



International Conference on Climate Change and Natural Resources Conflict in Africa: Entebbe, Uganda, 14 May 2009

Call for Papers

Background

Climate change phenomenon is a global concern, which typically threatens the sustainability of the livelihoods of the majority of the population living in the developing countries. Africa, particularly, the Sub-Saharan region is among the most vulnerable regions of the continent that is likely to be negatively impacted by climate variability and change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 1996) Africa's vulnerability arises from a combination of many factors, including extreme poverty, high rate of population increase, frequent natural disasters such as droughts and floods, and agricultural practices (both crop and livestock productions) that are heavily dependent on rainfall. Extreme natural occurrences such as floods and droughts are becoming increasingly frequent and severe. The high vulnerability of Africa to the negative impacts of climate variability and change is also attributed to its low adaptive capacity.

Climate variability and change has further exacerbated the scarcity of natural resources in the continent leading to conflicts in access, ownership and use of the same. Natural resources scarcity is known to trigger competitions for the meagre resources both from individuals and institutions hence affecting human security in the continent.

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) through its Environmental Security Programme (ESP) is organising an international conference to bring together experts, practitioners, policy makers and researchers to share experiences on the best practices in handling this unavoidable environmental insecurity. This is in recognition of the fact that climate change and its impacts are a complex phenomenon that requires a multi-disciplinary approach in addressing them. ISS, as a research institution, works towards a stable and peaceful Africa characterised by sustainable development, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and collaborative security.

The conference, therefore, aims at addressing the following questions among others: How vulnerable are the economies of Africa to climate variability and change impacts? How are national and regional institutions prepared to mitigate the impacts of climate variability and change? How is climate variability and change likely to affect existing traditional norms governing access, use and management of natural resources in the continent? Are the environmental related policies in African countries effectively addressing issues related to climate variability and change?

These questions and others will be explored and addressed through, but not limited to, the following conference themes:

Thematic areas of the conference

Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Climate change and access to natural resources

National environmental legislations, policies and climate change

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Natural Resources Governance

Papers are solicited from one or more of the above thematic areas. Furthermore, other cross-cutting issues such as gender and indigenous knowledge as they relate to climate change are also welcomed in addition to the above themes. The papers that will be presented in the conference will afterwards be published in a Monograph series of the Environmental Crime Project (ECP) of the Institute for Security Studies. The papers will be peer reviewed before they are accepted for publication.

Timelines for submission of the papers:

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts should be received by ISS, Nairobi office, not later than **18.00hrs on Tuesday 31st March 2009**. Abstracts received thereafter will not be considered

Submission of full papers.

Full papers should be received by ISS, Nairobi office, not later than **18.00 hrs on Thursday 7th May 2007**.

Please Note: Only authors whose abstracts will have been accepted will be contacted for submitting full papers.

Mode of submission of abstracts/papers;

Abstracts and papers **SHOULD** be submitted electronically to:

Dr. Donald Anthony Mwiturubani: e-mail: amwiturubani@issafrica.org

and

Dr. Rose Mwebaza: e-mail: rmwebaza@issafrica.org ;Copied to: Dr. Wilson K. Kipkore:
e-mail: wkipkore@issafrica.org