

Nigeria, Climate Change COP27 & Beyond

October 2022



Community # Solidarity # Impact



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank frontline community representatives, government officials, academics, civil society partners, women leaders, the media and other categories of marginalized people who participated in the *National Conference on Climate Change COP27 and Beyond* organised by the Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) in September 2022 in Abuja where the information and recommendations in this document were obtained.

We wish to state here that the views expressed in this policy brief are ours, and not necessarily the views of our partners and funders.

The conference and this report were made possible with funding from the African Climate Foundation



BACKGROUND

Climate scientists have concluded that Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts under climate scenarios above 1.5 degrees celsius. This is the issue even though Africa contributes less than four per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2022 report noted that going by current trends, climate change will contribute to the global burden of diseases and premature deaths. The IPCC warned that by 2030, about 750 million Africans would be displaced.

In 2018, Nigeria was listed among the ten most highly vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, particularly in agriculture, land use, energy, health, water resources and biodiversity.

Climate change is the reason for the noticeable extreme variations in weather and temperature-intense heat waves, longer dry seasons, desertification, heavy and prolonged rainfalls that have resulted in flooding and worsened livelihood challenges faced by local communities. The situation represents a clear and present threat to human and national security.

Nigeria's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development said the 2022 climate Change induced rains and flooding which has engulfed 27 out of the 36 states of the country is the worst in a decade. Over 1.4 million people have been displaced; about 500 persons dead; 1,546 persons injured; 42,249 houses submerged in water; 76,168 hectares of farmlands partially destroyed and 70, 566 hectares of farmlands completely destroyed.

Whereas the Nigerian government has designed climate responsive policies and strategies, updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), passed a Climate Change Act that provides an overarching framework for its national climate change responses and keyed into major global commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change, its poor stakeholder engagement, and policy contradictions remain the bane of its climate aspirations. Though the challenges that stifle Nigeria's climate response cannot be eased immediately, collective action and national thinking that accommodates the concerns and visions of all, most especially the realities and expectations of frontline communities can help to scale up climate interventions and goals in the country.

The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) scheduled to hold in November 2022, in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, makes it imperative to galvanize stakeholders to deliberate towards articulating common agenda on issues such as climate financing for implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures in the country, just transition, and other climate priorities that may arise in global discussions.

The quest for Nigeria to articulate a clear agenda for COP 27 with emphasis on Just Energy Transition and build consensus for adequate climate financing for the implementation of adaptation and mitigation plans in Nigeria and Africa among others issues, necessitated Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) to host the *National Conference on Climate Change, COP27 and Beyond* between September 29th and 30th in Abuja. The conference was attended by over 100 participants, including climate change policy experts, state actors, policymakers, parliamentarians, labour unionists, students, academia, the media, frontline communities, activists, international and local non-profit organisations.

This publication contains some of the presentations and the conference's policy recommendations.

SELECTED PAPERS

NIGERIA, COP27 and the Quest for Real Solutions

- Nnimmo Bassey

It is very important for us as Nigerians, as Africans, to understand the underpinnings of climate debates, climate negotiations and why we are where we are today. Our imaginations regarding climate change are very vital otherwise we run roller coaster with what we hear from official circles nationally, regionally, and globally. It is very important for us to know where the rain started to beat us as our people say. The topic I have been asked to speak on "Nigerian at COP27 and the Quest for Real Solutions" is very broad and gives me the opportunity to cover a wide range of issues.

Let me begin by quoting what the United Nations General Secretary said in 2019: "We are losing the tide against climate change. The status quo on climate policy is suicide." That was said in 2019, and I assure you, even as we go to COP27, nothing has changed.

It is more glaring that the policy direction globally is leading the world to suicidal destinations. This means that the COP itself is largely a space of frustrations and a failure. Nations appear more concerned with making beautiful statements, making commitments that add to nothing, rather than taking real action against climate change. The reason why this is so, is because some people and corporations don't want anything to affect their profit. It doesn't matter whether the world is drowning or whether people are dying, they are happy if the bottom line is not affected. In fact, some politicians in some countries will declare that their way of life will not be compromised.

When people say their way of life will not be compromised, that means they will not stop emitting, they will not stop polluting, they will not take real climate actions, they will not cut emissions, they want the current negative lifestyles to continue. That is very selfish because their way of life can only continue in the short term, it won't continue for your children. The future we are talking about is your children. Your children's children are going to face situations that you cannot imagine and that is why we must speak for ourselves especially as Africans, that the current direction of the negotiations is not going to resolve the crisis and I will tell you why. When you compare the maps of greenhouse emissions generation and that of climate impacts it is very clear that the regions that have contributed little or nothing to global warming are the regions that suffer most from the impacts. This speaks of climate injustice and demands that those who are responsible for the crisis should do the most towards tackling the problem.

Is this the case? The answer is no.

Why are those most responsible for the crisis unwilling to act towards solving the problem? This is where geopolitics comes in. All countries at the United Nations should be equal in terms of having one vote, but you know there is a Security Council, right? And some nations have veto powers.

It doesn't stop at that level. At the Conference of Parties negotiations these imbalances also play out and so we may be fooling ourselves if we don't recognize this fact that the ground is not level. It is not a level playing ground at all.

Some of you will say what has that got to do with climate change? But this is a critical issue because the world is spending so much time counting the carbon molecules in the atmosphere and forgetting that the carbon molecules came from extraction of fossil fuel and the burning of same. For us to have a comprehensive conversation on this issue, we must look at both ends of the pipeline — where the resource comes from and what is happening to the communities there. What is happening to the people living there, what is happening to their livelihoods, before you look at what is happening to the gas in the atmosphere. If we look at only the gases in the atmosphere, we keep debating about the carbon budget.

This is not what we are talking about. Almost all of the space that the greenhouse can take in the atmosphere has since been taken up and the negotiations is still all about who has access to the right to pollute before catastrophic climate change kicks in. The debate is about who will take whatever remains of the carbon budget, that space. Rather than stopping further pollution, you are hearing the proposals of a lot of false solutions.

This is where market environmentalism comes in. The climate crisis is a product of the market and clearly the market will not solve that problem, which was created by the drive for profit, the dispensing of the rights of Mother Earth and the dispensing of the right of the citizens from parts of the world, for profit.

Any system that promotes profit above planet and above people can only change when that mindset is stopped, reversed, and replaced with another mindset. The map of where major conflicts has occurred in Africa almost perfectly matches the map of where natural resources are extracted on the continent. Is it because Africans like to fight over resources? No. One of the reasons we have so many conflicts in resource rich areas is that when there are conflict resources can be extracted without any sense of responsibility.

While war raged in Liberia, extraction of resources never stopped for one day. Even during the COVID-19 lockdown oil and mining companies were never locked down. Secondly, if you look at the infrastructural map of Africa you will find that almost all infrastructure goes from resource locations to the seaport because most of our resources are exploited for export.

You will hear many of our leaders claiming that we have a right to pollute because the West developed through pollution. That the West developed by using fossil fuels therefore, we have a right as Africans to do the same. That's what we hear. The argument is, if you did it and nobody stopped you, why can't we do it? The problem with this argument is that we extract for export, not to produce goods for our markets.

The Russian war in Ukraine has forced Europe to turn to Africa for the exploitation of fossil fuels that ought to be left in the ground. Leaving fossil fuel in the ground is the surest way of slowing down the pumping of more carbon into the atmosphere. This is what science requires. For short term comfort, Europe is scrambling for fossil fuels across Africa. Where is the seriousness about fighting global heating?

Nigeria has signed many memoranda of understanding with Morocco to build a pipeline from Brass in the Niger Delta to Morocco and from there to Europe. We note that there is no known Environmental Impact Assessment for that pipeline. However, if gas is extracted from the Niger Delta and piped to Europe, how does that provide me energy in Nigeria? It doesn't. This shows that when a politician says that we have a right to extract, and that extraction is for export, we see that the purpose is to receive foreign exchange to pay foreign debts.

The beneficiaries are the governments and profiteering oils and gas companies, not our people. How does the amassing of foreign exchange stop global warming? How does it stop the floods, droughts, coastal erosion and all the impacts of global warming?

We are at a time when even the most conservative agencies like the World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have said that we can't afford to burn 80 percent of all the known fossil fuels. Rather than investing in alternative and green energy sources it is shocking to find the raging scramble for new fossil fuels reserves in pristine areas like Okavango in Namibia, Botswana, Lake Albert in Uganda, Virunga Forest in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Saloum Delta in Sénégal, all to meet insatiable and dangerous dirty energy appetites abroad.

When we say Africa has contributed less than 1 or 3 per cent of the cumulative greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, that is correct. But if we provide the resources that is burnt by other countries to pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, are we not contributing to their pollution? Enlightened self-interest suggests that we must cut our losses because we are the least prepared to handle the outcomes of climate impacts.

When vulnerability meets hazard what you have is disaster and that's what we have along the coastlines. The coastline of Nigeria is a very low line. With a one metre sea level rise, we are going to have up to 90 kilometres from the coastline completely going under water.

This means the whole of Lagos, except maybe Eko Atlantic, the devil's finger from the sea – Port Harcourt, Warri, and others will be under water very quickly. Africa is under serious threat, and we have a reason to panic. It is okay to panic if that will make you act or do something.

The South-eastern Coastline of Africa- because of the warming, are having bigger cyclones. In 2019, we had Cyclone Idai which claimed more than 3000 people. Communities were washed away. Since then, we have had more cyclones every year. This year, flooding in Nigeria has been so frequent.

This year's flooding is going to surpass the landmark flooding of 2012. So far, there has been 500 deaths recorded this year. In 2012, there were 430 deaths. Thousands of people are being displaced. This year millions will be displaced. The celebrated Paris Agreement will not bring about even a dent in the climate crisis. The Paris Agreement concretized the Copenhagen Accord of 2009 by making voluntary emissions reduction its corner stone.

Rather than requiring polluting, rich nations to make legally binding emissions cut at a certain scale, the Paris Agreement handed the world what has been called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which should be termed Nationally Determined Catastrophe.

Before COP 26 in Glasgow, when the United Nations system aggregated the actions, countries pledged to carry out, it was found that the result would be 2.7 degrees Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels. Knowing that this was scandalous, countries made more pledges and changed the calculations, and the projected temperature prognosis fell to 2.4 degrees Celsius.

What are the targets in the Paris Agreement? 1.5 degrees lower limits; well below 2 degrees. For Africa, 1.5-degree temperature increase means 2.2 degrees. So, the lowest limit in the Paris Agreement is higher than the highest limit for Africa. It is obvious that the Paris Agreement is wired to fail Africa and indeed the world. In 2009, Ambassador Lumumba of Sudan wept at a press conference at the COP. The debate was whether the target temperature should be more than 1 degree.

And the man said anything more than 1 degree is going to burn Africa, and that it is suicide, and that he would not endorse it. Today, Ambassador Lumumba has been totally vindicated. Africa is on fire. Africans are drowning in floods.

African negotiators going to the COP should demand binding emissions reduction according to the fundamental principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). They should demand temperature targets and climate actions that will give us a liveable world. We must demand payment of a climate debt that addresses historical damages and ongoing climate atrocities in Africa.

Environmental economists have calculated so many parameters about how it can be paid, which also includes the gain made by polluting nations who are not acting and making gains out of their non-actions.

To me, the simplest thing to calculate is how much rich countries spend on warfare, destroying nations. Mere talks on loss and damage are fig leaves aimed at covering the open sores that only payment of climate debt can heal. In Glasgow, the phrase that was hot was "Net Zero". Net Zero is not Zero. It is just a nice name for carbon offsetting. It is mere arithmetical games. It allows nations and corporations to avoid responsibilities and rather impose intergenerational burdens.

For young people, it is your future. Ask the presidents of the nation; how old will you be in 2060? When they give you the answer, you will know if they are concerned about you. We should talk about reducing emission by stopping deforestation and forest degradation. We have all the beautiful concepts being appropriated for the wrong purposes for carbon trading.

The drive for development requires that we critically re-examine the meaning of development. We need to examine what kind of life we want to live. We need to understand that others built their systems on the platform of slavery, colonialism, and diverse forms of exploitation of peoples and nature.

Can we reasonably expect to replicate that pathway? Can we pause for a moment and consider that Africans make up a mere 1 percent of the labour force in the fossil fuels sector in Africa? And that only 5 per cent of the investments in that sector take place in Africa? How can such a system add value to the lives of the people?

It is almost like when we asked them for climate finance. Now when Africa insists on extracting, I mentioned some examples, Namibia, Botswana, Uganda, Senegal, and other places. How does this sector positively affect our economy? How does it affect our imagination?

We have gotten to the point that our people will say come and see the polluted water that I drink, and they take you to the polluted river, fetch the water and drink. We indeed must retrace our steps.

Cheap labour, little investment, a harsh environment, pure ecocide, expending of labour, exploitative market, and militarized extraction. These are all the way you can just summarize what is happening in the fossil fuel sector in Africa.

Satellite images of the Gulf of Guinea between 2002 and 2012 revealed 18, 000 oil spills. We also know that 90 per cent of the sea-based pollution in the Gulf of Guinea comes from the Niger Delta— a veritable zone of plunder and destruction. A zone of absolute irresponsibility, piracy, unregulated, under reported and illegal fishing. And yet the people along this coastline are the most vulnerable to global warming with all the indices facing the wrong direction.

The ocean around Africa is getting warmer than oceans elsewhere which means the impact is going to be graver, more floods and loss of lands. We have lost so much land along our coastline and when you add the impact of global warming to the impact of pollution, it is absolute disaster.

Our forefathers understood nature-based solutions. They didn't take more than what was necessary from the environment. They were doing that to maintain a balance and predict environmental patterns. Shell defined nature-based solutions as projects which protect, transform, or restore lands. "In this way, nature absorbs more carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

These solutions can lead to carbon trading." When a notorious company that has committed ecocide in the Niger Delta speaks of nature-based solutions, you should understand that this concept is a hugely false solution. It has nothing to do with recognizing the gifts and generosity of nature in repairing our predatory harms.

Unmasking Carbon Politics and Carbon Economy

- Sofiri Joab-Peterside

Introduction

The phenomenon of climate change is gradually changing the way humans conceive development and organization of economies and societies. Environmental scientists argue that as we are approaching the end of the era of fossil-fuels hence the urgency to begin to think about alternative sources of energy. Biofuels are presented by some as the solution to development and energy problems of developing countries like Nigeria. The sad paradox is that while there seems to be a consensus on the desirability of combating climate change, some countries are also witnessing a new boom in extractive industries with very high consequences. Yet, fossil fuels will continue to play a substantial role for some time in Nigeria's political economy.

Reason being that an alternative energy system ready to take a large market share for the time being is yet to emerge. This partly explains why discussions on decarbonisation are often times greeted with cynicism and outright rejection by governing elites of countries that depend on carbon energy (especially fossil fuel) for survival.

The diverse and divergent views expressed by experts at the recently concluded Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES), 2022 in Abuja, with the theme "Strategies for Confronting the Energy Transition" brought to the fore, the uncertain future of crude oil exploration and production in Nigeria consequent on the move by International Oil Companies (IOC) operating in Nigeria to divest some of their Nigerian assets in recent past under all manner of excuses. Some of the reasons adduced for divestment include: the global push for energy transition; the crisis-prone operational environment which no longer conduces to business and the urgency to move on to renewable energy otherwise known as the "New Business".

This development, no doubt, has deleterious consequences for Nigeria, which in the short-to-medium-term depends heavily on earning from crude oil export for running its economy. The point of fact is that access to energy is a key driver of economic growth and development.

Consequently, industrialization and anthropogenic activities constantly increase the demand for energy which in turn has resulted in rapid depletion of our conventional energy resources.

This large demand for fossil fuel and its derivatives comes at associated cost known as climate change which has become a global concern as global temperature continue to rise because of this. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report, the global average surface temperature was 1.09 percent centigrade between 2011-2020 than between 1850-1900(Malam-Obi, 2022).

In response to this environmental crisis, the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 with goal of limiting global average temperature increases to 2 percent above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to restrict them to 1.5 percent by adoption of climate focused public policy - a set of public policy guidelines to fight climate change by lowering Green House Gas (GHG) emission through transitioning from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources on global basis.

About potential United States of America (USA) policies specifically, it is important to draw attention to the pros and cons of Green New Deal (GND). The GND lacks a carbon pricing proposal, hence the effort to introduce carbon pricing, either on a federal level, or individually for all the 50 states of the USA to mandate their own unique carbon pricing systems. It is envisaged that carbon pricing systems are to go together with an increase in renewable energy industries subsidies, such as renewable energy feed-in-tariffs.

Now that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the United States President and Vice President, Democrats are in charge in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the United States has joined the international community to focus on climate action.

This means the US becoming a leading international partner in the Paris Climate Accord. Little surprise the US is now working with the international community to achieve the latest global decarbonisation goals of the International Panel on Climate Change.

The US Environmental Energy, and climate executive administration agencies are now focused on action for sustainability agenda. The US government is also poised to invest substantially in clean energy infrastructure, and clean energy job development. Against this backdrop, there is mounting internal pressure on the US to expand investment in many climate, energy, environmental, and clean energy economy job growth sectors.

The desire to be a global leader in the Paris Climate Accord (PCA) necessitated the need for strict regulations on fossil fuel industries, as mandated when the Green Power Plan (GPP) was adopted as part of United States law. Thus, for the US, the main foci of investment in the energy transition going forward should be in solar, wind; plus batteries, both for energy storage and electric vehicles as high priorities starting points for future energy investment (Green City Times, 2019).

To get to Net Zero GHGs globally, public policy worldwide must prioritise carbon net neutral and low carbon energy generation (biomass, hydro, geothermal etc. in addition clean energy policies should prioritize low carbon transportation fuels (biofuels, hybrid transit options such as sustainable mass transit with biofuel + electricity).

Serious climate action policy also prioritizes investment in advanced nuclear, as well as research in nuclear fusion. Investment should also focus on low carbon energy such as hydrogen, and in both Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) made from a significant share of biofuel.

In tandem with the Paris Climate Accord, climate policy must also focus on investment in Zero carbon emission energy generation. Policies should also focus on low or Zero emission solutions for cities, such as electrification of public transit (especially electric transit powered by a grid that is run on renewables).

Sustainable solutions such as energy-efficient building retrofitting must also be focus for investment. In the US, there is clamour to renew and maintain government energy subsidies for all energy sources (although adjusted upwards for renewable energy and lowered for fossil fuels) - the intention here is oil and gas going forward.

Coal is simply no longer cost competitive as an energy source because coal carries too many serious negative externalities (Green City Times, 2021).

The African Condition

While most developed countries race to adopt more sustainable energy methods of production, Africa, a continent already experiencing severe energy poverty, as well as contributing less than 4 percent of global carbon emissions views reduction of carbon as a model with limited relevance to their present position on improving energy access to drive economic growth (Mallam-Obi, 2022).

This policy stance of many African countries, although justified, is problematic. Sub-Sharan Africa stands to lose the most to climate change and is most likely to bear the brunt of its effects.

The IPCC suggests that the temperature increase of the Sub-Sharan Africa is projected to be higher than the global mean temperature increase posing a direct threat to human health, food, and water scarcity, as well as the continent's biodiversity. For instance, the Sahel ecosystem in western and central Africa has already begun to witness a decline in tree and shrub density.

This decline in Senegal's tree density, as well as in richness and composition of trees species in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad, has been attributed to rising temperatures and decreasing precipitation in the region.

This development raises special concern for rural communities that reside in the Sahelian strip that rely heavily on provisioning services of this ecosystem such as food, wood, medicine, etc. for survival (Mallam-Obi, 2022).

Furthermore, governments of African countries along this strip also rely on this provisioning services to trade. These challenges will likely impede economic development in the region, hence the urgent need for African economies to be more engaged in the fight to reduce global temperatures to preserve the integrity of the land and conserve its natural ecosystem. In addition, due to the region's abundant human resources, Sub-Saharan Africa has the potential to become a renewable energy powerhouse.

This should not be surprising because it is endowed with significant energy resources that vary geographically, and remains mostly untapped. For example, the region has a solar energy potential of approximately 10tw, but only a small percentage of this energy has been harvested through Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) and Solar Photovoltaics (PV) being utilized presently. Furthermore, hydropower potentials are also abundant in the continent especially, in the region's wet, forested Southern and Central areas.

Unfortunately, only 10 percent of the 350 GW of hydropower installed in the region is now being used, and due to the system's ineffectiveness and mismanagement, only a negligible percentage of the energy produced by the hydropower plants are used to generate electricity.

For instance, the Kainji Dam in Nigeria has a potential of 960MW, but its antiquated equipment is currently only capable of producing roughly 500MW (Mallam-Obi, 2022). Similarly, Geothermal energy is also abundant in the region especially in East Africa's Great Rift Valley. Around 15GW of geothermal energy potential is accessible, however, only approximately 60MW, is being utilized by Kenya.

Interestingly, this energy potential has experienced a rise in recent years, and it has grown to become East Africa's second-largest Renewable Energy Technology (RET), due to its high energy output, when paired with photovoltaics.

Wind energy can also be optimized around the South, East, and Northern shores, generating up to 110GW of energy. Although this energy is not geographically, diversified as the others due to its restricted availability only on the coasts, it can be highly profitable if used in combination with other Renewable Energy Technology (RET) due to its high energy out, when compared with solar photovoltaics. Furthermore, Africa can make the best use of wind energy around the continent's East, South and Northern shores to generate up to 110GW energy.

Although the wind energy potential is not geographically diversified as other energy sources because of its restricted availability only on the coasts, it can be highly profitable if used in combination with other renewable energy technology.

With the vast renewable energy resources, Africa should theoretically be able to close the energy access gap and drive economic growth therefrom. It is a sad paradox that despite the tremendous resources, the continent continues to encounter obstacles to decarbonising its energy systems and transitioning to cleaner energy.

Among the many challenges, the most critical remains the high initial cost associated with establishing renewable energy systems. This should not be a surprise because these renewable technologies require the installation of specialized equipment and instruments to harness the available energy potentials as well as power grid to deliver energy to the consumers.

The risks relating to climate change include those associated with reducing emissions to address the problem-transition-risk and those related to the effects of warmer temperatures-physical risks. But countries are at different starting points, both in terms of ambition and ability to deliver low-carbon transition and build resilience to the potential physical disruptions associated with a warming planet. The 2015 Paris Agreement had focused global attention on the need to address climate change risks.

But not all countries are equal, in terms of their ambition or ability to achieve economies with low-carbon and align with greenhouse gas emissions trajectories which scientists contend is necessary to limit warming to 2°c, the most widely adopted maximum target for 2100).

The point of fact is that transition in national energy systems and broader economies to low-carbon world will present risks, but also opportunities (Paul et al, 2019). There is therefore the need to set out a broad framework for understanding national climate level vulnerability, with metrics covering physical risks, socio-economic impacts, energy transition indicators and the potential of countries to respond to climate risks.

There must be a mechanism for analysing risks to agro-commodities, commodity markets and national economies dependent on agriculture. Such mechanism must start with a question: which countries have the political economy: the policy, government and institutions, economic diversity and energy resources to give them a competitive advantage as the world progress with a low-carbon transition? To answer this compound question, the summary of report of a study titled "Fragile Planet –The Politics and Economics of the Low-Carbon-Transition ranked 67 countries with policies, institutions and economic potentials by HSBC Global Research conducted in April 2019 by five scholars; Ashim Paun, Lucy Acton, Amit Shrivastava, James Pomeroy and Tarek Soliman; will suffice:

1. Fossils in Gross Domestic Product and Export: The researchers think that achieving diversification is key hence sought to investigate the extent to which 67 countries under consideration are diversified in relation to fossil fuel, especially, their exports and economic production. The report revealed they are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman, the three countries with highest earning from fossil production, predominantly oil in these cases.

Fifteen of the sample countries are net exporters of hydrocarbons, in economic terms. Nigeria, Kuwait and Qatar have heavy dependence on exports although these shares have declined in the last ten years.

The study revealed that the world is likely to use some oil and gas, particularly in sectors where it is technologically much harder to replace them including aviation and shipping as well as petrochemicals. Even in a world aiming for Net-Zero emission later, these countries use of some fossil fuels in certain harder-to-address sectors is foreseen.

- 2. The study found that these emissions can be offset, given that the earth particularly forests, can absorb carbon dioxide. Consequently, the researchers argued that those who can produce oil and gas at the lowest cost are likely to continue to take profit from the sector (Paun, et al, 2019).
- 3. Policy and Institutional Quality: Here the study examined the potentials of countries to respond to climate risk through matrix which consider financial resources, social metrics and institutional metrics which can guide how prudently a country will use its wealth in relation to its long-term sustainable development, including mitigation of climate change.

The results show that Norway tops the list in terms of potential to respond, followed by New Zealand and Australia, and then the other three larger Nordic economies namely; Republic of Korea, Estonia, Czech Republic, the United Arab Emirate (UAE) and Saudi Arabia (Paun, et al, 2019)

- 4. Decarbonisation Policy Outlook: To understand how countries are placed to address climate change, the study investigated pledges made towards achieving the Paris Agreement Goals.
 - Overall, European countries dominate in terms of decarbonisation policy outlook, with Germany on top-with only Canada (9th place) the US (14th) and New Zealand(13th) permeating the top- 20 from outside the region (Paun et al, 2019).
- 5. Climate Opportunities: This section of the report moved from policy to the opportunity set which countries are better placed to benefit

economically from producing technologies and products where demand will be driven by a decarbonizing world? Being resilient through the low-carbon transition away from fossil fuels. The transition is seen as an opportunity for those able to sell the products and technologies which allow it to happen. Indeed, from facts at the disposal of the researchers, they believe that the countries which can generate more revenue as the global economy decarbonizes are likely to be among the most resilient.

The issue here is to identify the countries which have parallel industries to clean tech production necessary to the transition, suggesting the green industrial opportunities that are likely to be easiest to the transition into given what a country already knows how to do.

6. Overall, China, Germany and the US are countries to make profits as the world moves towards a lower-carbon future. At the other end of the spectrum countries which are economically more dependent on fossil fuel production particularly the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, as well as poorer countries populate the end of the researchers' ranking (Paun et al, 2019).

The point needing stress is that European Countries dominate the high ranking of states preparing for decarbonization, the United States coming 6th, and MENA and other hydrocarbon economies prevalent states at the bottom.

The researchers submitted that it is important for investors to understand which countries are best placed for the low carbon transition outlook over the next few years may create challenges in terms of energy climate transition. The economic team of the study group expects global growth to be just shy of 30 percent per year over the next decade with much of this growth (70 percent) to emanate from the emerging world.

The point worthy of note is that these parts of the world are getting steadily wealthier, causing changes in individual consumption patterns: more towards car ownership, air travel and energy consumption more broadly across the emerging world.

This is so because, across the emerging world, millions of people are expected to move to the cities over the next decade and even more to rise to the middle-class status. This growth will likely increase global volumes at steady basis, with more trade taking place between emerging markets.

For all the concerns surrounding trade protectionism in recent years, many parts of the world have been signing multilateral trade agreements which will lift trade flows unless trade policy turns even more protectionist, global trade volumes should keep increasing (Paul et al, 2019).

The cost of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) is already rather expensive, with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) estimate of onshore wind and solar generation per megawatt-hour to be around \$517 and \$625-\$676 while gas or coal only cost \$80-\$110. Most developing countries would only have to bother about harnessing the energy and transporting it through existing power grids; however, since the Sub-Sharan region possesses almost no existing power grids, setting them up to transport energy efficiently will require a larger financial investment.

The sad news is that without foreign financing, majority of African countries are struggling to fund such investment in their present economies. Consequently, to attract investment from financial institutions both in and out of the region, Mallam-Obi (2021), argues that African governments must ensure that they provide an enabling environment.

These regulations and policies must be comprehensive enough to cover all aspects of Renewable Energy Technology (RET) configuration, including fiscal regime, taxation, imports, exports, pricing, expertise and maintenance.

Matters Arising from Low Carbon Transitioning

Clean and renewable energy, storage technologies, and promising emerging low carbon technologies like cyclic steam stimulation (CCS), hydrogen, and advanced nuclear - must have considerable investment going forward. This investment should be included in ongoing energy subsidies for Research and Development (R&D) investment, tax credits, tax incentives for job creation energy- intensive industries.

A major part of the energy subsidy strategy should be expanded for investment in research and development of clean energy technologies. Additionally, government sponsorship of job retraining programmes are necessary to help workers to clean energy job markets with experience mainly in fossil industries. Paid clean energy job retraining is necessary to make the transition from fossil fuel-based economy to a more productive, sustainable, renewable energy-based economy a successful transition (Green City Times, 2021).

After these measures have been successfully deployed, the global focus must shift to decarbonization of all fossil-fuel-intensive sectors of the international political economy. The sectors include energy generation, transportation, and buildings. Also included in the decarbonization phase is the hardest to decarbonize sectors (industry and manufacturing, including cement and steel); agriculture (land-use as well as food and water production) and aviation & shipping freight.

Investment should also be made in in low carbon cement and steel production. Advanced bio, and electro fuels (producing hydrogen and combining that with captured carbon) are likewise important investments for hard to abate sectors like long-haul shipping, aviation, and heavy freight. Ideally, the hydrogen produced for electro fuels will be green hydrogen (produced with renewable energy) and blue hydrogen (produced with carbon capture) (Green City Times 2021)

Conclusion

The possibility of decarbonising Sub-Sharan Africa's energy systems promises many benefits for the region. One of such benefits is to close the gap and improve energy access, which in turn will promote regional economic growth.

Consequently, it is imperative that African governments prioritise transitioning to renewable energy systems.

Policy Recommendations

Putting price on carbon (carbon pricing is a market based, that is, capitalist solution) that will encourage the transition to clean energy and specifically, a transition to the ideal outcome for world cities. Carbon pricing (both capital and trade and carbon tax) encourages the transition to clean renewable energy, and energy efficiency practices in production, and by encouraging fossil fuel-based industry to avoid, the additional cost to the economy (negative externalities) of creating Co2 and other GHGs during energy production.

The industry manufacturing, and power generation sector can simply switch to renewable energy and retaining employees to work with sustainable energy technologies and avoid the additional cost of emissions altogether.

2. Financial, governance and implementation constraints are about strengthening the financial and governance capabilities needed to drive swift implementation of large-scale decarbonization. Strategies for mobilizing the required investment funds will need to include a robust carbon tax, a "Tobin tax" or international financial transactions as well as resources arising from the end of subsidies and tax concessions to fossil fuel industries.

An equitable strategy for redistributing financial burdens and costs of the transition policies will need to include global, national, and regional structural adjustment assistance to support workers and communities as they shift away from fossil fuel-based employment as well as the embedding of renewable energy and climate change resilience investment resources in all international aid and development programme

- 3. Mass transit and building sectors can go the route of electrification, energy efficiency, and clean energy. Fossil fuel-based industries can reduce GHG emission by finding energy efficient means such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), integrated gas combined cycle, and/or other energy efficiency during measures to increase energy efficiency during production and decreases emissions.
- 4. There is need for structured regulations for energy industries through strict regulations for energy from fossil fuels. Government must mandate, monitor, and the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) must enforce strict environmental regulations, including pollution regulations, and green house reduction targets by industrial agriculture, power generation, transportation, and building sectors.
- 5. Adhering to strict environmental and health regulations will force industries to transition to more clean energy and efficient means of energy production with less GHG emissions.
- 6. Clean Energy investment/Energy Industries Subsidies: There should be an increase in federal and state funding for research and development of clean energy technologies. These technologies include energy storage, renewable energy, energy efficiency technologies, low and zero-emission energy and mass transit technologies. Smart grid and electrification technologies must also be practiced for transportation and building sectors.

- 7. Job Retaining/ Just Transition: An important component of the energy transition that should be part of public policy moving forward, is government-sponsored retraining programmes for fossil fuel workers. Such programmes would train workers in fields of their choice on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean energy jobs. Some jobs in the new sustainable energy market may grow exponentially faster than fossil fuel-based jobs.
- 8. It is important to strengthen the financial and governance capabilities needed to drive swift implementation of large-scale decarbonization. Strategies for mobilizing the required investment funds will need to include a robust carbon tax, a "Tobin tax" or international financial transactions as well as resources arising from the end of subsidies and tax concessions to fossil fuel industries.

An equitable strategy for redistributing financial burdens and costs of the transition policies will need to include global, national and regional structural adjustment assistance to support workers and communities as they shift away from fossil fuel-based employment as well as the embedding of renewable energy and climate change resilience investment resources in all international aid and development programmes.

- Appropriate steps should be taken at both the state and local levels.
 Local government authorities may, in turn, play a leading role in
 energy management and energy services. Such activities will be
 complemented and reinforced by several actions at community
 levels.
- 10. Any sustainable energy policy must consider three main environmental dimensions:
 - To promote energy efficiency/saving
 - > To increase the share of production, and use, of cleaner energy sources
 - To reduce environmental impact of the production and use of energy

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Channelling CSO and Community Outrage for Climate Action

- Ken Henshaw

Without doubt, climate change poses the most existential threat to humanity in the 21st century. Unfortunately, these threats affect countries differently, with those least culpable in the emission of climate change-causing greenhouse gases emerging as the most affected by its negative impacts. The challenges posed by climate change are not only found in how the weather is changing globally and in Nigeria, but also how these changes are interacting and influencing how people live, including their livelihoods, security, and wellbeing.

Beyond the direct effects of climate change, the consequences of half-hearted attempts to address the problem has often resulted in complications that have instead exacerbated the challenges which people face, especially so for local communities. West Africa and Nigeria specifically is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts including in energy, agriculture and other livelihoods, health, water, sanitations, security, ecosystem resilience, migrations and populations shifts, etc.

Currently, Climate warming in West Africa is greater than the global average, and this trend is expected to continue into the near future. Impacts of climate change in West Africa will be severe in both the 1.5 degrees and 2.0 degrees Celsius temperature target scenarios.

In Nigeria and most of West Africa, agriculture is predominantly supported by rainfall, with irrigated agricultural systems representing only about 4 percent of the cultivated land. Consequentially, fluctuations in rainfall patterns or volume holds considerable consequences for agricultural production.

Previous studies on the interaction between climate change in West Africa and crop production predicts decreased yields due to changing temperatures and rainfall patterns which will in turn exacerbate food insecurity in the region.

It is important to note that warming above 2°C will pressure crops, 'potentially decreasing overall cereal yields by about 11 percent. Maize and rice will be especially affected throughout much of the Inland Forests subregion, while millet and sorghum yields could see decreases of 15–25 percent in places like Niger and Burkina Faso'. Other direct impacts include desertification, flooding, and coastal erosion. The Atlantic coastline of West Africa is an area of high population concentration. Several major towns like Dakar, Accra, Lagos, etc, are found on the coastline.

The same is the case with industrial infrastructure. Sea level rise and natural subsidence of places such as the Niger Delta compound the problems of coastal erosion in the zone. Research shows that, for the Niger Delta region, with a net sea level rise of 1 metre, up to 80km inland will be flooded. A rise in sea level of up to 1 meter by 2050s would inundate18,000 km² of West Africa's coastline, impacting cropland, important transport corridors, and livelihoods. These impacts manifest in other threats including forced migration, water stress, conflicts, etc.

The Interconnectedness of the Climate Crises

Unfortunately, the causal linkages between many of the climate-induced crises in Nigeria have not been sufficiently established, especially in citizens' actions and advocacy. They are often treated as isolated and independent occurrences. It is perhaps for this reason that the frustration and anger occasioned by these climate stresses have found expression in conflicts and migrations, rather than in a push to address the sources and impacts of climate change.

This rather narrow interpretation and response to the crisis has also shaped how affected people organize and act. At present there are movements, organization and communities focused on mobilizing on the symptoms of the crisis without an overall understanding of how these factors reinforce each other.

To inspire concerted and well-articulated climate action, what is needed is a shared understanding of the roots that connect all the drivers and impacts of the crisis and situates them within their climate change origins. In Nigeria's Niger Delta for instance, annual floods occasioned by sea level rises force hundreds of communities to abandon their homes and migrate upland where they live in makeshift accommodations for three months each year. The annual floods have also made it impossible for these communities to continue with their occupation of cassava and plantain farming.

Both crops take a year to reach full maturity, and now the floods destroy the crops before they are due. The result has been widespread poverty and destitution. Ironically, many of these communities are hosts of extraction activities, where hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude oil are mined each day by multinational oil companies who also routinely flare gas. These communities have not made the connection between the extraction of crude oil and its contribution to climate change, and the floods disasters that annually destroy their existence.

They rather treat the flooding as an act of nature and appeal to the government and the same oil companies for handouts. With a well-articulated understanding of the interconnectedness of the climate crisis and its fallouts, these communities will be demanding an end to extraction rather than handouts. These type of interconnectedness exits all over Nigeria and the West Africa region and requires the right interpretations to drive common responses and actions.

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Russia, Ukraine, and Renewed Scramble for Oil in Africa

- Achike Chude

The Russia/Ukraine war has had a devastating effect across the globe. This is much more so given that the world long ago became a global village, and good or bad occurrences one way or the other impacts everyone. In today's world, technology, the activities of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the various regional groupings across the globe, international trade, the global financial systems etc, have all combined to ensure that if anything goes wrong in a part of the world, it becomes a matter of concern to all. It is why the world is reeling from the Russia/Ukraine war. It is why the COVID 19 pandemic threatened global stability in such a debilitating manner.

The tragedy of the ongoing war in Europe lies in the fact that it is a very preventable war. Nothing can justify the killings, the violations of human rights, the humanitarian disaster arising therefrom as well as the devastation of social infrastructure.

The war is clearly indicative of the eternal presence across various governments across the world, of people who place a higher premium over human life, on the manufacture, sale, use, and deployment of lethal military infrastructure for the purpose of making war for profit. These people are very much active within the various defence complexes or establishments. Some are military contractors, gun runners and merchants, and politicians.

Africa, due to a multiplicity of reasons, some of them self-inflicted is once more at the centre of places negatively impacted by the war in Europe. This has been in the form of growing decrease in food availability in the continent due to Africa's heavy dependence on certain food items imported from the warring countries. Africa's great wealth in natural resources and biodiversity is well known. With 65 percent possession of global arable land, the continent is abundantly blessed with humongous riches from nature and a youthful population.

Yet, the continent is operating at the bottom rung of global trade and manufacturing and is severely trapped by debilitating debt owed to countries much less blessed by nature. Africa has become a country of want, hunger, and instability.

Africa's woes have been brought about by the conspiracy, direct and indirect, between her various business and political elites and foreign countries who have continued the capitalist-induced colonial legacy of exploitation of the continent's natural resources. Raw materials resource exploitation has been the basis of the relationship between the continent and others rather than value added productive activities. This has ensured, according to estimates that about USD 195 billion is lost annually into illicit financial flows, illegal fishing, and mining, etc, across the continent.

Climatic conditions which have been degenerating for decades have also been further compromised and exacerbated within the continent by these illegal exploitations.

Thus, what is needed to protect the continent is a new set of political leaders and elites with a different mindset and understanding of the continent's many troubles. These new leaders have a duty to work to protect the interest of the peoples of the continent.

Communiqué issued at the end of the National Conference on Climate Change, COP27 and Beyond, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 29th and 30th September 2022

Frontline communities, civil society, academics, development experts and representatives of various ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) at the federal, state, and local levels converged in Abuja on 29th and 30th September 2022, for the *National Conference on Climate Change COP27 and Beyond*, organized by the Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA).

The conference was convened based on the realization that climate change is an existential threat that affects Africa more than other regions of the world despite her being the least contributor to the crisis.

Participants met to articulate a common climate change agenda for COP27 with emphasis on just energy transition; building consensus for adequate climate financing for the implementation of adaptation and mitigation plans in Nigeria and Africa; and interrogating Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions and Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021, and synergy in mode of implementation.

Participants shared perspectives on different topics extracted from Nigeria's climate change response to the issues and politics of COP27, and Nigeria's just energy transition agenda.

The keynote address, entitled "Nigeria, COP27 and the Quest for Real Solutions" was delivered by Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF). In the address, the keynote speaker emphasized that the Conference of Parties (COPs) meetings have not achieved the purpose of holding the polluting rich countries and corporations accountable for climate change harms. Instead, victim countries, especially in Africa are made to beg for climate finance with no success. Bassey said that the COPs have been reduced to a gathering of the rich and highly placed at the expense of vulnerable communities and nations that bear the brunt of the climate crises.

He explained that the solution to the climate crisis which essentially is about cutting emission at source has been replaced by the commodification of nature through mechanisms such as Net Zero, REDD, Carbon trading and other industry-promoted initiatives.

During the robust panel sessions and discussions after the keynote address, participants observed the following:

- 1. Climate change is an existential threat that affects Africa more than other regions of the world despite her being the least contributor to the crisis;
- The Conference of Parties (COP) meetings under the auspices of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is colonial in nature and has failed to hold the polluting nations and corporations accountable for their historic and ongoing climate atrocities;
- 3. The failure of the rich global North countries to honour their climate finance pledges to vulnerable countries to help them adapt to climate change and mitigate further rises in temperature, is deliberate. It is a ploy to evade responsibility for the historic loss and damage that Africa and the global South has suffered and continues to suffer:
- 4. Carbon trading schemes and other false solutions stymie the political will to develop and deploy sound solutions to the climate crisis. They also displace the real and meaningful solutions that governments should be serious about prioritizing in the guidelines for implementation of the Paris Agreement which itself requires a review particularly to eliminate the voluntary emissions approach it has foisted on the world;
- 5. No part of Nigeria is immune to climate impacts such as coastal erosion, desertification, drought, and unusual weather patterns that continue to cause displacement, loss of lives and livelihoods.

The 2022 floods which have inundated communities and farmlands across the federation, led to deaths, and rendered millions of Nigerians homeless, are yet to attract the needed attention and intervention of the Federal Government;

- 6. Nigeria's climate response has been largely inconsistent, incoherent, and non-inclusive, resulting in failure to secure the buy-in of the citizenry;
- 7. Nigeria's Climate Change Act is fraught with implementation challenges, questions were raised about its embrace of market mechanisms and unproven solutions including Net Zero, and REDD+hence, the sustained call for its review;
- 8. The Climate Change Council inaugurated by President Muhammadu Buhari during the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting on 28 September 2022 to drive the implementation of the Climate Change Act has lingering debates about the supposed functions of the Department of Climate Change;
- 9. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo's Debt for Climate swap deal proposal which entails bilateral or multilateral debts be forgiven by creditors in exchange for a commitment by the debtor to use the outstanding debt service payments for national climate action programmes is still hazy and needs thorough scrutiny;
- 10. Historical pollution is yet to be addressed in Nigeria's Niger Delta as reflected in the failing Ogoni Clean-up exercise. Instead, the oil corporations are divesting, dodging accountability, and passing the buck to their successor indigenous oil companies;
- 11. Nigeria's just energy transition path is still in murky waters as the country will have to rely heavily on foreign support to deliver on its objectives, thereby throwing the policy up to foreign influence and suggestions;

- The labour workforce which is the crucial engine to the realization of the just energy transition discourse are largely left out, in the current discourse;
- The needed synergy between the Nigerian government and civil society/frontline communities to address the climate crisis is absent; and
- 14. The depth of reportage on climate change and particularly its impact on frontline communities, especially women is abysmal and calls for serious concern.

It was therefore agreed that there is need for the following:

- 1. Comprehensive mapping of environment and climate hotspots across Nigeria to pave way for resilient intervention initiatives;
- 2. Nigeria must lead the way among African nations in advancing the call for historical liability pay-up, loss and damage financing and penalties for failure to honour their COP commitments;
- Carbon trading schemes also stymie the political will to develop and deploy sound solutions to the climate crisis and displace the real and meaningful solutions that governments should be serious about prioritizing in the guidelines for implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- 4. Emphasis should be on a just, equitable and inclusive climate change agenda that will convey the interests of all, particularly the highly impacted frontline communities;
- 5. The debt for climate swap proposal which entails bilateral or multilateral debts be forgiven by creditors in exchange for a commitment by the debtor to use the outstanding debt service payments for national climate action programs should be subject to scrutiny to ascertain its merits, if there is any.

- Nigeria's demand for funding support to address climate change must equally align with the demands of the African Group of Negotiators, being a regional engaging body;
- 6. Continuous engagement of frontline communities, the vulnerable and women in climate discussions and ensuring that their voices are captured in climate policy formulation and implementation;
- 7. The ongoing divestments by International Oil Companies (IOCs) from onshore oil operations in the Niger Delta must be stopped to compel them to own up, pay up and clean up for their pollution and human rights abuses. The Great Green Wall project and the Lake Chad must be recharged to stop desert encroachment in northern Nigeria;
- 8. Synergy between federal and state-level interventionist institutions such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and their state level counterparts in response to early warnings systems activated by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NHSA) and the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET);
- 9. Training and empowerment of Nigerian journalists to report climate change in-depth, to expose false solutions and sustained spotlight on real solutions to the crisis:
- 10. Formation of a Nigeria Climate Watchdog comprising frontline communities, civil society, development experts, the academia, the media, among other crucial stakeholders to interrogate Nigeria's climate change response pathway and advance the just energy transition campaign;
- 11. Need to protect the rights of the indigenous people, the original landowners whose culture and livelihood are being eroded;
- 12. Need to re-invent the Nigeria Social Forum to accommodate subdemands in the environment and climate change space;

- 13. Alliance building, partnerships, and engagements with the National Climate Change Council, the African Group of Negotiators, and the UNFCCC processes;
- 14. Need to constitute a team that will develop clearly defined granular activities with the mandate to coordinate, prioritize and engage relevant state actors on a jointly developed climate change agenda;
- 15. Climate change must be mainstreamed into the country's educational curriculum to spur interests amongst the youths and breed a generation of environmentally conscious activists. There is also a need to simplify the prevailing climate change policy documents for easy assimilation and engaging of the younger generation;
- 16. Grassroots sensitization on climate change; and
- 17. Initiate a climate engagement plan by civil society with the Nigerian judiciary.

About Corporate Accountability & Public Participation Africa

Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) is a Pan- African non-governmental organisation that works to advance human rights, challenge corporate abuse of natural resources and build community power for inclusive development and participatory governance.

CAPPA is passionately devoted to working with African communities to build partnerships with them towards taking collective social action for the promotion and defence of the rights of peoples. It challenges the abuse of natural resources, the environment and local people by corporate entities and state policies and practices.

The CAPPA team comprises dedicated staff, working with community volunteers, coalitions, and various networks. CAPPA is committed to policies and actions that would help redress the inequality crises in Nigeria and across Africa and enable a socially just and equitable human civilization on the continent of Africa.

CAPPA aims to stop and prevent unsustainable corporate practices, improve inclusive and participatory governance, and mitigate the impacts of harmful corporate and state practices on people and communities. Its mission is to nurture movements of African communities and a new generation of leaders working shoulder to shoulder to demand democratic community and natural resource governance, inclusive participation in development policies processes, end to inequalities and accountability for all forms of corporate and state abuses.

CAPPA envisions a continent whose development path is designed, modelled, and executed by Africans, respecting, and guaranteeing human rights, enabling social justice, and ensuring harmony with the environment. CAPPA works on five thematic areas. They include Social Justice and Public Services, Public Health, Environment and Extractives, Climate Change and Democracy Outreach.

You can read more here: https://cappaafrica.org/about-us/

