-responsive legal integration, criminal law risks remaining reactive rather than preventative in contexts of increasing climate stress. Using Sri Lanka as a focused case study, the research contributes to international debates on equitable climate governance by highlighting the need to reframe GBV not only as a criminal justice issue but also as a climate governance concern requiring interdisciplinary legal reform.

Keywords: Climate Change; Gender-Based Violence; Criminal Law; Climate Governance; Sri Lanka.

Author: Patrick Omodia, Francis Orok

Affiliation: Olaniwu Ajayi

Title: The Mismatch between International Climate Governance and Climate Risk: Towards a Risk-Responsive Governance Regime.

Abstract: In an era of waning climate commitments and shifting geopolitical realignments, international climate governance is increasingly under strain. Existing frameworks are built on a preventive, commitment-based orientation that assumes that if state-parties agree to participate in emissions reduction, set national commitments, and pursue long-term temperature goals, climate harm can be prevented over time.

This paper challenges that assumption. It argues that the problem is not simply weak compliance, but a structural mismatch between how international climate governance is designed and the nature of climate risk. Climate risk is cumulative and cross-border, with already materialising impacts. It is also structurally embedded in fossil-fuel-dependent economies, thus constraining the pace and feasibility of transition even where commitments exist.

Adopting a doctrinal approach, the paper examines the preventive orientation of existing obligations under extant international frameworks, including the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) principle, evaluating them against risk-based perspectives, such as Ulrich Beck's risk society theory. It finds that even full compliance remains insufficient to address the stark realities of climate risk, which are systemic, ongoing, and unevenly distributed across the countries of the world.

It therefore argues for a blended approach to international climate governance that incorporates risk-responsive governance within the existing commitment-based framework. This would involve integrating adaptation, resilience, and continuous risk assessment into core legal obligations, alongside existing mitigation commitments. Such an approach preserves the preventive and responsibility-based foundations of the current framework while strengthening its capacity to respond to ongoing and systemic climate risks.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Climate Risk; Commitment-Based Governance; Risk-Responsive Governance.

Author: Martha Wanjiru

Affiliation: Business Management & Development Associate| OGOLAW The Greenbrief Advocates

Title: Power, Participation, and Parity in Gender Climate Governance.

Abstract: Women often remain underrepresented in climate governance despite facing disproportionate climate impacts. The presentation will employ a diverse method approach combining doctrinal analysis of international frameworks (e.g., UNFCCC gender mechanisms and Nationally Determined Contributions), comparative case studies from the Global South, and insights from policymakers and women climate leaders. This discussion will examine how structural inequalities shape participation, access to climate finance, and decision-making power. Findings reveal a persistent gap between formal gender inclusion commitments and substantive outcomes. Women's participation is tokenistic, constrained by limited financial access, weak accountability systems, and entrenched sociopolitical norms. They are frequently concentrated in traditionally feminized sectors such as agriculture and land use; often characterized by unpaid or undervalued labour while remaining excluded from male-dominated sectors like energy.

This disparity is further reflected in unequal access to climate startup funding, with significantly fewer resources directed toward women-led ventures. Representation disparities are also evident in global climate negotiations, where women continue to occupy a minority of leadership positions. This session will propose targeted reforms which include embedding gender-responsive budgeting in climate finance systems, strengthening accountability through mandatory gender audits and community-driven governance models that elevate women's leadership and knowledge systems. Evidently, achieving equitable and effective climate action requires transforming, rather than merely integrating into existing governance structures. In an era of institutional retreat, this discussion will emphasize the need for inclusive governance frameworks that enhance legitimacy, redistribute climate risks and resources equitably, and ensure that climate action is both effective and socially just.

Keywords: Women's Leadership; Global South; Gender-Responsive Climate Governance; Climate Justice.

Author: Fernand Guevara Mekongo Mballa

Affiliation: Catholic University of Central Africa

Title: The necessity of an equitable access to climate finance in the fight against climate change in Affrica.

Abstract: In the fight against climate change, imbalances are observed which reproduce or perpetuate the structural inequalities between Africa and developed countries. First of all, most of the funding dedicated to climate change goes to mitigation at the expense of adaptation, which is the main priority for developing countries, especially Africa. Additionally, the funding available are mostly provided for emerging economies of the global South and a couple African countries at the expense of the majority of African countries that need it the most. Furthermore, the actual landscape of climate finance is kaleidoscopic, which blurs its transparency and accountability, with regards to the prescriptions of the Paris Agreement on the transparency of climate finance, especially towards developing countries. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate what structural changes must be made and enhanced with adequate climate funding to correct the actual inequalities existing in the access to climate change by the majority of African countries. It shall survey the existing landscape of climate finance and its limitations and make proposal for a more coherent and equitable access to climate finance by developing countries, especially African countries.

Keywords: Climate Finance; Africa; Transparency; Climate Adaptation; African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan.

Author: Maryam Muhammad

Affiliation: Ado Bayero University, Kano

Title: Governing Plastic Waste in Nigeria: A Gender-Responsive National–Subnational Appraisal of the 2020 Policy.

Abstract: This paper examines the effectiveness of Nigeria’s National Plastic Waste Management Policy (2020) within the broader context of climate governance and sustainable development. It addresses a key governance challenge: the gap between policy design and implementation in managing plastic pollution amid rising environmental risks and institutional constraints. The study asks how the policy is implemented across national and sub-national levels, and what structural, socio-economic, and gendered factors limit its effectiveness.

Adopting a qualitative policy and legal analysis, the research draws on legal instruments, policy documents, and international frameworks such as the Basel Convention, alongside comparative insights from selected jurisdictions. Lagos State is used as a case study to assess sub-national implementation dynamics.

Findings reveal that while the policy aligns with global environmental standards and has improved awareness in urban areas, implementation remains uneven due to weak enforcement, infrastructural deficits, and limited financing, particularly affecting vulnerable and informal actors, including women in waste value chains. Governance fragmentation across federal and state levels, alongside insufficient integration of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), further undermines effectiveness.

The paper proposes reforms including institutionalizing EPR, strengthening enforcement, expanding recycling infrastructure, and promoting inclusive, gender-responsive, multi-stakeholder governance. It contributes to debates on climate governance by emphasizing the need for context-sensitive and implementation-driven policy redesign in developing countries.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Plastic Waste; Policy Implementation; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); Gender Inclusion.

Author: Erimma Orie

Affiliation: Faculty of Law, National Open University of Nigeria

Title: Inclusive Governance for Climate Resilience Addressing Gender Disparities and Risks.

Abstract: Climate change intensifies pre-existing gender inequalities, yet governance responses in Nigeria remain insufficiently inclusive. Globally, women are 14 times more likely than men to die during climate disasters and make up 43% of the agricultural workforce while owning less than 15% of the world's land. In Nigeria, gender disparities are stark: the agricultural labor productivity gap between female and male farm managers reaches 47%. A 2025 study found 78.7% of households in conflict-affected regions experienced climate impacts, with 55.3% of women reporting intimate partner violence exacerbated by economic stress. The Federal Government has responded with the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change (NAPGCC) and sectoral gender mainstreaming toolkits. However, implementation remains weak, and women receive less than

10% of available agricultural financing. Research indicates that digital advisory services can reduce gender gaps in climate-resilient productivity, but systemic barriers, including unequal land rights, limited credit access, and exclusion from decision-making, persist. This paper argues that inclusive governance for climate resilience in Nigeria is unattainable without systematically addressing gender disparities in resource access, decision-making, and vulnerability to climate risks. Recommendations include enforcing women's land tenure security, mandating gender-responsive climate budgets, and establishing quotas for women's representation in climate governance bodies.

Keywords: Inclusive Governance; Climate Resilience; Gender Disparities; Nigeria; Climate Finance.

Author: Okolo Ekene Peter

Affiliation: Youth Network for Community and Sustainable Development; Step Up Green Climate Warriors Initiative, Abuja

Title: Beyond Emergency Relief: Governing Inclusive, Gender-Responsive Flood Crisis Response in Kogi State, Nigeria.

Abstract: Flooding in Kogi State, Nigeria, is not merely a recurring natural disaster, it is a governance failure. Situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers, Kogi experiences near-annual flooding of increasing severity, yet emergency systems consistently fail the most vulnerable. Women, children, persons with disabilities, and low-income households bear disproportionate burdens shaped by institutional, legal, and social structures, not water alone.

Governance challenge: Nigeria's disaster risk governance architecture is outdated, under-resourced, and gender-blind. The National Emergency Management Act of 1999 contains no provisions for gender integration or disability inclusion. In 2022, only 1.5% of flood-affected households received government support; 91.7% did not evacuate before floodwaters arrived; and female-headed households recovered livelihoods at less than a third the rate of male-headed households.

Methodology: This paper draws on the Inclusive Gender-Responsive Crisis Response Strategy (IGRCRS) for Kogi State, developed through geospatial flood hazard mapping, multi-criteria decision analysis, household vulnerability data, and a structured policy review. Key findings and reform proposal: Inclusive crisis

governance requires legal reform, disaggregated data systems, community-led early warning, and targeted livelihood protection, none of which are currently embedded in Nigeria's frameworks.

Relevance to governance redesign: As global climate finance retreats and geopolitical consensus fragments, subnational inclusive governance becomes the frontline of climate justice. Kogi State offers a case study in what rights-based flood governance must look like and what happens when it is absent.

Keywords: Flood Governance; Gender-Responsive Policy; Nigeria; Disaster Risk Reduction; Climate Justice.

Author: Obaisi Alaanuloluwa Ikhuoso

Affiliation: University of Bradford / GenCGov

Title: Access to Potable Municipal Water Supply; A path to Gender Equality in Developing Countries. A Case Study Analysis of Akure North and South Local Government Areas of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Abstract: Access to clean and reliable municipal water remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls. This study explores the intersection of water infrastructure and gender equality through a case study of Akure North and South Local Government Areas in Ondo State, Nigeria. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines household surveys, stakeholder interviews, and field observations, the research investigates how limited access to potable water affects women's health, education, economic participation, and social mobility. Findings reveal that inadequate water supply systems exacerbate gender disparities by increasing the domestic burden on women, restricting their time for income-generating activities, and exposing them to health risks. The study argues that improving municipal water infrastructure is not only a public health imperative but also a strategic pathway to achieving gender equity. Policy recommendations include targeted investments in water infrastructure, gender-sensitive planning, and community engagement to ensure inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

Keywords: Gender Equality; Water; Sanitation; SDG 5; SDG 6; Women; Sustainable Development.

Author: Eduardo G. Pereira; Jiangyuan Fu

Affiliation: University of São Paulo, Brazil; Maynooth University, Ireland

Title: A Jurisprudence of Interdependence: Reforming Legal Frameworks for the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Abstract: The confluence of escalating global demand for water, energy, and food resources has given rise to one of the most complex and critical challenges of the 21st century: the governance of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus. These three essential pillars of human security and economic development are inextricably linked through a complex web of biophysical and socioeconomic interdependencies. The production of food consumes vast quantities of water and energy; the generation of energy, particularly from thermal and hydropower sources, is profoundly dependent on water; and the abstraction, treatment, and distribution of water are inherently energy-intensive processes. Despite this manifest interdependence, the legal and institutional frameworks governing these sectors have historically evolved in isolated silos. This doctrinal and institutional fragmentation has engendered policy incoherence, resource mismanagement, cross-sectoral externalities, and heightened potential for social and geopolitical conflict. This paper posits that the prevailing paradigm of sectoral resource management is legally and practically untenable. It argues for the development of a new jurisprudence of interdependence, one that is explicitly designed to navigate the complexities of the WEF nexus. Through a critical appraisal of international and national legal architectures, this research exposes the governance gaps that undermine sustainable development. It then advances a constructive thesis, proposing a reformed legal framework grounded in the principles of polycentric governance, the circular economy, and a robust human rights-based approach. By analyzing legal innovations and drawing lessons from nascent attempts at integrated governance, this paper delineates a pathway toward adaptive, equitable, and resilient legal frameworks capable of harmonizing the competing interests inherent in the nexus and securing a sustainable future.

Keywords: Nexus; Water; Energy; Food; Framework.

Author: Emmanuella Usase Jime, Chioma Onoshakpor, Rachel Adedokun, Poh Yen Ng

Affiliation: Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University

Title: Her Power, Her Voice: Women's Inclusion in Policy Making for Nigeria's Energy Transition

Abstract: The shift from fossil fuels to clean energy like solar, wind, hydropower, biogas, and geothermal is key to addressing the climate crisis and offers significant benefits for economic growth, sustainability, and energy access. Nigeria is a nation with energy needs and ambitious energy policies, plans, programmes and targets for a cleaner energy future. However, women's participation in this transition is hardly considered despite the fact that they represent almost 50% of the Nigeria's population. This research aims to critically assess the current level of women's participation in the formulation and implementation of Nigeria's energy transition policy.

The study applies liberal feminist theory to critique the place of gender equality in Nigeria's energy transition as a way of exposing gaps. This approach would support women's representation in policymaking while highlighting the structural barriers that prevent women from equal access to opportunities and decision-making power. In addition, the research critically examines Nigeria's energy transition through the tenets of the energy justice framework. This study argues that while Nigeria pursues ambitious "cleaner" energy targets, a truly just transition requires a three-tenet approach: addressing distributional inequities in energy access, ensuring recognition of marginalised groups, and establishing procedural fairness in decision-making.

Methodologically, semi-structured interviews with women leaders in the renewable sector, policymakers, and civil society will be used to analyse why and how women are included or excluded in the energy transition process, providing insights into their experiences and perspectives. The findings of this research enhance understanding of gender in energy policy by exploring how current policies address women's needs and the mechanisms affecting their voices. It will offer practical recommendations for including women in Nigeria's energy transition, benefiting policymakers, civil society, and development partners.

Keywords: Energy Transition; Women in Energy; Policymaking; Liberal Feminism; Energy Justice Framework.



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Author: Dr. Alexander Ayeson Epu

Affiliation: Bayo Ojo Centre of Arbitration and Mediation Studies, Department of Public and International Law, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Title: Legitimacy in Crisis: Policing, SGDs and Climate Governance Beyond the State

Abstract: The accelerating climate crisis has exposed the fragility of state-centred governance frameworks, raising urgent questions about legitimacy, accountability, and inclusivity in climate action. This paper interrogates the role of non-state actors particularly the police as pivotal agents in sustaining legitimacy within climate governance beyond traditional state structures. While the police are conventionally associated with law enforcement, their evolving mandate in community engagement, environmental protection, and safeguarding vulnerable populations positions them as critical actors in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Drawing on case studies from African urban contexts, the paper explores how police institutions can mediate legitimacy crises by fostering trust, ensuring equitable enforcement of climate-related policies, and protecting marginalized groups disproportionately affected by climate risks. It argues that the police, when reoriented toward community-centred climate governance, can act as intermediaries between citizens, civil society, and transnational climate initiatives thereby extending governance legitimacy beyond the state. Methodologically, the paper employs a governance redesign lens, analyzing intersections of power, gender, and institutional reform.

Key findings suggest that embedding climate responsibilities within policing frameworks enhances resilience, strengthens institutional legitimacy, and contributes to the realization of the SDGs. The paper concludes by proposing reforms that reposition police forces as agents of climate justice, emphasizing participatory approaches that bridge the gap between state retreat and community-led governance futures.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Legitimacy; Police; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Gender.

Author: Roseline Oshewolo, PhD

Affiliation: Department of History and International Studies, Federal University Lokoja, Nigeria

Title: Green Inclusion or Green Illusion? Gender, Power, and the Limits of Transformative Climate Governance

Abstract: Contemporary climate governance frameworks increasingly focus on gender equity as a pillar of sustainable transitions. However, these commitments often remain symbolic, masking persistent structural inequalities. This paper interrogates the gap between performative gender mainstreaming and substantive transformation, arguing that the prevailing “green” imperative functions as a discursive mechanism that absorbs feminist critique while reinforcing technocratic and exclusionary power relations. Rather than disrupting inequality, many climate initiatives reproduce entrenched hierarchies under the veneer of inclusivity. Adopting a qualitative methodology grounded in feminist political ecology and intersectional analysis, the study draws on secondary literature, policy documents, and illustrative case insights to examine how power operates within climate governance institutions. It explores how authority is constructed, whose knowledge is legitimized, and whose voices are marginalized in shaping climate priorities and interventions. The findings reveal that climate governance remains deeply embedded in patriarchal and neoliberal structures that constrain meaningful participation and limit transformative outcomes. Superficial gender inclusion strategies fail to address systemic power imbalances, thereby risking the perpetuation of social injustices within climate responses. The analysis demonstrates that without confronting these underlying dynamics, sustainability efforts are likely to remain both ineffective and inequitable. The paper concludes by calling for a fundamental rethinking of climate governance; one that centres gender justice, democratizes decision-making, and integrates locally grounded knowledge systems. Such a shift is essential for fostering inclusive, resilient, and genuinely transformative climate futures in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Gender Justice; Feminist Political Ecology; Power Asymmetries; Sustainability Transitions.

Author: Segun Oshewolo, PhD

Affiliation: Department of Political Science, Federal University Lokoja, Lokoja, Nigeria

Title: Climate Responsibility Without Resources? Governance Innovations for Climate Finance in Africa

Abstract: Africa faces a contradiction in climate responsibility: it contributes little to global emissions yet suffers significant climate consequences with limited access to financial resources. This study examines the key contradictions associated with climate financing in Africa. The study addresses the governance challenge relating to the disconnect between global climate finance and the realities faced in Africa, such as complicated funding processes, limited capacity to absorb funds, disjointed policy coordination, and existing power imbalances in global decision-making. The study employs a qualitative approach that includes general library materials, policy documents, and thematic analysis. The findings highlight three major contradictions: first, the disparity between promised and disbursed climate funds; second, the prevalence of loan-based funds over grants, increasing fiscal risk; and third, the focus on mitigation projects at the expense of essential adaptation efforts for Africa. The study proposes a reform agenda for governance that simplifies access, strengthens domestic climate governance institutions, improves regional financing platforms, and advocates for greater African representation in global climate finance decision-making. The paper adds to discussions on governance reform by asserting that effective climate action in Africa requires a shift from financing volume to prioritizing justice, institutional ownership, and governance systems focused on accountability. Prioritising equity and decentralised coordination in climate finance governance is essential for aligning global climate commitments with Africa's realities.

Keywords: Climate Responsibility, Climate Finance, Governance, Resources, Africa

Author: Sylvia Chidinma Igwe

Affiliation: University of Nigeria | University of Leicester UK

Title: International Investment Agreements as a Tool for Sustainable Development: Reimagining Investment Governance for Climate Resilience in Africa

Abstract: African states face acute climate vulnerability despite contributing only marginally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-related shocks are projected to reduce GDP by up to 15% by 2030 and exacerbate poverty in the absence of decisive policy responses. Yet Africa receives only around 3% of global climate finance, revealing a profound governance and financing gap. At the same time, International Investment Agreements (IIAs) governing foreign investment remain largely oriented towards investor protection, raising concerns that climate-related regulatory reforms—such as fossil fuel phase-outs or environmental safeguards—may expose states to costly investor–state disputes and constrain policy space.

The paper adopts a doctrinal and policy-oriented analysis of African IIAs in light of evolving global treaty practice. It draws on UNCTAD’s recent reform agenda and comparative developments in sustainability-oriented IIA provisions to assess how climate considerations are currently addressed in African treaties. The analysis situates African treaty practice within broader international trends, examining emerging models that incorporate climate objectives, regulatory carve-outs, and incentives for sustainable investment.

The analysis finds that most African IIAs continue to rely on broad, traditional environmental language and have been slow to integrate explicit climate-related obligations or safeguards. To address this gap, the paper proposes accelerated IIA modernisation through the inclusion of explicit climate commitments aligned with the Paris Agreement, strengthened right-to-regulate clauses, and clearer protections for climate and environmental measures. It further highlights opportunities to redesign IIAs to actively incentivise green foreign direct investment and channel climate finance towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.

By reframing IIAs as tools for sustainable development rather than purely instruments of investor protection, the paper contributes to debates on governance redesign in the context of climate change. Transformative IIA reform



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can enhance regulatory autonomy, reduce litigation risks, and mobilise much-needed sustainable finance. Aligning investment governance with climate priorities is therefore essential for supporting just transitions, strengthening climate resilience, and promoting long-term, inclusive growth across African states.

Keywords: Climate change, IIAs, right-to regulate, sustainable development, investment governance

Author: Rotimi Oladele

Title: Climate-Resilient Urban Water Governance in Nigeria: Insights from Utility Benchmarking and Inclusive WASH Planning

Abstract: Climate change is increasingly reshaping urban water governance across developing countries, particularly in regions facing rapid urbanization, infrastructure deficits, and institutional capacity constraints. In Nigeria, urban water utilities are experiencing growing pressure from flooding, irregular rainfall patterns, population growth, aging infrastructure, and rising operational inefficiencies, all of which threaten equitable access to safe water services. Despite substantial investments by development partners, governance and data management gaps continue to weaken climate adaptation within the water sector.

This paper examines how utility benchmarking, monitoring systems, and inclusive WASH planning can strengthen climate-resilient urban water governance in Nigeria. Drawing from practical experiences in donor-supported urban water interventions, including utility performance benchmarking, WASHNORM-related data systems, and service delivery monitoring in Southwestern Nigeria, the study explores how evidence-based governance frameworks can improve decision-making, non-revenue water management, infrastructure planning, and accountability mechanisms.

The paper argues that climate resilience in urban water systems cannot be achieved solely through infrastructure expansion but requires adaptive governance models supported by reliable data systems, institutional coordination, and socially inclusive planning approaches. Particular attention is given to the importance of gender-responsive governance and equitable service delivery in vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by climate-related water insecurity.

The study contributes to ongoing debates on climate governance by providing practice-based insights from Nigeria's urban water sector and proposing governance-oriented strategies for strengthening resilience, accountability, and sustainability in climate-stressed utility environments.

Keywords: Climate Governance, Urban Water Utilities, WASH, Climate Resilience, Utility Benchmarking

Author: Lilian Uche PhD; Prof Osatohanmwon Eruaga; Irekpitan Okukpon PhD

Affiliation: NIALS, Nigeria | University of Bradford

Title: Navigating the Legitimacy Crisis in Climate Governance: The Role of Non-State Actors and Gender Inclusivity

Abstract: As the world grapples with the escalating impacts of climate change, the legitimacy of traditional state-centric governance models is increasingly questioned. This paper explores the legitimacy crisis in climate governance, emphasising the need for inclusive frameworks that recognise the vital contributions of non-state actors, particularly women in marginalised communities. While state actors often dominate climate policy discussions, their limited effectiveness in addressing urgent environmental challenges calls for a reevaluation of governance structures. Non-state actors such as local communities, indigenous groups, NGOs, and private sector entities play crucial roles in climate action, yet they often lack formal recognition and authority in decision-making processes. The central research question in this paper is how gender inclusive and non-state actor-driven approaches address the legitimacy crisis in climate governance. It adopts a qualitative case-study-driven approach, drawing on document analysis demonstrating how gender-inclusive approaches to climate governance can enhance legitimacy by ensuring diverse voices are heard and valued. It also examines the intersectionality of gender, power, and environmental justice, advocating for collaborative governance models that empower marginalised populations. Consequently, this paper argues that building legitimate climate governance beyond the state is essential for fostering sustainable and equitable climate solutions, emphasising the importance of inclusivity in shaping effective policies for a resilient future.

Keywords: Climate Governance, Legitimacy, Non-state actors, gender inclusive, climate change



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