

# The GLOCEPS

## Policy Brief

From 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Shaping the Future of Climate Change  
Action Plans for Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa

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### Strengthening Kenya's position on Africa's Climate Change adaptation and mitigation strategies



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#### Introduction

Since the discovery of the Greenhouse effect in 1827, Climate Change has emerged as a global threat that poses multifaceted challenges that transcend beyond environmental concerns to the economy, and security. Consequently, the world is currently addressing its complexity, hence the imperative to explore comprehensive strategies that prioritize the security-climate action nexus, sustainable development, and effective financing mechanisms. This brief delves into a range of interconnected themes that are crucial for tackling the intricate web of existential challenges posed by climate change. It further aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multidimen-

sional nature of these issues by exploring the green growth agenda for Africa and its potential to balance economic development with environmental preservation. Finally, it explores the optimization of continental and global capital to drive climate-related initiatives to contribute to the holistic approach required to address these pressing global challenges. Through a multidisciplinary lens, this brief seeks to shed light on the intricacies of these themes and foster Kenya's informed discussions and innovative solutions for a sustainable future ahead of the Africa Climate Summit, September 4-6 and COP28 in Dubai, November- December.



## Context

Nearly three decades after the initiation of talks on Climate Change at the Berlin Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP1) in 1995 and the subsequent Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP3) in Japan in 1998, the phenomenon continues to devastate political, social, and economic lives across the globe. Significant efforts to address the situation remain in the ongoing preparations towards the African Conference on Climate Change, September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, and UNFCCC COP28 in November–December 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Within this discourse, the GLOCEPS 2nd Annual Conference held at Vila Rosa Kempinski, Nairobi, presented a policy dialogue platform for stakeholders from the Global South, particularly Eastern Africa, to evaluate their climate change mitigation and adaptation journey following the UNFCCC COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.



## Key issues

The following key issues emerge as critical in the just concluded discussions on climate change in the Eastern Africa region in anticipation of the Africa Climate Summit. They are meant to strengthen Kenya's voice in the upcoming summit in Nairobi.

## Climate change - security nexus

The effects of climate change have the potential to amplify existing security vulnerabilities and create new threat dynamics. The degradation of ecosystems intensifies helplessness, creating fertile

ground for exploitation of weakened environmental conditions by criminals. The shifting rainfall patterns and the consequential migrations induced by climate change hold immense socio-economic ramifications with implications on security. Climate-driven population displacement emerges as a critical factor in the context of this interplay, with issues of human trafficking further heightening vulnerability. By 2050, the Horn of Africa could harbour approximately 10.1 million refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Climate change equally plays a critical role in amplifying existing conflicts. The heightened strain on resources due to shifting weather patterns further fuels conflicts. A vital aspect is the escalation of cattle rustling incidents, with changing environmental conditions exacerbating resource-based conflicts. Amidst these dynamics, security challenges loom large, raising questions about the readiness of security agencies to navigate the evolving landscape.

Weak governance structures and insufficient enforcement of legal frameworks continue to amplify the adverse effects of climate change. For instance, the ineffective resource management and land-use policies resulting from inadequate governance are escalating environmental degradation and resource conflicts. Additionally, a lack of stringent law enforcement fosters an environment where criminal networks exploit climate-induced



vulnerabilities for illegal activities like wildlife trafficking and illicit resource extraction. This not only hampers environmental efforts but also contributes to insecurity by fuelling conflicts. Inconsistent legal applications further hinder community resilience- building, exposing vulnerable populations to displacement and resource-related disputes.



## Climate action financing

Significant financing is needed to cushion the African region from its extreme vulnerability to climate change. The need to protect vulnerable countries from the effects of Climate Change is one of the goals of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement. The African Union (AU) estimates that the region needs to invest between \$1.3 - \$1.6 trillion by 2030 for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Most of the climate change financing remains inadequate since they are largely from the public purse or concessional funding like low-interest debt or grants. Evidence indicates that there is a variation among economies between financing options and the transition to climate-smart systems. For instance, low-income economies are characterized by low private-sector financial devolvement resulting in fewer transition trends. On the other hand, middle-income economies like Kenya have comparatively better private-sector financial devolvement for climate-smart investments and financing. However, there is limited evidence of this

translating to significant transition rates, a situation attributed to the nascent nature of private-sector financing. The prevalence of low market awareness or high interest rates characterizes state involvement in the regulation and prioritization of private sector initiatives. Conversely, middle-income economies have more transitions to climate-smart investment attributed to concessional funding, which leads to high national public debt.

It is crucial to focus on and consider alternative approaches to bridge the financial gap. The incorporation of private funding, originating from sources such as carbon markets, private insurance entities, investors, and philanthropists, should complement public financing from governments, development banks, and international organizations. The advancement of innovative financing mechanisms is pivotal for stimulating private investment, aiding Africa in garnering the necessary resources to construct a climate-resilient future. This aligns with the objective of increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency systems in the continent, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Since financing remains a necessity for enhancing the capabilities of financial institutions and regulatory bodies to support diversification into green bonds and associated market, there is need to mainstream the private sector and their financing capacities in tackling climate change across Africa. This is critical in establishing a robust financing ecosystem for climate action mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## Green Growth Agenda for Africa

The green growth is a key priority area for the African Climate Summit. Given that the use of fossil fuels contributes to 75% of global emissions, the green growth shift offers high prospects of achieving the goal of cutting emissions by 40% by 2030 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.





The transformation is expected to increase the demand for raw materials required for clean energy technologies and trigger a permanent decline in fossil fuel use. The resultant effect will present disruptions and opportunities to countries whose economies significantly depend on hydro-carbon and critical minerals respectively. African economies have a distinct advantage in meeting the global demand for critical minerals, mediating the economic repercussions stemming from the green growth shift. However, this pursuit is undermined by poverty inequalities, development barriers, institutional limits, political instability, and inadequate diversification of economic activities.

Harnessing the potential of renewable energy remains critical given the high extent of resource endowment in Africa, yet the level of exploitation remains under-utilized. A systematic shift from fossil fuels towards renewable energy systems could lead to a 25.4% higher welfare index, a 6.4% higher Gross Domestic Product, and 3.5% more economy-wide employment by 2050. With Africa's population expected to grow to 2 billion by 2050, the shift will also help to provide sustainable sources of energy for consumption and commercial purposes. For instance, optimal exploitation of the hydroelectric power potential of the Grand Inga Dam in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can power the entire continent.

However, the transition to renewable energy products and technologies without appropriate control measures could significantly disrupt the socioeconomic and political stability of the region's fossil-dependent countries. This is because approximately 50% of the continent's exports are composed of non-renewable energy, and the continent's non-renewable resources generate approximately 25% of government revenues. There exists opportunity to contribute to the green growth agenda by embracing eco-friendly technologies, and indigenous green innovations, promoting renewable energy, and implementing efficient resource management practices. The whole of society approach at the regional and national level, and the involvement of the private sector, and local communities are deemed critical in the harmonization of green growth policies and action plans.

### **Climate change action and economic development**

There is a recognition that climate change is negatively impacting prospects for economic development within Africa, hence the need to balance development and climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. The agricultural sector and blue economy have continued to, respectively, experience unpredictable weather patterns leading to a reduction in yields and unsustainable marine ecosystems. Globally and regionally, there is a consensus that economic development can be enhanced through the financing of efforts to mitigate climate change effects. This would impact the entire human security spectrum including food, water and health. It is therefore important at the domestic level to enhance social investments such as cash transfers and insurance in order to manage the economic shocks of climate change. Whereas multi-lateral entities are important in funding the



push towards concessional financing and greater domestic investments for national adaptation plans, their interests override the continent's strategic interests.

While the role of the private sector bridging the existing financial gaps has been underscored, there is a need for a whole-of-society approach through inclusion, cooperation, and ownership of climate policies and action plans as envisaged in the Paris Agreement. These conversations are critical to the achievements of Africa Union's Agenda 2063 as in AU's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (AUCCRDSA-2022-2032). The strategy speaks to the need for collective action and development that focuses on enhancing livelihoods and well-being and taking interventions to support low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. Therefore, collaborative efforts involving state and non-state actors and effective governance at local, regional, and global levels are important in realizing sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the pursuit of economic development.



## Optimizing continental and global capital

Climate change has necessitated pooling together of regional and global assets to optimize the global capital essential to drive decarbonisation, support adaptation, and protect the environment.

Africa's collective capital assets such as natural resources, including renewable energy, critical minerals, agricultural potential, and intellectual capital in the diaspora population and military veterans, can be harnessed to help mitigate climate change challenges. This calls for enhancing the continent's capacity to meaningfully participate in multi-lateral climate change negotiations even as she leverages on the capacity of Diaspora Engagement Forums and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). While a comprehensive global capital optimization strategy is required, Africa still needs to need to harmonize the continental position informed by the AUCCRDSA (2022-2032)



## Conclusion

The complex interconnection between climate change and security in Africa emphasizes the immediate need for a comprehensive strategy to tackle these interlinked issues. The urgency of bridging the climate financing gap, recognizing the security implications of environmental changes, harnessing the potential of the green growth agenda, and optimizing global capital underscores the need for a united front in the pursuit of sustainable development. As we stand on the brink of the Africa Climate Summit, these interconnected themes take on even greater significance. The summit provides a unique





platform for policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to converge and deliberate on strategies that transcend traditional boundaries, fostering innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by climate change. The outcomes of

the summit hold the potential to shape a roadmap for the region, leveraging collective efforts to navigate the complexities of climate change while advancing economic prosperity and security.

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## Recommendations

The following recommendations are vital for strengthening Kenya's position ahead of the Africa Climate Summit, Nairobi, 4 - 6 September;

Kenya should urge the African heads of state and governments to;

- a) rally for a common voice, commitment, and coordination in the production of renewable energy to address issues on continental peace;
- b) invest in science to address hurdles to green transitions by leveraging on possible green infrastructure innovations;
- c) spearhead the development and promotion of climate-smart financial market systems and instruments for private credit for medium, small, and micro-enterprises for green development;
- d) create a favorable and enabling environment for investments in climate change projects, including the provision of subsidies for climate-smart financing and the development of clear and transparent regulations for climate-smart investments;
- e) unite African countries to adopt continental stances outlined in the AU Agenda 2063 and the AUCCRDSA-2022-2032;
- f) institutionalize an African Climate Change Fund, independent of national interests, to oversee the mobilization of capital and fair distribution of climate change finances;
- g) advocate for harmonized and effective global tax regimes aimed at increasing/mobilizing capital for funding climate action. The taxes should be collected and pooled in a single global fund, with allocation based on prevention, supporting home-grown mechanisms, and supporting technological innovation;
- h) develop a continental mechanism of engaging the African Diaspora to contribute to capital mobilization and funding for climate action. Diaspora remittances should be directed towards investments in clean energy, smart agriculture, and environmental financing;
- i) leverage private insurance expertise to manage climate change risks.
- j) mainstream climate change and green energy transition courses in school curricular from early learning to tertiary levels of education;
- k) intensify collaborations and partnerships among regional economic blocs' secretariats through green energy roundtables to enhance the coordination in the exploitation of renewable energy while voicing Africa's common position.





**The GLOCEPS, Policy Brief** brings to policy makers precise incisive analyses of policy issues and events locally, regionally and globally. The priority is on topics that have a bearing on Eastern Africa and beyond and are themed on security and defence; transnational organised crimes; foreign policy; governance and ethics and; development. We invite contributions from experts with policy opinions centred on any of the five pillars. Give us your thoughts and feedback through [info@gloceps.org](mailto:info@gloceps.org)



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