Climate justice and sub-Saharan Africa

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Quirk, D.G.(2021): Greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on global temperatures



Global primary energy consumption by source



Primary energy is calculated based on the 'substitution method' which takes account of the inefficiencies in fossil fuel production by converting non-fossil energy into the energy inputs required if they had the same conversion losses as fossil fuels.



Source: Our World in Data based on Vaclav Smil (2017) and BP Statistical Review of World Energy OurWorldIn

OurWorldInData.org/energy • CC BY

International (UN) climate change regime

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1988.
- Rio Summit on Earth 1992 (UN conference on environment and development).
 - UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) consensus vs. 180 parties.
 - Existence of a generally accepted consensus on the climate change as well as the contribution of human activities to this change.
 - Common but differentiated responsibility.
- Kyoto Protocol approved in 1997, in force 2005.

Cumulative CO₂ emissions, 1997

Cumulative carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions represents the total sum of CO₂ emissions since 1751, and is measured in million tonnes.





CO₂ emissions per capita, 1997 Average carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per capita measured in tonnes per year





CO2 emissions per capita (tonnes per year)

Kyoto Protocol

- 4 GHG (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride) + hydrofluorocarbons and pefluorocarbons.
- Reducing of GHG emissions by 5,2 % for the first commitment period of 2008-2012. (4,2 % after USA left). Base year 1990.
- Reduction of emissions from fossil fuel combustion; reduction of emissions in other sectors (land-use or direct industrial emissions); flexible mechanisms Emission trading, CDM, JI.
- Annex I. countries (37 industrialized countries + EU15), Non-annex I. parties.
- First binding international treaty on climate change mitigation, with enforceable (to some extent) targets and schedule, channeling investments into low-carbon technologies.



Iberdrlola (n.d.): Climate Negotiations: 25 year of searching for consensus on the fight against climate change.



Annual CO₂ emissions by world region

35 billion t

This measures fossil fuel and industry emissions¹. Land use change is not included.



1. Fossil emissions: Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO₂ includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

Per capita CO₂ emissions, 2021

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry¹. Land use change is not included.





Source: Global Carbon Budget (2022); Population based on various sources (2023) OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

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Role of the developing countries

- How should developing countries and regions approach decarbonization?
- Is it fair to expect them to take an untested and potentially more expensive lowcarbon path? And at the same time, is it possible not to ask this of them when for example sub-Saharan Africa is projected to represent 40% of the world's population by the end of century?
- Is it feasible, both technically and politically? Considering that the same climate change will dramatically increase their expenses?

Sub-Saharan Africa



Sub-Saharan Africa – energy context

- Region rich with resources (both fossil and renewables) but poor with energy accounts for 6% of global energy demand (3% of electricity), having 18% of the world's population. Over the past 30 years power generation per capita plateued.
- Solid biomass (fuelwood, straw, charcoal, dried animal and human waste) accounts for about 70% of final energy use in the region (80% with SA excluded).

Africa's share in selected global energy and economic indicators and key population indicators, 2010-2021



1) Growing population

- Rapid population growth: 180 million in 1950; 1.3 billion in 2018, 2.2 billion in 2050, and 3.9 billion in 2095.
- Urbanization: by 2030, more than 50% of people will be in cities; by 2050, more than 60%. Around 580 million additional people are expected to reside in cities by 2040.
- Growing working-age population (42% under 15), with nearly 40% living below the poverty line, poses both potential and tension.



2) Investments and economy

- In 2018, around USD 100 billion, or 5.5% of the global total, was invested in the energy sector.
- Less than 3% of the decade's global clean energy investment.
- The economy is smaller than Germany's.
- 65% are employed in agriculture and mining for export.
- The share of people in poverty is decreasing in percentage but increasing in absolute numbers.
- Governance shortcomings preventing foreign investments low-quality institutions.

3) Electricity access

- In 2021, 43% of Africa (around 600 million) lacked electricity, with 590 million in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Covid and Russian war worsened the situation.
- Renewables play an increasing role, including decentralized and off-grid systems.
- Reliable electricity is vital for economic growth. Prices are high.

3) Access to electricity



3) Africa, electricity generation by fuel, 2010 - 2018



4) Clean cooking

- In 2021, over 970 million lacked clean cooking, with population growth surpassing access efforts. Again, Covid and Russian war worsened this.
- Clean cooking offers health, environmental, and economic benefits for women.
- Household air pollution leads to 500,000 premature deaths per year.
- 6% still use kerosene, deforestation for charcoal. LPG usage is increasing.

4) Biomass in cooking

	Investment cost (\$)	Efficiency	Daily hours for cooking	Consumption per household (toe/year)
Traditional cookstoves				
Charcoal	3 - 6	20%	2 - 4	0.5 - 1.9
Fuelwood, straw	0 - 2	11%	2 - 4	<mark>1</mark> .0 - 3.7
Alternative cookstoves				
Kerosene	30	45%	1-3	0.1 - 0.2
LPG	60	55%	1-3	0.08 - 0.15
Electricity	300	75%	1.2 - 2.4	0.07 - 0.13
Biogas digester	600 - 1 500	65%	1-3	0.07 - 0.14
Improved cookstoves:				
Charcoal	<mark>1</mark> 4	<mark>26%</mark>	1 .5 - 3	0.4 - 1.5
Fuelwood	15	25%	1.9 - 3.8	0.5 - 1.6

4) Clean cooking



4) Population without access to clean cooking, 2018



5) Hydrocarbon resources

- The continent, including North Africa, holds about 450 billion barrels of recoverable oil (7% of the global total, mainly in Nigeria and Angola).
- Natural gas usage is limited (5% in the energy mix), with 100 trillion cubic meters available (13% of the global total), often flared (a third of production). New discoveries in Nigeria, Mozambique, and Tanzania offer potential for increased consumption but require costly infrastructure.
- Estimated coal reserves in the south are 120 billion tons (less than 1% of world reserves), with exploration lacking, especially in South Africa and Mozambique.
- Uranium resources, making up 20% of global reserves, are found in Namibia, Niger, and South Africa.

5) Oil and gas net income in Africa, 2010 - 2021



• In Sub-Saharan Africa half of total export value derived from fossil fuels.

5) Nigeria and its oil

- Angola surpassing Nigeria as top sub-Saharan oil producer.
- In Nigeria, regulatory uncertainty, militant activity, and oil theft in the Niger Delta hinder production.
- Oil theft, around 150-200 kb/d, along with spills from sabotage, account for about 7-8% of output.
- Nigeria, a rentier state, is the largest economy in the region, but key human development indicators like education and life expectancy are on par with the regional average.
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KagZ76EXU_l</u>

6) Renewable sources

- Development hindered due to financing, weak grids, and policy uncertainties.
- 4 GW of solar PV added (2010-2018).
- Africa has 35 GW of hydro capacity, with 60% of investments (2010-2015) from China.
- Wind capacity is 5.5 GW.
- Bioenergy makes up 60% of primary energy use.
- Decentralized and off-grid systems are being explored.

Latest development

- Covid caused a recession in Africa, with a 20% drop in oil income leading to underinvestments, disrupted supply chains, and decreased foreign investments.
- Russia's invasion further spiked energy and food prices for import-dependent nations.

Role of the developing countries

- How should developing countries and regions approach decarbonization?
- Is it fair to expect them to take an untested and expensive low-carbon path? Is it possible not to ask them when sub-Saharan Africa is projected to represent 40% of the world's population by the end of century?
- Is it feasible, both technically and politically? Considering that the same climate change will dramatically increase their expenses?

Leapfrogging to...what?

- Energy-intensive manufacturing is a traditional path for economic advancement. Can Africa shift to a service economy without first establishing a strong industrial base, which demands significant energy? This raises questions about technology transfer from more advanced nations.
- Deciding on technologies and systems is crucial: fossil fuels or renewables? Centralized or decentralized energy generation?
- Implementing complex systems requires prior development of technology, education, social norms, legal and financial systems.
- Differentiating between incremental improvements (like solar appliances) and largescale production is essential.

Some extreme weather events, 2022

- Drought and famine claimed 2,500 lives in Uganda, impacting eight million in Ethiopia.
- Nigeria saw over 600 casualties in its worst floods in a decade.
- Southern African nations, including Madagascar and Mozambique, endured six severe storms, resulting in at least 890 fatalities.
- Tunisia experienced scorching temperatures of 48°C in July, fueling intense wildfires.
- In Chad, floods in August and October affected nearly two million people.
- And these are just a few examples...



Africa's energy transition challenges

"Africa today loses between \$7 billion and \$15 billion a year to climate change. And if things don't change, it will be \$50 billion a year by 2030. Africa doesn't have access to the financing it needs to adapt to climate change and meet nationally determined contributions. By 2030 Africa will need between \$1.3 to \$1.6 trillion." - Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank.

Climate justice issue.

Money and technological transfer from developed countries to Africa.

Sources

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- Hafner, M.; Tagliapietra, S.; de Strasser, L.(2017): Energy In Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.
- Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (2018): Electrifying Africa.
- IMF (2019): Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa.
- CarbonBrief (2022): Analysis: Africa's unreported extreme weather in 2022 and climate change

Existing and planned mitigation and adaptation transfers to Africa



1) 53 countries have submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) pledges. Among them, 12 nations—representing over 40% of emissions—have committed to net zero emissions goals. Many African NDCs rely on financial support from developed nations, amounting to a staggering USD 1.2 trillion by 2030.

Impacts of climate change

- It is usually the poor countries that are hardest hit. Without really contributing to the climate change.
- Who should pay the costs of mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damages?