



# ANNUAL REPORT



This Report is an account of the work of APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute – in 2023. APRI is an independent and nonpartisan African think tank based in Berlin, Germany. It researches key policy issues affecting African countries and the African continent. APRI aims to provide insights to the German and European Union policy-making process on Africa.

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# NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am very pleased to share with you APRI's Annual Report for 2023. The year 2023 has been pivotal in reshaping the global order, marked by the visible impacts of climate change, deep geopolitical shifts, and significant recalibrations in global trade networks. The repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have realigned international alliances and energy strategies, further driven by the global push for sustainable development and digital transformation. The crisis in the Middle East has furthermore added an entirely new layer of complexity to global dynamics.

These developments have not only affected the global economy, but have also intensified the focus on Africa's strategic role in the world. With its rapidly growing, urbanized and tech-savvy population, bolstered by greener energy resources and a commitment to sustainability, Africa is poised to become a powerhouse on the future global landscape.

Since our establishment in 2021, APRI's core mandate has been to contribute to policymaking processes in Germany and at the European Union (EU) level that concern the African continent. Our approach and work have evolved since then to adapt to the rapidly changing geopolitical environment and the fresh complexities it brings.

Looking back, just a week after the 6th European Union–African Union Summit in February 2022, the landscape had changed dramatically as EU attention rapidly pivoted to the Ukraine crisis. This shift prompted APRI to focus on the complexities of a multipolar world and Africa's positioning within it. I am particularly proud of our work on Africa's role in **international relations and geopolitical changes**, culminating in the launch of our **Geopolitics & Geoeconomics** programme in 2024, funded by Stiftung Mercator.

Another significant driver of our work was the outcomes (or lack of outcomes) of COP27, known as the "African COP". The high traffic on the Climate Adaptation in West Africa webpage suggests a strong interest and impact in APRI's climate-related work. In **our engagements with local communities on climate adaptation**, we



Dr Olumide Abimbola  
Executive Director

truly centred those affected by climate change and based policy recommendations on their insights. The Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week were part of our preparation for COP28, highlighting African priorities, including the **lack of affordable finance** to respond to climate change.

Ensuring democratic integrity and stability in Nigeria has profound implications for regional stability and development and, as demonstrated by our **Elections Hub**, the Nigerian elections were another major focus in 2023. As part of this work, we hosted **an event with the Open Society Foundations** on the Nigerian elections, underscoring our commitment to democratic integrity and stability.

Our dedication to these critical issues has driven APRI's growth over the past three years. In addition to growing our staff, our funding has grown by over 300% between 2021 and 2023. This growth has enabled us to enhance our impact and broaden our reach, as shown in the By the Numbers section of this report. One of the ways we have leveraged this growth is through the launch of our podcast series, **The Africa Hour**, available on **Spotify, Apple, Google** and **Pandora**. This series features in-depth discussions with experts on pressing policy issues, allowing APRI to share insights, promote informed dialogue, and amplify African voices in the global policy arena.

Looking forward to 2024, we anticipate numerous challenges and opportunities in the global context that APRI aims to influence. The biggest election year in the world's history is upcoming in 2024, with half the world's population going to the polls. We will closely monitor the enlarged BRICS and its impact on Africa, as well as the elections in Europe and in the United States (US), which will shape external relations with Africa. In addition, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Conference will be a critical focus.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report for 2023. Congratulations to the APRI team on its rigorous and impactful work, and thank you for your dedication and commitment to Africa and Europe's advancement. I encourage readers to engage with our team's work and to explore our website, which is designed with accessibility in mind.

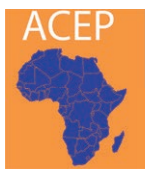
We look forward to forging new partnerships and collaborations as we set out in 2024. Please reach out to us to join in our efforts to create a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for Africa and beyond.

*Olu*

Dr Olumide Abimbola, Executive Director

# APRI PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funders for their generous support and unwavering commitment to our mission. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our work and enabling us to make a significant impact. Thank you for believing in APRI and for supporting our vision for a better, more equitable future for Africa.



**Africa  
Centre for  
Energy Policy**



**CENTRE FOR CLIMATE  
CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT**



**Climate *innovation* Centre  
Ghana**



**ASHESI**



**enda énergie**



**THE GREENS/EFA  
in the European Parliament**

# THANK YOU!





# ABOUT APRI

In early 2020, amidst heightened German and EU interest in fostering robust African economies, APRI was established in Berlin as an independent, nonpartisan think tank. At that time, despite the projected surge in demographic growth – to become home to a quarter of the world's population by 2050 – and its rapidly growing economies, there was no think tank that fully embraced the complexity of African countries through a wide array of policy lenses.

APRI was founded to bridge this gap, offering nuanced analyses and actionable policy recommendations across diverse areas, including domestic affairs, security, agriculture and technology. Our team's work enriches the public debate and shapes European policies toward Africa, ensuring that they are well informed and comprehensive, moving beyond conventional focuses on security and migration to address the intricate socio-economic, political and climate-related dynamics of a continent poised to shape the global future.



# OUR ADVISORY BOARD

APRI is privileged to be guided by a seasoned Advisory Board comprising individuals who bring a wealth of experience across policymaking, academia, research, multilateral organizations, finance, and development in African, German and EU contexts. Their collective expertise, strategic insights and guidance deeply enrich and guide our work, helping to ensure that we retain a focus on what truly matters and produce work of world-class quality.

The Advisory Board comprises:



**Dr Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana**  
Member of the European Parliament representing Germany

**Dr Cyril Obi**

Programme Director, The Africa Initiatives, Social Science research Council (SSRC), New York



**Nanjala Nyabola**

Writer, humanitarian advocate and political analyst

**Professor Baz Lecocq**

Professor of African History at the Humboldt University of Berlin's Institute of Asian and African Studies



**Ebrima Faal**

former Senior Director, African Development Bank; former Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**Professor Andrea Behrends**

Professor of Anthropology, University of Bayreuth



# APRI IN NUMBERS

## PUBLICATIONS

**43** publications in total, of which:

**18** are climate agenda publications

**13** are commentaries and analyses

**121** publications available in German (all years)



## WEBSITE

**54k** unique website visitors



**17**

**EVENTS  
HOSTED**



**1k** newsletter  
subscribers

**5** newsletters sent out

**145%** SOCIAL-MEDIA GROWTH  
**@ 22** MEDIA MENTIONS



**10** APRI podcast episodes featuring  
**24** experts



**317%**  
 funding growth from 2021

**20** STAFF MEMBERS



## MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS (BY WEBSITE VISITS):

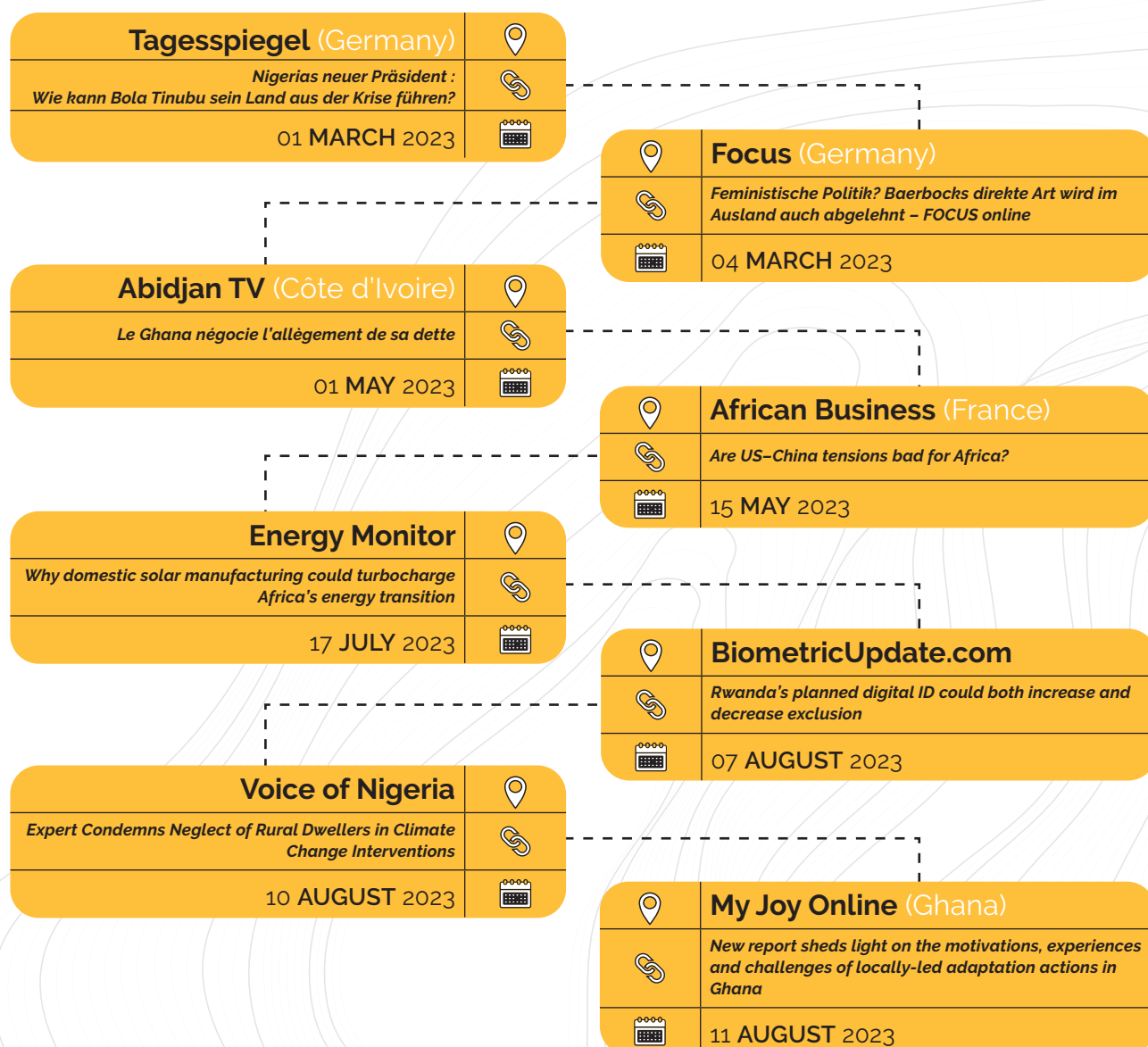
1. The Road to Africa's Single Market: Progress So Far and Challenges for the Future
2. Assessing Turkey–Africa Engagements
3. Foreign Policy: Nigeria Must Get out of Its Own Way
4. Consuming Africa: The Impact of Tourism on Local African Economies
5. Making Feminist Foreign Policy Work for Africa
6. Nigeria 2023 Elections: Contenders, Campaigns, and Change

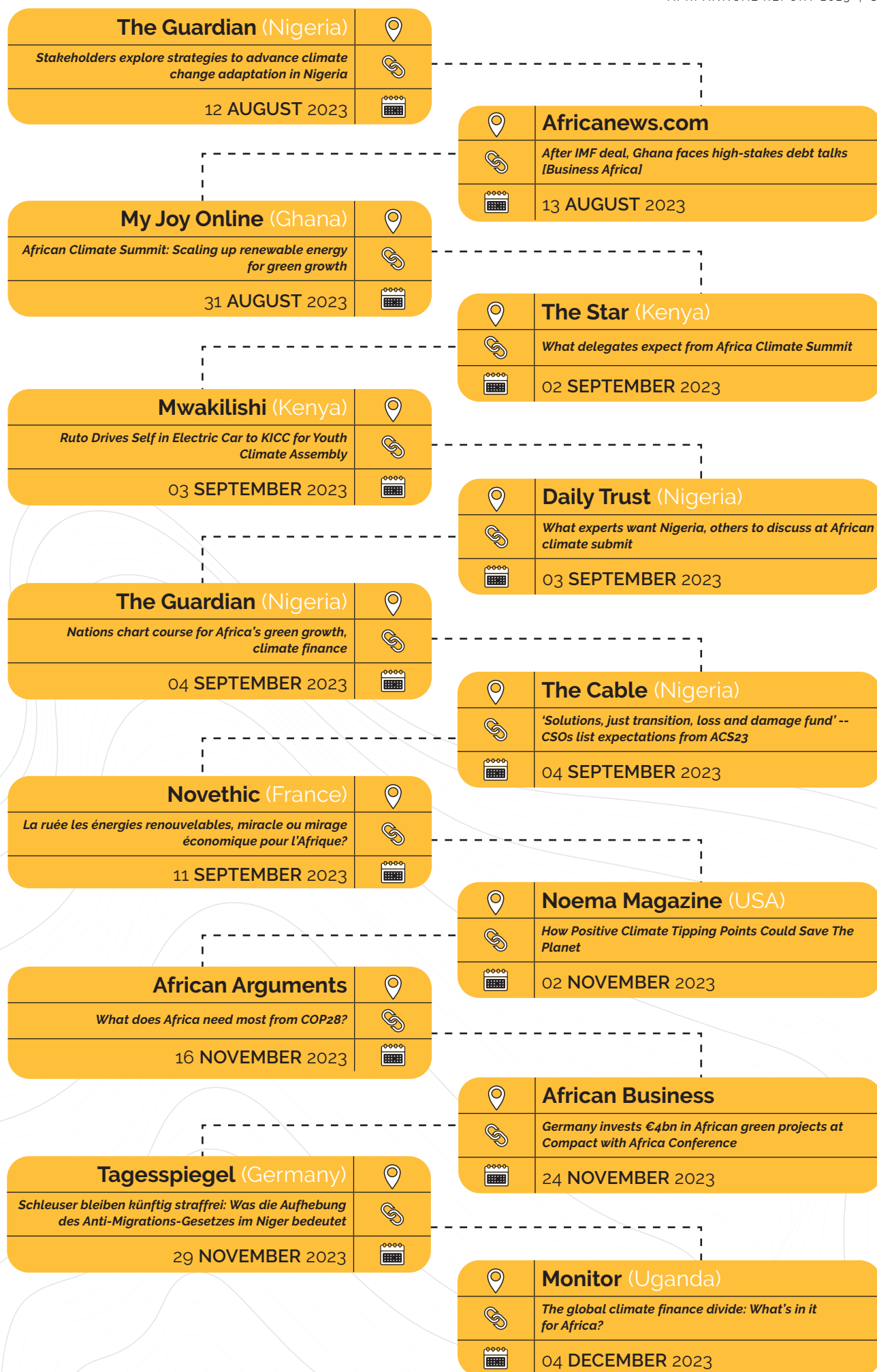


# APRI THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND NEWS

In 2023, APRI received extensive media coverage, showcasing the breadth and impact of our work across various high-profile platforms. Our media presence spanned topics ranging from political stability and economic challenges to climate change and technological innovation, reflecting our comprehensive approach to policy research and advocacy.

For example, our in-depth analysis of Nigeria's political landscape was featured in **Der Tagesspiegel**, and our perspectives on what Africa needs most from COP28 were highlighted in **African Arguments**. Furthermore, our expertise on trade and investment in Africa was recognized in **discussions** on Germany's substantial investment in African green projects. These and other media engagements reflect APRI's commitment to ensuring that African voices are integral to shaping global policy and public discourse.





# ECONOMY & SOCIETY

In 2023, APRI's Economy & Society (E&S) Programme served as a dynamic incubator, exploring new issues and focusing on the intricate interplay between Africa's socio-economic development and its strategic global positioning. Against a backdrop of profound global shifts – climate change, geopolitical tensions, and recalibrations in trade networks – the E&S Programme investigated critical issues from an African perspective, ensuring that the continent's voice was integral in shaping policies and dialogues in German and European policymaking spaces.

## Advancing Trade through AfCFTA

A major focus for the team was the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the world's largest free trade area, bringing together the 55 countries of the African Union (AU) and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to create a single market for the continent. The programme explored how Africa could position itself to leverage investment opportunities and navigate the rules surrounding this landmark trade agreement, highlighting its strategic importance in the context of global trade realignments.

To this end, we **made recommendations** on how the proposed Pan-African Trade and Investment Agency (PATIA) could transform Africa's investment landscape, and **analysed** how the AfCFTA could reduce socio-economic disparities. A policy brief analysed the **status of AfCFTA implementation** and

## Key Recommendations for AfCFTA Implementation

APRI also conducted an **in-depth review** of the progress and remaining challenges in respect of the implementation of the AfCFTA, offering critical insights into steps needed to fully realize the benefits of a single African market:

- Larger states should take a cooperative approach to implementation and make greater concessions for the collective benefit;
- Institutionalize local and foreign support to ensure sustainability and prioritize sustainable trade finance;
- Control messaging and narratives around AfCFTA to prime governments and the public for implementation challenges and to strengthen support;
- Weigh critical decisions against AfCFTA's long-term objectives; do not prioritize short-term benefits; and
- Increase private-sector participation in negotiations and implementation to enhance trade facilitation.

For more details, read **the policy brief**.



outlined future challenges, reinforcing the need for strategic action to realize the full potential of a unified African market. In addition, we hosted a **webinar** that brought together key stakeholders to address the importance of coordinated efforts in promoting Africa's single market.

The team also **detailed strategies** for harmonizing investment-promotion efforts across the continent, calling for coordinated efforts and regional value chains.

Notably, we **highlighted pathways** for enhancing German investment in Africa through the AfCFTA framework. Key recommendations include the need for German investors to take an ecosystem approach to investing in Africa, anticipating the various inputs that a mature ecosystem will require and investing in their production, and the need for Germany to support the development of AfCFTA's logistics sector.

## Election Integrity and Geopolitical Considerations

The programme team also delved into election processes in **Zimbabwe**, Nigeria and the **DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)**, addressing not only the democratic integrity of these elections, but also their geopolitical implications within EU and German foreign-policy contexts. This work was consolidated into an **Elections Hub**, providing a comprehensive resource on election dynamics and their broader geopolitical impacts.

Ensuring democratic integrity and stability in Nigeria has profound implications for regional stability and development, and so the team examined the **key candidates** and their platforms, and provided commentary on "the elephant in the elections room" – the country's **public finance** woes. In exploring prospects for **democratic reforms post-election**, we emphasized the need for robust governance and transparent electoral processes in order to ensure stability and effective governance. We also hosted a post-election event in partnership with the Open Society Foundations to discuss the **key priorities and challenges** that the new Nigerian administration will face.

This work complemented our policy work on Africa's most populated country in 2023, where we explored **Nigeria's foreign policy challenges**, the **burden of responsibility** on its political class regarding security, and strategies for accelerating the country's **climate change response**.

### Stay Informed with the **APRI Elections Hub**

#### Why Visit the Hub?

- Get the latest election updates – we stay up to date.
- Access comprehensive reports.
- Gain insights from political experts.



## Africa's Geostrategic Positioning in Global Organizations

Recognizing Africa's evolving role in rapidly changing global geopolitics, largely driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the team analysed and recommended strategies for Africa's participation in international bodies such as the G7, BRICS and the G20. This focus aligned with our broader goal of ensuring Africa's strategic positioning in shaping global policies, addressing both opportunities and challenges.

To further explore these dynamics, we hosted a discussion during the IV Turkish–African Business and Economic Forum, which examined the growing significance of **Türkiye–Africa relations**, focusing on the strategic partnership and its implications for Africa's broader geopolitical strategy. In addition, we conducted an **in-depth assessment** of Turkey's engagements with Africa, analysing how these evolving relationships impact Africa's geopolitical positioning and economic strategies. These efforts provided valuable insights into how emerging alliances, like those with Turkey, are reshaping Africa's interactions on the global stage.

Our policy brief on the **G7 Climate Club** highlights its potential and challenges for African countries, following the announcement by the G7 in December 2022 that it planned to establish the Climate Club, an intergovernmental forum that is supposed to accelerate actions on climate change to limit global warming emissions to 1.5° C.

The team's report on the **European Green Deal** explores opportunities for African businesses arising from green economic activities. Furthermore, our analysis of **BRICS, the EU, and the Russia–Ukraine conflict** examines the impact of shifting international alliances on African policy and economic strategies, emphasizing the need for strategic navigation. This work is complemented by a webinar hosted by APRI to discuss and reflect on the **BRICS summit's key outcomes** and to provide recommendations to enhance intra-BRICS cooperation and BRICS–Africa relations – this following the invitation by BRICS to six countries to become full members of the bloc.

## Germany–Africa Relations

Germany–Africa relations have become increasingly pivotal in shaping both continents' futures, with APRI's special series on **What is Germany's Africa Policy?** offering valuable insights into this dynamic partnership. This work explored how Germany's new **energy cooperation strategies** could drive sustainable development in Africa while supporting Germany's own energy transition. Our focus on **Germany's feminist foreign policy** highlights its potential to promote gender equality and inclusive development across Africa. We also examined the implications of **Germany's new migration policy for African countries**, emphasizing the need for collaborative approaches to manage migration effectively.

Further, our analysis of **Germany's role in African health systems** calls for more equitable partnerships to address the unique health challenges faced by the continent. In the realm of trade, we have detailed **how Germany can enhance economic ties with Africa** by leveraging regional complementarities and supporting the AfCFTA. These efforts collectively underscore the importance of a nuanced and strategic approach to Germany–Africa relations, ensuring mutual benefits and stronger geopolitical ties.

We are delighted that our work on Africa's role in global organizations is culminating in a new programme **Geopolitics & Geoeconomics** in 2024, emphasizing the continent's strategic positioning and influence in shaping global policies.

Complementing this work, we held an expert discussion in collaboration with the German Africa Foundation, addressing the critical role of **renewable energy in Africa's economic and geopolitical strategy**. The discussion centred on the necessary steps to drastically increase investment in the sector and explored how Germany's Africa policy could contribute to achieving these goals.

### Green Technology and Youth Employment

The greentech agenda emerged as a critical area of focus, particularly through the **Mastercard project**. This initiative highlighted how technological innovations in green startups could drive youth employment and entrepreneurship, as well as sustainable development across Africa. By examining **the potential of green technologies** at the continental level, in our flagship greentech scoping report, the programme sought to provide actionable recommendations for fostering an environment conducive to youth-led, tech-driven growth. For a snapshot of the major takeaways of the scoping report, read the Special Reports/Projects section that follows. The report was launched during an **expert panel discussion** co-organised with Mastercard.

"While climate change presents significant risks to Africa's development agenda, the required green transition also presents a unique opportunity. This report highlights that greater policy dialogue to support Africa's green tech industry can contribute toward improving young people's access to jobs that are not only dignified and fulfilling, but that are also environmentally sustainable."

*Dr Eunice Muthengi, Director of Programme and Strategic Research at the Mastercard Foundation.*

Read **the report** [here](#).

# SPECIAL REPORTS/ PROJECTS

## Making Climate Change Jargon More Accessible: A Glossary

Climate change discussions often involve complex jargon that can be a barrier to the understanding and awareness of the impacts of climate change and how to engage with climate action. To make these important conversations more accessible, APRI has created a glossary that explains key climate change terms in clear, simple language. This resource is designed to help everyone engage more effectively with climate issues and take informed action. **Here is a snapshot:**

### Nature-based Solutions

#### *Definition*

"Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems, that address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."

Source: **The World Bank**

#### *Explainer*

Nature-based solutions involve **restoring and protecting natural ecosystems and environments**. They include restoring coral reefs, use of regenerative agricultural practices, planting indigenous crops that are drought resistant and suitable for carbon sequencing and soil quality restoration, reintroducing green spaces in urban areas and reforestation.

A prominent example of the commitment to nature-based climate solutions was **the alliance** formed at COP27 by Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to half of the world's tropical rain forests.



## Adaptation

### Definition

"The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects."

Source: IPCC

### Explainer

Adaptation occurs through a number of adjustments that could reduce the harmful impacts of climate change on lives, livelihoods, ecosystems and the environment. In the context of the African continent, these adjustments include shifting to more drought-resilient crops in areas facing drought, sustainable water and forest management, reforestation and the use of renewable energy. **In its second sub-goals**, COP26 underscored the importance of adaptation by calling on the world to come together to "urgently adapt to protect communities and natural habitats". Examples of locally led adaptation actions in Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana can be found [here](#).



## Just Transition

### Definition

"Just transition is the term used to describe the transition to a climate-neutral economy while securing the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities."

Source: EUROFUND

### Explainer

Just transition is a global strategy to **move toward a greener economy** without leaving anyone behind. It increases climate action while minimizing any negative impacts of the transition. In **South Africa**, for example, just transition is exemplified in the energy transition from coal to renewable energy sources. To ensure a just and equitable transition, experts and civil society have called on policymakers to take a holistic approach and to focus on **change on multiple fronts**, beyond the energy sector, including in the social and economic spheres.



## Intersectionality

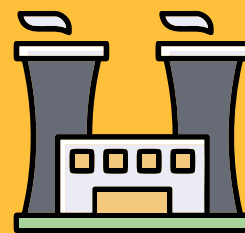
### Definition

"The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination 'intersect' to create unique dynamics and effects."

Source: CIJ

### Explainer

"Intersectionality" is a term coined by the feminist and legal scholar **Kimberlé Crenshaw**. Crenshaw observed that the law was experienced differently depending on someone's race, gender, class or level of ability. Intersectionality is a lens through which to understand applications of power and the inequality produced by ignoring varying identities. **Intersectional environmentalism** argues that wealthy, empowered individuals would be more likely to recover from climate disaster than those with multiple vulnerable identities. For example, **pollution has a greater impact on low income and/or communities of colour**, who are more likely to live in areas directly affected by industry pollutants. **Women and men are also known to experience climate change** impacts differently, with women more vulnerable than men. Thus, to follow this example, low-income women of colour are more vulnerable to environmental shocks. Intersectionality helps us to underscore these inequalities and transform policies accordingly.



## Local and Indigenous Knowledge System

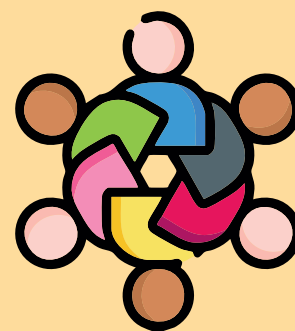
### Definition

"Local and indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings."

Source: UNESCO

### Explainer

Indigenous communities hold unique skills, strategies and practices to contribute towards **locally appropriate adaptation** and **mitigation**, such as identifying the most resilient crops and best approaches to environmental monitoring. **Case studies of indigenous forms of climate change intervention** include the efforts of community members in the Chagaka Village in Chikhwawa, Southern Malawi, where indigenous knowledge systems have intervened in the agricultural repercussions of changes in rainfall patterns. More examples of locally led adaptation actions in Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana can be found **here**.



## Loss and Damage

### Definition

"Loss and damage normally refers to the destructive impacts of climate change that cannot be or have not been avoided by what is known as 'mitigation' (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) or 'adaptation' (adjusting to and building resilience against current and future climate change impacts)."

Source: **Chatham House**

### Explainer

The issue of loss and damage was first brought to world attention in **1991 by Vanuatu** on behalf of small-island developing states and least developed countries. Since then, it has evolved as a climate justice issue central to negotiations between vulnerable countries and countries that contribute most to climate change.

In 2022, loss and damage issues made it to the UN Climate Change Conference COP27's agenda for the first time. The **result** was the establishment of a loss and damage fund for countries at risk and vulnerable to climate change impacts.

There are three dimensions to loss and damage:

- Past or historic loss and damage – what has already happened and, in some cases, may be irreversible, e.g. loss of life or property.
- Current loss and damage – what people are now experiencing, e.g. loss of livelihoods.
- Potential (future) loss and damage – what may arise from continued impacts of the climate crisis.



## Climate Change and Health

### Definition

"Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter."

Source: **WHO**

### Explainer

Climate change presents significant **risks to the health and well-being of humans**. Climate change impacts such as heatwaves, floods and destruction of health and social infrastructure influence the determinants of health and well-being such as the physical environment, and water and air quality, especially in already vulnerable and at-risk communities in developing countries. Addressing climate-induced health risks and burdens also contributes to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).



## Key Takeaways from Our Greentech Continental Scoping Report, Supported by Mastercard

Our greentech project with Mastercard focuses on how technological innovations in green startups can drive youth employment, entrepreneurship and sustainable development in Africa. The key findings of **the continental scoping report** include the following:

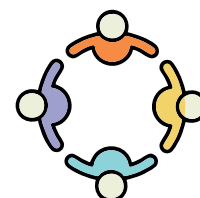


### Addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution

Green technology encompasses more than just climate tech. It also offers employment potential by tackling biodiversity loss and pollution.

### Holistic and inclusive socio-ecological design

Green technology development must adopt an integrated, multisectoral approach that centres on local communities, respects their knowledge, and ensures their participation in choosing, developing and using technology. This should align with the needs of relevant industries



### Inclusive and context-sensitive strategies

There are no standalone green technology policies in Africa at the continental or national level. Instead, green technologies are usually considered within climate and development policies and/or STI (science, technology and innovation) policies. They are also considered at the sectoral level. As such, a tailored approach, sensitive to the unique contexts of individual African countries, is required to develop green technologies at the continental and national levels and in ways that can create jobs. This strategy should prioritize just decarbonization and dematerialization while expanding employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for the youth and women.

### Integration of indigenous knowledge

Although policies acknowledge the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge, findings show its practical integration remains limited. Strengthening this integration is crucial for more effective outcomes, as technology includes not just physical infrastructure but also methods and approaches.



### Opportunities for policy coherence and youth engagement

Youth entrepreneurship and employment are largely absent from current research on green technology in Africa. There is a significant opportunity to enhance policy coherence and align national and regional strategies with international green technology programmes so as to foster youth employment and entrepreneurship.



# CLIMATE ACTION AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Like many other developing countries, Africa is in the unenviable position of facing severe climate change impacts, despite contributing the least to the problem. Africa must carefully balance its goals of economic growth and job creation with its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Our objective is to understand what this balance means for policymaking, with our work informed by three critical pillars: socio-economic development, health and well-being, and justice.

Our work in 2023 focused on addressing the multifaceted challenges of climate change in Africa, exploring the intersections of climate adaptation, policy development and international cooperation, particularly in the lead-up to COP28. To this end, our climate programme team produced a total of 18 publications and hosted 10 climate-focused events that brought together diverse stakeholders, experts and policymakers from around the world.

## COP28: Building on the “African COP” (COP27) of 2022

COP27 at the end of 2022, dubbed the “African COP,” set a precedent for COP28 by centring Africa's climate challenges and opportunities on the global stage. This focus highlighted the need for substantial climate finance and equitable solutions to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the continent, which then became a key focus of our work in 2023.

A fireside chat on COP27, informed by our **flagship 2022 climate finance report**, kicked off our efforts, providing a platform for in-depth discussions on the outcomes and implications of the conference. We also analysed the then newly announced Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative in an **Expert Interview with Dr Nick Bernards**, exploring the Global Shield's potential benefits, limitations, and implications for climate action and sustainable development.

The creation of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 motivated the team to **investigate the remaining complexities around operationalising the fund**, finding that deft political skill will be required of negotiators to advance the recommendations of the Committee and ensure that the fund is robustly designed and supported by all parties.

Later in 2023, in the run-up to COP28, the team analysed **The Dual Imperatives of Africa's Trade and Climate Goals**, exploring how Africa's pursuit of sustainability in trade and production, coupled with innovative financial mechanisms like Green Bonds and public-private partnerships, can shape a resilient and prosperous future that positions the continent at the forefront of global sustainability efforts. The team also **made critical recommendations** before the conference for including the voices of African youth in their fight for a sustainable future.

## APRI at COP28

At COP28 in Dubai, the team hosted two prominent events in the Zero-Carbon Future pavilion.

- **Local Solutions, Global Impact: A Deep Dive into West Africa's Climate Adaptation Landscape** highlighted successful local adaptation strategies from West Africa and their global implications. Moderated by the head of our Climate Change Programme, Dr Grace Mbungu, the session featured African and global experts from Senegal, the African Development Bank (AFDB), the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre, the Ministry of the Environment Nigeria, and the University College of London.
- **From Promises to Partnerships: Opportunities to Reshape Africa-Europe Partnerships for Effective Climate Action**, jointly hosted with the **Clean Air Task Force**, brought together representatives from the AU Commission, the EU Commission, APRI (our Executive Director), and the African Climate Foundation.



## Climate Change Adaptation in West Africa

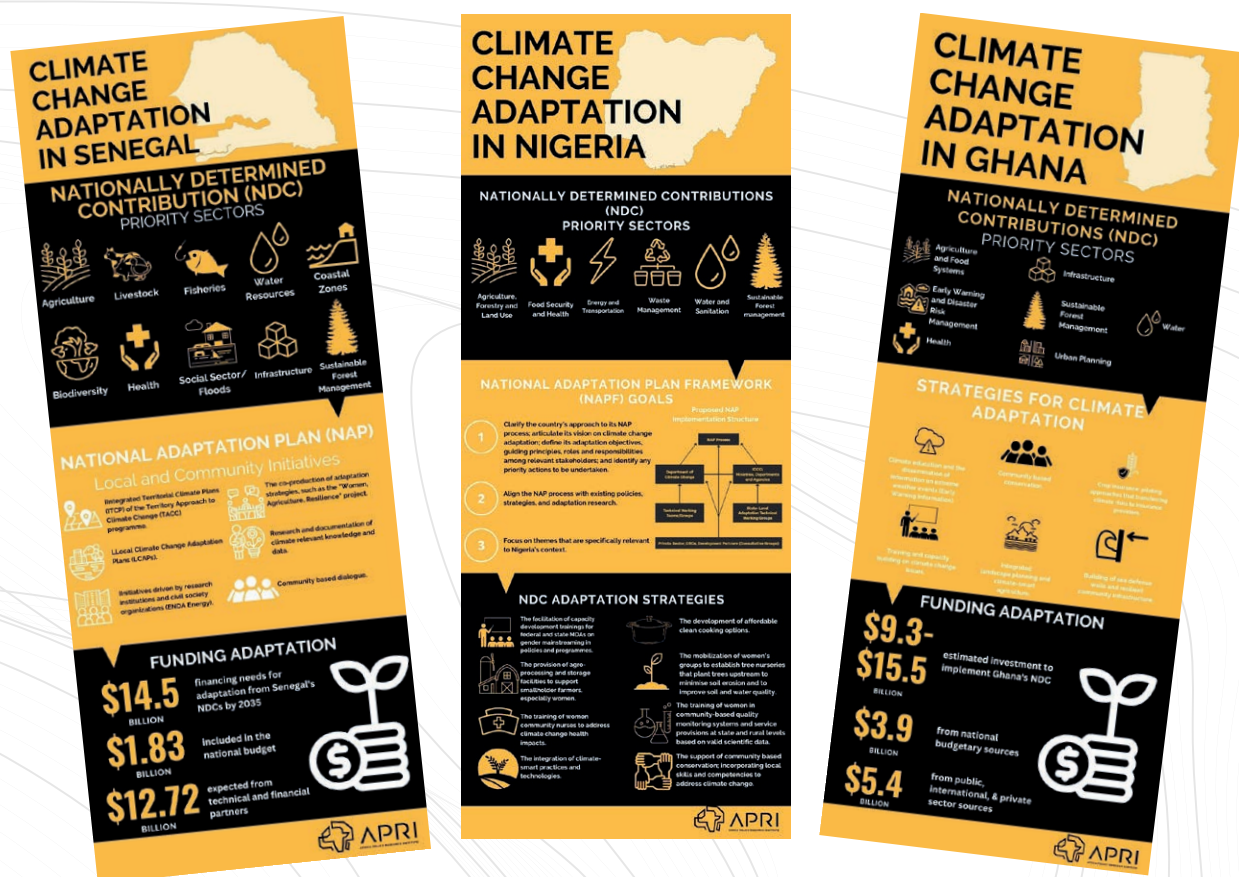
Climate change adaptation and resilience building are crucial for West African countries like Nigeria, Senegal and Ghana, which face significant vulnerabilities due to their geography, extensive coastlines and large populations. These nations are particularly susceptible to sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and climate-related weather impacts. Our work in 2023 shows that inequalities in resilience between sectors and regions necessitate both top-down and bottom-up adaptation approaches.

To this end, our team produced a range of publications and analyses focusing on adaptation efforts in **Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana**. Notably, **APRI's at-a-glance factsheets on the climate adaptation landscape in West Africa** provide excellent overviews of the priority adaptation sectors, initiatives and strategies in each country.

Three APRI reports on unlocking the adaptation potential in **Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria** make for essential reading. They highlight unique, locally led adaptation strategies, practices and lessons to guide the implementation of each country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate actions at both local and national levels.

The reports were launched in August in the run-up to COP28 during in-person workshops hosted with valued local partners, the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre (GCIC), the Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment Nigeria (DCC), the Centre for Climate Change and Development (CCCCD – AEFUNAI) and Enda Energie, in **Mbour, Accra and Abuja**, respectively.

An APRI **webinar** in November then brought together the researchers from Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal to share findings, lessons learnt and experiences, with a view to drawing lessons for cross-country adaptation actions.





## Communities taking action to build resilience and adaptive capacities

The aforementioned reports were informed by ten case studies which detail the diverse knowledge and dynamic strategies, practices, and actions employed by local communities in Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal to address the impact of climate change and enhance resilience.



### Senegal:

- Climate-smart village model in Daga Birame preserves agricultural systems and income-generating activities.
- Dionewar's nature-based solutions address coastal erosion.
- Widou Thiéngoly's early-warning system mitigates health impacts from heat waves.



### Ghana:

- **Northern Ghanaians** embrace organic shea processing and tree planting to combat food insecurity.
- Aboabo is tackling urbanization challenges with waste management.
- The fisherfolk of Keta town innovate against coastal erosion threats.



### Nigeria:

- Communities around the depleted forests of Owode Town turn to organic waste to restore biodiversity.
- Aquaculture hubs in Abesan and Shagari Estates innovate against climate threats for the purpose of food security.
- Abatete's subsistence farmers confront the devastating impacts of gully erosion.

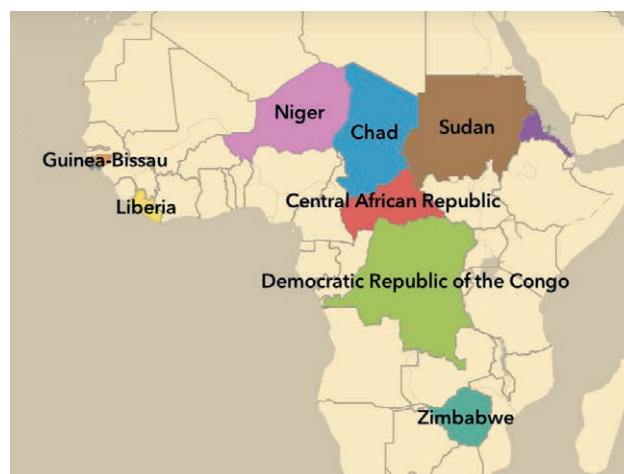


These select case studies highlight diverse actions undertaken by local communities to enhance resilience and adaptive capacities.

## Africa's Climate Policies

Our climate policy work continued apace in 2023 and the team produced several important deliverables in this area in the run-up to and after the Africa Climate Summit, the Africa Climate Week 2023 and COP28. Good policymaking is underpinned by rigorous data, with APRI's interactive map of **climate change impacts in Africa** showing the effects on key sectors in Africa's nine most vulnerable countries.

Following the Africa Climate Summit in September, our **Expert Interview with Dr Lily Odarno**, Director of the Energy and Climate Innovation Program (Africa) at the Clean Air Task Force, explored some of the missed opportunities and pressing priorities for African stakeholders in the global climate debate. Our **report** covering the summit, highlights the need for novel no- to low-cost forms of climate finance.



Top 9 most vulnerable and least resilient African countries to climate change

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Chad                             | 6. Sudan    |
| 2. Central African Republic         | 7. Niger    |
| 3. Guinea-Bissau                    | 8. Zimbabwe |
| 4. Eritrea                          | 9. Liberia  |
| 5. Democratic Republic of the Congo |             |



"Being the first climate summit held in Africa focusing explicitly on Africa's climate future, it carried significant symbolic relevance. However, we lost an opportunity to capitalize on the summit by defining the climate crisis through an African lens. The issues that took precedence at the summit, particularly the focus on carbon markets, failed to capture the true essence of the climate challenge in Africa, where there is also a crisis of development and energy poverty. The first African Climate Summit should have captured this complexity in its entirety to bring the appropriate solutions into focus."

*Dr Lily Odarno*



In addition, we explored **Nigeria's energy transition** amidst its political transition. Finally, APRI hosted an expert discussion co-hosted by the Deutsche Afrika Stiftung (DAS), which brought together African and German policymakers to discuss how to **accelerate renewable energy investments in Africa**, considering that Africa's share of total, cumulative, global renewable energy investments from 2000 to 2020 was only 60 billion dollars.

Another significant policy-focused commentary was provided by the head of our climate change programme, Dr Grace Mbungu, on the **German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act**. Grace explored the strengths and potential pitfalls of the Act, emphasizing its implications for African human rights and environmental protection within supply chains.

## About APRI

APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute is an independent and nonpartisan African think tank. It researches key policy issues affecting African countries and the African continent. APRI provides insights to the German and European Union policy-making processes on Africa. In addition, APRI provides policy options to African policy makers and civil society actors.



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Image: High view point hazy cityscape of Accra, Ghana  
(Shutterstock)