

# Climate Related Security Risks in Sub-Saharan-Africa

13 – 14 May 2020, Hotel Fraser Suites, Abuja, Nigeria

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## Program Overview

<b>Organizer:</b>	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change Sub-Saharan Africa, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon
<b>Target groups:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Political representatives of national, regional and international institutions</li> <li>(ii) (Academic) experts on climate related security risks in Sub-Saharan Africa</li> <li>(iii) Civil Society representatives working on the topic of climate security and resilience.</li> </ul>
<b>Venue</b>	Hotel Fraser Suites, Abuja, Nigeria
<b>Objective of the activity:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Provide detailed information on the impact of climate change on security threads (human security, food security etc.) and provide strategies and solutions to resolve climate risks</li> <li>(ii) Contribute to the discussion on regional and international initiatives to fight climate related security risks.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b>	Participation costs (round trip economic flight ticket, hotel and food, visa fees) for the conference will be covered for selected participants from outside Nigeria. KAS welcomes self-funded participation of interested individuals.

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## Context:

According to the African Union and the United Nations, Africa is the continent most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and climate variability: This is due to the fact that Africa's economy depends to a large extent on sectors that are sensitive to climate variability such as agriculture, still the economic backbone of many African countries. Second, socio-economic factors such as lack of economic diversification, poor infrastructure, limited access to global markets and limited financial capital result in restricted capacities to adapt to a changing environment.

The vulnerability of African countries to the impact of climate change can have severe security implications. Climate change is not the reason for conflicts, but it can act as a risk multiplier if other factors for instability such as social conflicts, poverty, weak institutions and poorly functioning governance structures exist. Climate change has the potential to intensify land-use conflicts and aggravate natural resource conflicts. It can trigger environmental migration and consequently contribute towards general instability in a country or region.

The **Lake Chad Basin** is an example how climate change can go well beyond environmental factors and have negative implications on human security. More than two million people in the region around the lake have been displaced due to armed violence and a far larger number is suffering from severe food insecurity. Environmental degradation and climate variability is threatening the livelihoods of the rural population, and different population groups compete for scarce natural resources, thus adding to long existing social tensions that are originating from marginalization and discrimination.

The increase in extreme weather events over the past years has led to more crop and livestock diseases in the **Horn of Africa** region, resulting in food insecurity. A high variability of rainfall also affects livestock migration in the area, leading to a deterioration of the grazing areas and the outbreak of violent conflicts between the different pastoral groups over the scarce availability of natural resources for their livestock.

The **Sahel region** is another illustration of the interdependence between climate change and security. Climate change is not responsible for terrorism, but its consequences create a fragile environment marked by food insecurity and scarce natural resources which terrorist groups can use to offer economic incentives and alternative livelihoods to their supporters.

The links between climate change, conflict and vulnerability are not linear or causal, but the increasing effects of climate change can have severe implications on the security situation in Sub-Saharan African countries and worldwide. The United Nations Security Council has recognized the connection between climate change and security. The importance of this topic has also been acknowledged by Germany as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council 2019/2020 and features among the priorities of the German agenda.

Within this context, the Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organizes this conference on climate related security risks in Sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to shed light on the complex relation between climate change and security in the three geographic areas described above. It also intends to discuss political solutions on the

regional and international level that could potentially mitigate the risks of climate related security risks.

**Themes:**

Assessing the current impact of climate change on different security aspects in the three geographical areas Sahel, Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. Discussing regional and international political initiatives that could prevent climate related conflicts.

The attending experts will contribute their knowledge in the following ways:

- (i) Provide detailed information on the impact of climate change on security threads (human security, food security etc.) and provide strategies and solutions to resolve climate risks
- (ii) Contribute to the discussion on regional and international initiatives to fight climate related security risks.

**Objectives:**

This conference will bring together policy makers, experts and academics from African countries to exchange knowledge, to discuss and formulate answers to the themes mentioned above. The aim is to generate ideas and recommendations that will result in a position paper document to be published as a conference's proceeding.

**Structure:**

The conference welcomes actors and players from governmental entities, academia and civil society and will be divided into

1. Panel discussions and
2. Round-Table discussions

The first day will consist of four panel discussions. On the second day, participants can deepen their topic of interest by choosing one of four roundtables.

A moderator and a rapporteur will facilitate the round table discussions. At the end of the conference, the rapporteurs will briefly present the outcome of each round-table discussion.

**Schedule and Venue:**

The conference will be held in Abuja, Nigeria. It will start on the evening of May 12 with an informal welcome dinner and will finish with the closing ceremony on May 14.

**Working Languages:**

The working languages will be English and French. Translations will be provided for the panel discussions.

**Costs:**

For invited guests, the organizers will cover all expenses related to the participation of the event. This includes:

**Transportation:**

Round trip economy flight ticket for international participants; for national participants travel reimbursement will be delivered under reception of their travel tickets and original invoices.

**Accommodation & Meals:**

Both, hotel and meals will be provided to participants during the period of the meeting.

**Documents  
registration: for**

If you are interested to participate, please submit the following documents:

1. Short biography (150 words maximum);
2. Updated short CV (3 pages maximum);
3. Passport data page.
4. Preferred travel route

IMPORTANT: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) will confirm your invitation via email. Costs will be covered only if you have received a written confirmation. All flights and accommodation will be booked by KAS only. Individual booked flight and accommodation will not be reimbursed.

**Further  
Information:**

For further inquiry do not hesitate to contact Dr. Armand Fopah Lele at [armand.lele@kas.de](mailto:armand.lele@kas.de)

*The event will be accompanied by photographs. By registering, participants declare their consent that the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change Sub-Saharan Africa will use the photos taken before, during or after the event for press and public relations purposes.*