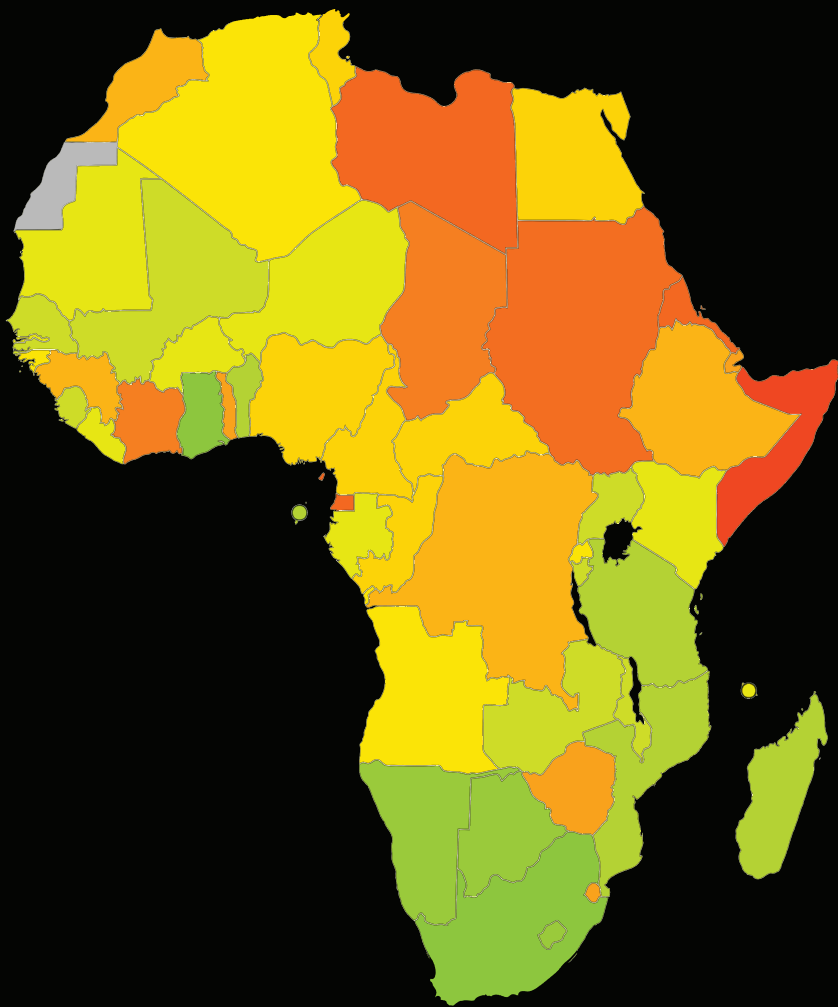


# Climate Change & Good Governance Workshop - *Africa*



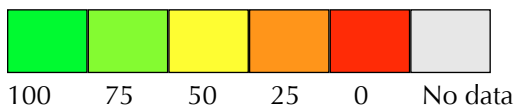
Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana, Legon  
Accra, Ghana  
23 - 24 September 2013



# **Climate Change & Good Governance Workshop - Africa**

**Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS)  
University of Ghana, Legon - Accra, Ghana  
23 - 24 September 2013**

Front Cover: A map of Africa showing countries' scores on the Participation and Human Rights category based on 2009 report of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (*Credit: Mo Ibrahim Foundation*).



Back Cover: IPCC projections of the range of possible changes in surface air temperature for the period to 2100 based on three greenhouse gas emissions scenarios (source: IPCC, 2007 – AR4 WG1, Figure 10.8). The scenarios shown are as follows: B1 – more integrated, and more ecologically friendly growth aimed at global environmental sustainability; A1B – rapid economic development with a balanced emphasis on all energy sources; A2 – a divided world, self reliant nations, continuously increasing population.

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IHDP Earth System Governance Project

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# Welcome Message from START

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The 'Climate Change & Good Governance Workshop – *Africa*', being held in Accra, Ghana, is a product of collaboration among START, the Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies (IESS) and the Earth System Governance (ESG) Project. This event is made possible by the generous support of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) / US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) to START.

Global environmental change (GEC) in Africa is a subject of critical importance for research as well as policy. This is, in large part, due to the fact that changes environment, especially in the components of the hydrological cycle wrought by climate change, intensified land use particularly for food production, and rapid rate of urbanization as well as related developmental malaise such as endemic poverty and low levels of educational and technological development, will make already vulnerable communities in Africa even more so.

START is active in developing, integrating and documenting regional scientific knowledge impacting key socio-economic sectors that are critical to the sustainable development of the region. Key aspect of this knowledge that merits intense and sustained attention is the degree to which climate change impacts are driven and/or exasperated by existing institutional structures, norms, values and characteristics of governance. This workshop will address this important angle and will be the beginning of a sustained and robust effort to address governance dimensions of GEC in Africa in an integrated and inter and multi disciplinary manner. It is my hope that you all will actively engage as a regional network to foster collaborative research priorities emerging from this workshop.

During the two days of this workshop, we must collectively identify priority knowledge, capacity and networking needs related to governance dimensions of climate change that might underpin the individual and collective actions to manage challenges of GEC in Africa. The fact that we have representation of diverse disciplines and universities in the region is to underscore the critical need of advancing interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in GEC-governance research in African universities. Needless to say, I hope this workshop will also enable lasting partnerships, networks and friendships.

I thank all partners and participants for their dedication to make this event possible. I wish you all success.

Hassan Virji, PhD  
Executive Director  
International START Secretariat

# Welcome Message from the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies

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On behalf of the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, I have the deepest pleasure in welcoming this distinguished gathering to the Climate Change & Good Governance Workshop - *Africa*. Climate change impacts, the costs of adaptation/mitigation and disaster response have been recognized in Ghana as factors that will erode developmental gains. It is also recognized that a simplistic approach to this complex problem may result in more harm than good.

The University of Ghana seeks to use the trans-disciplinary approach to address this common and shared problem of climate change and as a means to foster meaningful collaboration between researchers from the various Colleges, Schools and Institutes. A central theme of this initiative is the role that the University can play in the reduction of vulnerabilities and in increasing the resilience of communities to climate change through adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to encourage you not to spend all the time available to you in this country within the walls of the hotels. Do find time to get out enjoying the legendary Ghanaian hospitality, and make the most of your stay in Ghana.

Prof Chris Gordon  
Director, Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana, Legon

# Welcome Message from Earth System Governance

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The Earth System Governance Project is delighted to be able to collaborate with START and the Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies on the 'Climate Change and Good Governance Workshop – *Africa*' in Accra, Ghana.

The Earth System Governance Project is a global research alliance launched in 2009 to provide cutting-edge research on political solutions and novel, more effective governance mechanisms to cope with global environmental change. The normative context of this research is sustainable development; we see earth system governance not only as a question of institutional effectiveness, but also of political legitimacy and social justice.

The earth system governance research agenda spans all levels from the local to the global; it is based on the understanding that in most issue areas of global environmental change – particularly regarding climate change – the causes, consequences and solutions are interlinked and interdependent. This requires, among others, not only a global perspective in research. It also requires global collaboration in studying governance systems at local, national and global levels. To tackle this challenge, the Earth System Governance research alliance offers a global dynamic network of researchers that reflects the interdisciplinary, international, and multi-scale challenge of developing and strengthening effective and accountable governance systems.

Despite substantial efforts since the launch of the Earth System Governance Project, so far African universities have been underrepresented in the earth system governance research community – despite Africa's high vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change that require special efforts in understanding and strengthening governance in Africa.

This workshop in Accra will hence be a great opportunity to share and discuss scientific knowledge within the research framework of the Earth System Governance Project. It is also an excellent opportunity to explore the challenges and potentials around knowledge production on climate change governance in Africa. The workshop will help to understand what knowledge and capacity needs exist and to identify potentials for a strong community of African researchers within the earth system governance global research alliance and for further workshops and conferences.

We are extremely grateful to START and to the Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies for making this event possible, and we wish to thank them for their relentless efforts in organizing the event. I am honored to join our partners in welcoming you all to this workshop on climate change and good governance in Africa – a workshop that we see as a landmark event also in the further development of the Earth System Governance Project.

Professor Frank Biermann  
Chair, Earth System Governance Project

# **Climate Change & Good Governance Workshop - Africa**

## **Accra, Ghana • 23 - 24 September 2013**

### **Background**

The presence of efficient, transparent and equitable governance across scales is central to the realization of sustainable development objectives. Hence, there is a general recognition of the import of these attributes of good governance for environmental sustainability. Despite this general appreciation, however, there are significant knowledge gaps in our grasp of the complex relationships among the different agents, scales and/or attributes of (good) governance and vulnerability to global environmental change (GEC), including climate change. Therefore, there is a critical need to improve our understanding of the role of governance systems and processes as possible drivers and stressors of GEC. This is particularly the case in settings where data, knowledge and capacity gaps on biophysical and socioeconomic vulnerability to GEC are even more pronounced. To do this, there is also a need to foster a strong culture of collaborative, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on governance facets of the diverse sustainability challenges we face today.

The fourth assessment report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change notes that Africa is exceptionally vulnerable to climate change and variability; and, that this is because of 'multiple stresses' that exacerbate the continent's vulnerability to climatic risk. Governance bottlenecks are among these 'stresses'; they are likely worsening, even possibly driving, Africa's vulnerability to climate change. Nevertheless, there is a great deal about climate change in the African continent that we do not know and this is especially the case on the interface between governance dynamics and vulnerability to impacts of climate change in the region.

In furtherance of its long-standing capacity and GEC related research and capacity development work in Africa, START is collaborating with the Earth System Governance (ESG) Project and the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, to convene a select group of experts, academics and thought leaders from diverse disciplines to explore priority knowledge needs in governance dimensions of GEC impacts, in Africa.



## Objectives of the workshop

The principal objective of the workshop is to bring together interdisciplinary team of experts from African Universities and Research Centers to exchange experiences, views and insights on knowledge and capacity needs related to governance aspects of vulnerability to climate change in Africa. Specifically, this workshop aims to:

- \* Explore (good) governance dimensions of climate change in Africa through the ESG analytical framework;
- \* Take stock of experiences in interdisciplinary research relevant to GEC and governance research in Africa, and identify where important knowledge gaps exist;
- \* Discuss ways of promoting interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in governance – GEC research in Africa; and,
- \* Identify concrete workshop follow-on activities.

To further these objectives, the workshop will employ the ESG analytical framework.\*

## Expected outcomes of workshop

- \* Discussion paper on knowledge, capacity and networking needs in good governance, vulnerability and resilience in the African context;
- \* Formation of new, and strengthening of existing, partnerships / networking among institutions and individuals engaged in governance aspects of GEC research and capacity development; and,
- \* Initiate actions to form an Africa Chapter of the ESG project.

The workshop will be hosted by the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), University of Ghana - Legon, Accra, Ghana.

\* The five analytical problems of ESG – so called 5 ‘As’ dwell on the problem of the overall architecture of earth system governance, of agency beyond the state and of the state, of the adaptiveness of governance mechanisms and processes and of their accountability and legitimacy, and of modes of allocation and access in earth system governance. These analytical problems are understood within the context of four crosscutting research themes, namely, the role of power; the role of knowledge; the role of norms; and the role of scale that are crucial for the study of each analytical problem and for the integrated understanding of ESG. (See Biermann et al. 2009. <http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/publication/biermann-frank--earth-system-governance-science-plan.>)

## Day 1: Monday, 23 September 2013

08:00-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:20 **Opening Session**

Chair: *Dr. Elaine Lawson*

Rapporteur: *Dr. Adelina Mensah*

Welcome Messages

*Prof. Chris Gordon, Director, IESS, University of Ghana;*

*Prof. Frank Biermann, Chair, IHDP Earth System*

*Governance Project*

Workshop objectives and expectations

*Senay Habtezion, START*

Self introduction by participants

09:20-10:20 **Keynote lecture**

Earth System Governance in the Anthropocene - An introduction

*Prof. Frank Biermann*

Plenary discussion

10:20-10:30 Group photo

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 **Session 1**

Chair: *Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi*

Rapporteur: *Dr. Raheem Usman*

Presentation: Africa, climate change and 'good' governance: Key research, capacity and networking needs

*Prof. Margaret Fubara*

Discussants: *Dr. Emmanuel Aiyede, Dr. Debay Tadesse*

Plenary discussion

12:30-14:00    Lunch break

14:00-15:30    **Session 2**  
Participatory exercise: Language soup  
Facilitator: *Senay Habtezion*  
  
Group and plenary discussions

15:30-16:00    Coffee break

16:00-18:00    **Session 3**  
Chair: *Prof. Alexander Paterson*  
Rapporteur: *Dr. Elaine Lawson*

**Group Exercise 1**  
Climate change and governance issues in Africa through  
the ESG analytical framework  
Facilitator: *Prof. Alexander Paterson*

19:30-21:30    Cocktail reception

## Day 2: Tuesday, 24 September 2013

08:30-10:00

### **Session 4**

Chair: *Dr. Adelina Mensah*

Rapporteur: *Dr. Debay Tadesse*

Presentation: Promoting interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in climate change and governance research in Africa

*Prof. Chris Gordon*

Discussants: *Dr. Ibidun Adelekan, Dr. Kwabena Gyekye, Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi*

Plenary discussion

10:00-10:30

Coffee break

10:30-12:30

### **Group Exercise 2**

Research, capacity and networking needs in governance dimensions of climate change in Africa

Facilitator: *Senay Habtezion*

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Working group reports and plenary discussion

15:30-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:00

### **Closing Session: Summary, Reflections and Next Steps**

Chair: *Prof. Chris Gordon*

Rapporteur: *Senay Habtezion*

17:00

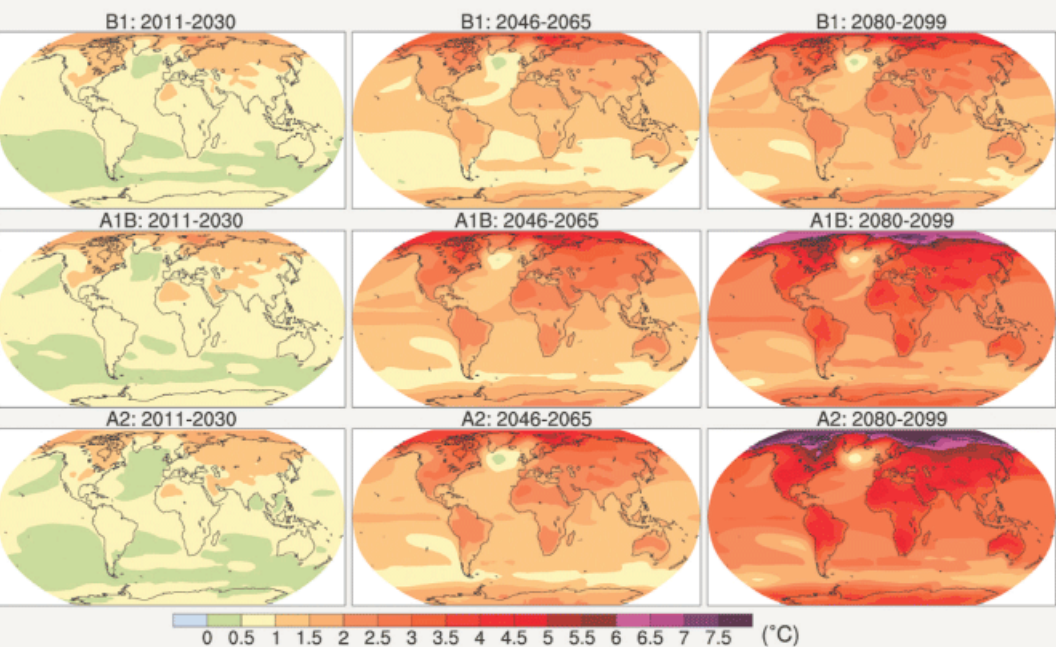
Workshop Adjournment



# List of Participants

- 1. Dr. Emmanuel Aiyele**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Political  
Science  
Coordinator  
Leadership and Governance  
Programme, Centre for  
Sustainable Development  
University of Ibadan  
eaiyele@yahoo.com
- 2. Dr. Ibidun Adelekan**  
Senior Lecturer and  
Researcher  
Department of Geography  
University of Ibadan  
ibiadelekan@yahoo.com
- 3. William Asare**  
A/Registrar  
Institute for Environment and  
Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana  
ariess@staff.ug.edu.gh
- 4. Prof. Frank Biermann**  
Professor and Head  
Department of Environmental  
Policy Analysis  
VU University Amsterdam  
Chair, IHDP Earth System  
Governance Project  
frank.biermann@vu.nl
- 5. Prof. Margaret O. Fubara**  
Professor of Law  
University of Obafemi  
Awolowo University  
mtlaw91@yahoo.com
- 6. Prof. Chris Gordon**  
Director  
Institute for Environment and  
Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana  
cgordon@staff.ug.edu.gh
- 7. Dr. Kwabena A. Gyekye**  
Lecturer  
Department of Geography and  
Resource Development  
University of Ghana  
kgawere@yahoo.com
- 8. Senay Habtezion**  
Program Associate  
International START  
Secretariat  
shabtezion@start.org
- 9. Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi**  
Professor of Law  
Makerere University  
ekasimbazi@yahoo.com
- 10. Dr. Robert Kibugi**  
Lecturer, Environmental Law  
Centre for Advanced Studies  
in Environmental Law and  
Policy (CASELAP)  
rmkibugi@uonbi.ac.ke
- 11. Dr. Elaine Lawson**  
Research Fellow  
Institute for Environment and  
Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana  
elaine\_t@ug.edu.gh

- 12. Dr. Adelina Mensah**  
Senior Researcher  
Institute for Environment and  
Sanitation Studies  
University of Ghana  
ammensah@ug.edu.gh
- 13. Dr. Chipo Mubaya**  
Deputy Director/Senior  
Research Fellow  
Directorate of Research and  
Resource Mobilisation  
Chinhoyi University of  
Technology  
mubayacp@yahoo.com
- 14. Dr. Felix Olorunfemi**  
START/ACCFP Fellow  
Research Fellow  
Nigerian Institute of Social  
and Economic Research  
felixba2000@yahoo.com
- 15. Prof. Alexander Paterson**  
Director  
Institute of Marine and  
Environmental Law  
University of Cape Town  
Alexander.Paterson@uct.ac.za
- 16. Dr. Debay Tadesse**  
Senior Researcher  
Conflict Prevention and  
Risk Analysis Institute for  
Security Studies / Addis  
Ababa  
dtadesse@issafrica.org
- 17. Dr. Raheem Usman**  
Lecturer & Researcher  
Human & Medical Geography  
Department of Geography  
University of Ilorin, Nigera  
uadebimpe@yahoo.com
- 18. Ruben Zondervan**  
Executive Director  
Earth System Governance  
Project  
International Project Office  
Lund University  
ruben.zondervan@esg.lu.se



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International START Secretariat  
2000 Florida Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009 USA  
<http://www.start.org>  
+1 202 462 2213