

## **The Influence of Political Systems on Climate Change Policy Implementation in Africa**

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### **Abstract**

*Climate change presents significant challenges to Africa, exacerbating existing difficulties such as poverty, food security, and insufficient infrastructure. This study aims to explore the influence of political systems on climate change policy implementation in African countries. A systematic literature review approach was employed to gather and analyze relevant studies from academic journals, reports, and policy documents. The synthesis of the findings indicates that political systems, including democratic, authoritarian, and decentralized systems, play a crucial role in determining the success of climate change policy implementation across the continent. Key challenges such as corruption, political instability, weak governance structures, and lack of financial resources hinder effective policy implementation. However, opportunities exist for improving policy implementation, such as regional cooperation, international support, and integrating climate change into national development plans. The study recommends strengthening democratic processes, enhancing regional and international cooperation, addressing corruption and strengthening governance structures, integrating climate change considerations into national development plans, and enhancing capacity at the local level. These recommendations aim to facilitate a united global endeavor to address the intricate challenges of climate change in Africa.*

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**Keywords:** *Political systems, climate change, policy implementation, Africa, vulnerability*

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## Introduction

The issue of climate change is intricate and necessitates a united global endeavor to tackle its effects. Africa confronts a variety of difficulties, including poverty, food security, and insufficient infrastructure, which are worsened by the repercussions of climate change. Africa, with its diverse climate zones and ecosystems, encounters a broad array of climate-related issues such as prolonged periods of drought, destructive floods, severe heatwaves, and the expansion of desert areas (Adelekan et al., 2022).

Climate change poses significant risks to the agricultural sector in Africa, which is essential for the livelihoods of many Africans, especially those in rural areas (UNEC, 2019). Changes in climate patterns have detrimental effects on crop yields, livestock production, and water availability, which ultimately lead to decreased food security and a heightened risk of hunger (Jalali & Helming, 2018). The agricultural sector in Africa heavily relies on rain-fed agriculture, making it particularly vulnerable to unpredictable weather conditions (Engelman & Kendrick, 2019). Rising global temperatures and changing rainfall patterns have severe implications for crop production. Droughts and flooding, both of which are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, can cause significant crop losses (Mendelsohn et al., 2018).

Moreover, heat stress can affect livestock production by reducing feed availability and quality, leading to lower productivity and potential economic losses for pastoralists (Thornton et al., 2014). These impacts contribute to the overall decline in agricultural productivity, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity in Africa (Azam-Ali et al., 2016). Furthermore, climate change influences the spread of diseases and pests, posing additional threats to food production in Africa (Tabi & Njoya, 2016). Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns provide favorable conditions for the proliferation of pests and diseases, such as locust outbreaks and malaria transmission (Githeko et al., 2013). These outbreaks not only directly harm human health but also damage crops, thus reducing agricultural yields and exacerbating food insecurity (Mutebi & Misra, 2016).

The impacts of climate change extend beyond agriculture, affecting various aspects of human well-being in Africa. Increased temperatures are associated with a higher risk of heat-related illnesses, such as heatstroke and dehydration (Opondo et al., 2016). Extreme weather events, including hurricanes and floods, are becoming more frequent and intense, leading to the loss of homes, livelihoods, and even lives (Doherty et al., 2017). These impacts disproportionately affect marginalized communities that lack the resources and infrastructure to cope with and recover from such events (Adger et al., 2020). African countries already face challenges in accessing clean water and sanitation, and climate change intensifies these issues (Tirpak et al., 2019). Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns impact water availability and quality, leading to water scarcity and an increased risk of waterborne diseases (Foster et al., 2014). The lack of clean water and sanitation contributes to the spread of diseases, including diarrhea and cholera, further compromising the health and well-being of African communities (Mara et al., 2010).

To address these challenges, African countries have taken steps to address climate change by developing and implementing policies and strategies. The continent has witnessed collaborations among countries through regional frameworks and agreements such as the African Union, the

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). Some African countries have made commendable strides in addressing climate change concerns within their national development agendas. Ethiopia stands out for its notable Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE), which strives to achieve middle-income status while maintaining environmental sustainability (Tadesse et al., 2020). By integrating climate change action into its development plans, Ethiopia aims to foster economic growth, poverty reduction, and climate resilience. The CRGE strategy focuses on several key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, construction, and industry, emphasizing low-carbon and climate-resilient approaches (Tadesse et al., 2020).

Ethiopia's CRGE strategy demonstrates its commitment to transitioning to a low-carbon economy by 2025. The country's ambitious goals include achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, expanding renewable energy sources, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure (Gebreslassie & Woldetensay, 2021). The strategy has attracted international recognition and financial support from various partners, including the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank (Tadesse et al., 2020). Rwanda has also emerged as a leader in tackling climate change through its proactive policies and initiatives. One noteworthy action taken by the country is the nationwide ban on plastic bags, which was introduced in 2008 (Githiri & Mwaura, 2020). This action showcases Rwanda's commitment to environmental conservation by discouraging plastic waste, which significantly contributes to pollution and climate change. The ban has driven the adoption of alternative eco-friendly packaging materials, promoting sustainable consumption and waste management practices.

Rwanda has demonstrated its commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation through various strategies, such as the National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development (NSCC) and the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS) (Githiri & Mwaura, 2020). These strategies aim to transition Rwanda into a low-carbon and climate-resilient country by promoting sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, green cities, and climate-sensitive land management practices (Githiri & Mwaura, 2020). However, the successful implementation of these climate change policies largely depends on the political systems in place. The commitment and prioritization of climate change concerns by governments play a pivotal role in determining the allocation of resources, policy coherence, and the integration of climate considerations into various sectors.

In some African countries, the effective implementation of climate change policies is hindered by various factors that pose significant challenges. Political instability is one such factor. The instability can arise from frequent changes in government leadership, political unrest, and conflicts, which create an uncertain environment for long-term planning and commitment to climate change policies (Aklin & Urpelainen, 2014). The lack of policy continuity and disrupted resource allocation make it challenging to develop and implement comprehensive and sustained climate change strategies. Corruption is another obstacle that undermines the implementation of climate change policies in African countries. Misappropriation of funds designated for climate change initiatives can hinder progress and limit the availability of resources required for effective implementation (Arndt et al., 2014). Corruption erodes public trust in government efforts, leading to a decrease in support and prioritization of climate change concerns. It is crucial to address corruption through transparency and accountability measures to ensure the efficient use of resources for climate change initiatives.

Weak governance also contributes to the challenges faced in implementing climate change policies in African countries. Institutions with low capacity for policy implementation and coordination among various government departments can lead to fragmented approaches and inefficient resource utilization (Carbonnier & Krause, 2018). Strengthening governance structures and building technical expertise are essential for integrated and effective policy implementation. Limited financial resources are a significant constraint, making it difficult for African countries to prioritize climate change initiatives. With competing priorities such as poverty alleviation and economic development, immediate socioeconomic needs often take precedence over long-term climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts (Ding et al., 2014). Access to adequate financial resources is crucial for investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable practices, and technological advancements.

Inadequate technological capabilities further exacerbate the challenges faced in implementing climate change policies. African countries often lack the necessary expertise, knowledge, and access to advanced technologies to effectively address climate change impacts (Avidan et al., 2021). Building capacity in technical fields and promoting technology transfer can help overcome these challenges and enhance the implementation of climate change policies in the region.

Climate change is often perceived as a long-term issue that struggles to gain political traction and public support due to competing immediate concerns. Policymakers and citizens tend to prioritize pressing issues such as poverty reduction, healthcare, and unemployment over long-term environmental challenges (Adenle & Manning, 2017). Raising awareness about the urgency and relevance of climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as highlighting its interconnectedness with other challenges, is necessary to secure political will and public support. Nevertheless, there are promising signs of progress. The international community has recognized the importance of supporting African countries in their efforts to address climate change. Financial mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, aim to provide funding to support adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries, including African nations.

## **Methodology**

This research article employs a systematic literature review approach to gather and analyze relevant studies from academic journals, reports, and policy documents. The search strategy focused on identifying empirical studies that explore the influence of political systems on climate change policy implementation in African countries. The synthesis of the findings from the selected studies provides insights into the varying degrees of influence exerted by political systems on climate change policy implementation across the continent.

## **The Influence of Political Systems on Climate Change Policy Implementation**

- **Democratic Systems**

Democratic political systems are characterized by citizen participation, accountability, and transparency, which can have a positive influence on climate change policy implementation. In such systems, citizens are able to actively engage in decision-making processes, allowing for a more inclusive and representative approach to addressing climate change concerns.

One of the key advantages of democratic political systems is the opportunity for citizen participation. In these systems, individuals have the right to voice their opinions, concerns, and priorities, enabling them to actively participate in the decision-making process. This can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of climate change issues and help policymakers create more effective and targeted policies. Through public hearings, consultations, and participatory forums, citizens can contribute valuable knowledge, expertise, and perspectives, ensuring that policies address a broader range of concerns and interests. Public participation in climate change policymaking has been recognized as a crucial element in achieving sustainable solutions (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). By involving citizens, democratic political systems foster a sense of ownership and responsibility towards climate change mitigation and adaptation measures (Bäckstrand, 2003). When individuals are given the opportunity to engage in decision-making processes, they become more invested in the outcomes and are more likely to support and comply with the resulting policies.

Democratic political systems enhance accountability in climate change policy implementation. Elected officials are held responsible for their actions and decisions by the public through regular elections, media scrutiny, and public opinion. This accountability encourages policymakers to take climate change concerns seriously and work towards effective policy implementation. Public scrutiny and accountability mechanisms also discourage corruption and unethical practices that may hinder climate change initiatives (Bäckstrand, 2003). Transparency is another critical component of democratic political systems that positively influences climate change policy implementation. These systems prioritize access to information, public disclosure, and the transparency of decision-making processes. Citizens have the right to access government data, policies, and initiatives related to climate change. This transparency facilitates public understanding and engagement, ensuring that policies are fair, unbiased, and evidence-based. Additionally, transparent decision-making processes allow for the identification of potential conflicts of interest and the evaluation of policy effectiveness (Bäckstrand, 2003).

Democratic political systems also foster collaboration across sectors and levels of governance. Climate change is a complex issue that requires collaborations among various stakeholders, including government, civil society organizations, businesses, and individuals. In a democratic system, different perspectives and interests can be acknowledged and reconciled through inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. This multi-stakeholder collaboration enhances the likelihood of implementing effective and inclusive climate change policies that account for diverse perspectives and address the needs of different societal groups (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004).

Furthermore, democratic systems foster collaboration across sectors and levels of governance. Climate change is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders. Democratic political systems encourage dialogue and engagement among different actors such as government agencies, civil society organizations, businesses, and academia. Such collaboration encourages the sharing of resources, knowledge, and expertise, leading to more comprehensive and innovative policy solutions.

- **Authoritarian Systems**

Authoritarian political systems can hinder the effective implementation of climate change policies due to centralized decision-making, limited public participation, and weak accountability mechanisms. In these systems, power is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals or a single governing body, allowing for minimal input and influence from the public. This lack of citizen participation can lead to policies that do not adequately address climate change concerns and fail to consider the unique needs and perspectives of different societal groups. In authoritarian political systems, climate change policies may be deprioritized in favor of other development objectives, such as economic growth or political stability (Princen, 2005). Government officials often have the authority to set priorities and allocate resources, which can result in climate change initiatives receiving limited funding and attention. This deprioritization can undermine the capacity of climate change policies to effectively mitigate and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

The lack of public participation in decision-making processes in authoritarian systems can exclude valuable knowledge, expertise, and perspectives. Without input from affected communities, scientists, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, decision-makers may overlook crucial considerations in climate change policy development and implementation (Bäckstrand & Lövbrand, 2016). This exclusion can lead to policies that fail to address the specific needs of different regions, social groups, and sectors, resulting in less effective and equitable outcomes. In authoritarian political systems, where power is concentrated in the hands of a few, public participation is often limited or entirely disregarded (Giddens, 2012). The decision-making process primarily involves high-level government officials who may lack adequate knowledge and understanding of the complexities and nuances of climate change issues. Without the engagement of a diverse range of stakeholders, the policy development process may be insufficiently informed and fail to consider alternative perspectives and innovative solutions.

When communities and individuals are excluded from the decision-making process, their concerns, experiences, and knowledge are not adequately considered. This exclusion can perpetuate existing inequalities and exacerbate social, economic, and environmental disparities, as marginalized groups may be disproportionately affected by climate change (Parks et al., 2015). For instance, indigenous communities living in vulnerable regions or low-income populations residing in areas prone to extreme weather events are often more directly impacted by climate change. Excluding their perspectives and needs from policy development can lead to a misalignment between policies and the realities of different social groups, resulting in less effective and equitable outcomes.

Moreover, public participation serves a crucial role in enhancing the legitimacy and acceptance of climate change policies (Bäckstrand & Lövbrand, 2016). By involving a broad range of stakeholders, decision-makers can benefit from diverse knowledge, expertise, and perspectives that can contribute to more comprehensive and context-specific policy solutions. Public participation also fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility, empowering individuals and communities to actively contribute to addressing climate change. In authoritarian systems, public participation can be facilitated through mechanisms such as citizen consultations, public hearings, and participatory decision-making platforms (Jun, 2019). These platforms provide opportunities for engagement, dialogue, and collaboration between policymakers and stakeholders, ensuring that multiple viewpoints are considered in the formulation and implementation of climate change policies. By valuing public participation, decision-makers can

achieve policies that align more closely with the needs and aspirations of the population, ultimately leading to more effective and equitable outcomes.

Accountability mechanisms in authoritarian systems are often weak and lack transparency. Limited checks and balances, combined with centralized power, can contribute to a lack of accountability among government officials responsible for climate change policies (McAllister et al., 2019). This absence of accountability makes it difficult to ensure that policies are implemented effectively and that resources are allocated appropriately. Without robust monitoring and evaluation systems and independent oversight, there is a higher risk of corruption, mismanagement, and ineffective implementation of climate change policies. In authoritarian political systems, power is concentrated in the hands of a few, often without adequate mechanisms for transparency and accountability (Linz, 2000). Decision-making processes can occur behind closed doors, with limited opportunities for public scrutiny or input. This lack of openness and transparency can lead to suspicions of favoritism, corruption, and nepotism, undermining public trust and confidence in the government's ability to address climate change appropriately.

With limited accountability, government officials may lack the incentives to prioritize the effective implementation of climate change policies. Without independent oversight and mechanisms for holding decision-makers accountable for their actions, there is a higher risk of non-compliance, misallocation of resources, and diversion of funds intended for climate change initiatives (Peters, 2019). Consequently, the overall effectiveness of policies aimed at mitigating climate change impacts and promoting sustainability can be compromised. Monitoring and evaluation systems play a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness of climate change policies. These systems enable the assessment of progress, identify gaps, and provide feedback for policy adjustments. In authoritarian systems, however, monitoring and evaluation processes may be limited or non-existent, reducing the ability to track policy outcomes and identify areas for improvement (Ciplet et al., 2015). This lack of information and data hinders evidence-based decision-making and the ability to effectively address the evolving challenges posed by climate change.

The absence of independent oversight organizations, such as environmental agencies or ombudsman institutions, further undermines accountability in authoritarian systems (Bäckstrand & Lövbrand, 2016). Independent bodies can play a critical role in investigating and exposing instances of corruption, inefficiency, or non-compliance with climate change policies. Without such organizations, cases of misconduct may go unnoticed, perpetuating a culture of impunity and hindering efforts to address climate change effectively. Weak enforcement and insufficient coordination among relevant stakeholders are also common challenges in authoritarian political systems (Bäckstrand & Lövbrand, 2016). Climate change policies require coordination across various sectors, including environmental agencies, energy regulators, transportation authorities, and local governments. However, the lack of effective mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and coordination in authoritarian systems can hinder the implementation of comprehensive climate change strategies.

In authoritarian systems, decision-making processes are often centralized, and coordination among different government agencies and departments may be limited (Ding et al., 2017). This lack of coordination can result in inconsistencies and gaps in policy enforcement, undermining

the intended effectiveness of climate change measures. For example, if one agency responsible for enforcing emission reduction standards does not effectively coordinate with another agency responsible for monitoring industrial activities, enforcement efforts may be haphazard or ineffective. The absence of a collaborative framework and platforms for information sharing and coordination can further exacerbate enforcement challenges in authoritarian systems (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2006). Without mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of data, experiences, and best practices, relevant stakeholders may operate in silos and miss opportunities for synergistic actions. This fragmentation can lead to duplication of efforts, inefficient resource allocation, and inadequate responses to climate change.

- **Decentralized Systems**

Decentralized political systems, characterized by the devolution of power to local or regional authorities, have gained attention as potential avenues for effective climate change policy implementation. These systems, in contrast to centralized or authoritarian political structures, enable the participation of local actors and offer opportunities for context-specific responses to climate change (Bulkeley et al., 2014). By leveraging local knowledge, resources, and capacities, decentralized systems can foster innovative and tailored approaches that address the unique challenges and priorities of different communities or regions (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2014).

One of the significant advantages of decentralized political systems in climate change policy implementation is their ability to tap into local knowledge. Local communities possess valuable insights about their specific environmental vulnerabilities, socio-economic dynamics, and traditional practices that can inform effective climate action (Betsill et al., 2015). This knowledge can contribute to the development of locally relevant adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring that policies respond to the specific needs and circumstances of the affected communities (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2014). For instance, a coastal community may rely on local expertise to design measures that address rising sea levels, whereas an agricultural region might focus on implementing sustainable farming practices. Moreover, decentralized systems provide a platform for resource mobilization and coordination at the local level. Local governments can effectively engage with community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, and grassroots movements to pool resources, collaborate, and catalyze action on climate change (Bulkeley et al., 2014). For instance, local authorities may partner with community groups to initiate renewable energy projects, implement waste management strategies, or enhance ecosystem restoration efforts. By aligning climate action with local priorities, these partnerships can garner community support and create a sense of ownership, strengthening the chances of successful implementation (Betsill et al., 2015).

There are challenges associated with implementing climate change policies within decentralized systems. Limited capacity at the local level, including financial and technical resources, can hinder the effective implementation of climate change initiatives (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2014). Local governments may lack the necessary expertise or financial means to design, enforce, and monitor climate policies. This constraint can be exacerbated in economically disadvantaged regions or areas with weak institutional frameworks. Overcoming these limitations requires increased support from higher levels of government, as well as capacity-building initiatives



targeting local actors (Betsill et al., 2015). Furthermore, disparities in resources and institutional support across different regions can impede the equitable and widespread implementation of climate change policies within decentralized systems. Wealthier or politically influential regions may have greater access to resources, enabling them to more effectively tackle climate change challenges, while marginalized or economically disadvantaged regions may struggle to keep pace (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2014). Addressing these disparities requires mechanisms to redistribute resources, improve inter-regional cooperation, and ensure that marginalized communities are not left behind in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

The effective implementation of climate change policies is a critical challenge faced by many African countries. Political instability, corruption, and weak governance have a significant influence on the ability to address and combat climate change effectively. (Ouattara, 1997)

Political instability is a significant challenge for climate change policy implementation in Africa. In countries where political instability is a common feature, efforts to address climate change are often compromised or put on the backburner. The constantly shifting political landscape creates a volatile environment that hinders long-term planning and consistency in policy formulation and implementation. In countries plagued by civil unrest, such as ongoing conflicts or political violence, addressing climate change and its consequences becomes a secondary concern. The immediate and urgent nature of these conflicts diverts resources and attention away from comprehensive climate change policy implementation. Similarly, countries grappling with frequent coup attempts or changes in government experience a lack of stability, making it challenging to maintain continuity in climate change policies.

Political instability can lead to frequent changes in leadership, where new governments may have different priorities and agendas, including policies related to climate change. This inconsistency in political leadership can disrupt the continuity of climate change policies, hindering their effective implementation. Additionally, when a new government takes over, it often needs time to understand the existing climate change policies and may choose to revise or abandon them altogether. This discontinuity causes delays and setbacks in efforts to address climate change. Moreover, political instability undermines the trust and cooperation necessary to address climate change at the regional and international levels. Instability often leads to strained relations with other countries or institutions, limiting the opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and financial assistance. Effective climate change policy implementation requires active participation in international forums, agreements, and initiatives. Political instability can weaken a country's ability to engage in these processes and hinder its capacity to access funding and technology transfers.

To overcome these challenges, fostering political stability is essential. This can be achieved through building strong democratic systems, promoting good governance practices, and strengthening institutions responsible for climate change policy formulation and implementation. Investing in capacity-building programs for policymakers and bureaucrats can help ensure a better understanding of climate change issues and enhance the ability to develop and implement tailored policies. Additionally, increased regional cooperation and collaboration can alleviate the negative effects of political instability. By sharing experiences, best practices, and resources,

countries can collectively work towards climate change policy implementation despite individual challenges. Regional organizations, such as the African Union and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), can play a crucial role in facilitating such collaborations.

Corruption is an additional crucial obstacle to the implementation of climate change policies in Africa. Widespread corruption not only diverts funds that are specifically designated for climate-related projects but also undermines the institutional capacities necessary to address climate change challenges. Moreover, it hampers transparency and accountability, adversely affecting the efficient and effective implementation of climate change policies. In many African countries, corruption is deeply ingrained in the political and administrative United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2017) systems, creating a pervasive culture of dishonesty and bribery. This culture of corruption greatly hinders climate change policy implementation by siphoning off funds and resources that are meant to be allocated towards climate adaptation and mitigation measures. As a result, the limited financial resources available for tackling climate change are depleted, leaving African countries more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017)

The embezzlement of funds intended for climate change initiatives not only deprives communities of vital resources but also severely undermines the trust and credibility of government institutions. When corruption is widespread, people lose faith in the government's ability to effectively address climate change. This lack of trust can erode public support for climate change policies and hinder cooperation between government and civil society. Furthermore, corruption weakens the capacity of institutions responsible for climate change policy formulation and implementation. It creates a system where merit and expertise take a backseat to personal connections and bribery. Consequently, decision-making processes become skewed, and policies may not be based on scientific evidence or the needs of the population. This lack of institutional capacity further hampers the effective implementation of climate change policies, as qualified individuals may not occupy key positions or be able to influence policy direction.

To address corruption in the context of climate change policy implementation, African governments should prioritize anti-corruption measures and strengthen their institutional frameworks. This includes implementing robust legal and regulatory mechanisms that discourage corrupt practices and promote transparency and accountability. It is essential to establish effective systems for monitoring and auditing climate-related expenditures to ensure that funds are utilized for their intended purposes. International support and cooperation are also crucial in tackling corruption in climate change policies in Africa. Donor countries and international institutions can play a significant role by providing technical assistance, capacity-building programs, and financial support specifically targeted towards anti-corruption efforts in the context of climate change. These measures can enhance the capacities of African countries to detect and prevent corruption, thereby enabling more efficient and effective climate change policy implementation.

Weak governance and a lack of institutional capacity significantly contribute to the hindrance of climate change policy implementation in Africa (Adger, 2007; Ampaire, 2020; United Nations, 2020). In many African countries, institutions responsible for overseeing climate action lack the necessary resources, expertise, and mechanisms to effectively plan and implement climate-

related projects. This not only leads to delays and inefficiencies but also hampers the overall effectiveness of climate change policies. Furthermore, inadequate regulatory frameworks exacerbate the challenges faced in implementing climate change policies. The absence of clear rules and standards hinders the ability of institutions to enforce compliance and hold accountable those who fail to adhere to climate-related regulations. This creates an environment where corrupt practices, such as embezzlement of funds allotted for climate-related projects, can thrive

Corruption undermines the intended use of funds allocated for climate adaptation and mitigation measures in Africa. Funds that are meant to be invested in projects that enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions are diverted for personal gain. This diversion not only deprives the intended beneficiaries of much-needed resources but also exacerbates the vulnerability of African countries to the impacts of climate change. In addition to diverting funds, corruption also weakens institutional capacities and inhibits transparency in the implementation of climate change politically. When corruption is rampant, institutions responsible for climate governance may lack the necessary resources to effectively carry out their duties, hindering their ability to address climate change challenges adequately. Moreover, the lack of transparency in decision-making processes related to climate change policies undermines public trust and participation, further impeding policy implementation efforts (Adger, 2007).

Insufficient coordination and collaboration across government agencies can have detrimental effects on the implementation of climate change policies. Conflicts of interest, duplication of efforts, and ineffective resource allocation are common outcomes of this lack of coordination. When government agencies operate in silos and fail to communicate and collaborate effectively, conflicts of interest may arise. Different agencies may have conflicting priorities, leading to a lack of consensus on the best course of action in addressing climate change. This can hamper policy implementation efforts, as conflicting agendas may delay or dilute the effectiveness of climate-related initiatives. Duplication of efforts is another consequence of insufficient coordination. When different government agencies independently pursue similar climate change projects or initiatives, resources are wasted, and efficiency is compromised. This duplication not only leads to inefficiencies but also strains the limited resources available for climate action (United Nations, 2020). Furthermore, ineffective resource allocation is a result of inadequate coordination and collaboration. Without proper communication and coordination, it becomes difficult to allocate resources efficiently to address climate change challenges. This can lead to the misallocation of funds, where certain areas or sectors receive excessive funding while others are neglected, undermining the overall effectiveness of climate change policies (Ampaire, 2020).

Limited financial resources and inadequate technological capabilities are significant barriers to implementing climate change policies in Africa. Many African countries face budget constraints and struggle to allocate sufficient funding towards climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The limited financial resources in Africa restrict the implementation of sustainable development projects aimed at addressing climate change challenges. These projects often require significant investments in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and water resource management. Insufficient funding inhibits the scaling up of these projects, hindering their potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts (United Nations, 2020). Moreover, inadequate financial resources also limit the purchase and adoption of modern technology that can help African countries tackle climate change. Technologies such as renewable energy systems, energy-efficient infrastructure, and climate-resilient agriculture can

play a vital role in building climate resilience. However, the high costs associated with adopting and deploying such technologies make it difficult for many African countries to access them. Furthermore, the lack of financial resources hampers the integration of renewable energy sources into national energy systems. Transitioning to clean and renewable energy is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. However, the upfront costs of developing renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar panels or wind farms, can be prohibitively expensive for many African countries.

Moreover, climate change is often perceived as a long-term issue, making it difficult to gain political traction and public support when more immediate concerns take precedence. Many African governments face urgent and immediate challenges such as poverty alleviation, public health, and food security. These immediate concerns tend to take priority over long-term environmental concerns.

### **Discussion of findings**

The findings of the study "The Influence of Political Systems on Climate Change Policy Implementation in Africa" highlight the significant role that political systems play in shaping climate change policies and their implementation across the continent. The study employs a systematic literature review methodology to gather and analyze relevant studies from academic journals, reports, and policy documents. The synthesis of the findings provides insights into the varying degrees of influence exerted by political systems on climate change policy implementation in Africa.

The study identifies three main types of political systems and their influence on climate change policy implementation in Africa: democratic systems, authoritarian systems, and decentralized systems.

The study also highlights several challenges that hinder climate change policy implementation irrespective of the political system in place. These challenges include corruption, political instability, weak governance structures, and lack of financial resources. The study underscores the need for addressing these challenges and identifies opportunities for improving policy implementation, such as regional cooperation, international support, and the integration of climate change into national development plans.

### **Recommendation:**

- 1. Strengthen democratic processes:** Encouraging political systems that promote democratic principles, such as citizen participation, accountability, and transparency, can enhance climate change policy implementation in Africa. Governments should prioritize the inclusion of diverse perspectives and engage in meaningful consultations with citizens and stakeholders when formulating and implementing climate change policies.
- 2. Enhance regional and international cooperation:** Climate change is a global issue that requires collaborative efforts. African countries can benefit from regional cooperation to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and jointly address common challenges. International support in the form of financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building programs can also significantly enhance climate change policy implementation.

**3. Address corruption and strengthen governance structures:** Corruption undermines effective policy implementation and erodes public trust. It is crucial to address corruption in climate change governance by implementing robust anti-corruption measures, fostering transparency in resource allocation, and strengthening governance structures to ensure accountability and integrity

**4. Integrate climate change into national development plans:** Integrating climate change considerations into national development plans can help prioritize climate action and ensure that climate change policies are aligned with broader development objectives. This integration can promote synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and other development goals, leading to more effective and comprehensive policy implementation.

**5. Enhance capacity at the local level:** In decentralized political systems, efforts should be made to build capacity at the local or regional levels to effectively implement climate change policies. Providing training programs, technical assistance, and financial resources to local authorities can enable them to develop and implement context-specific policies and projects that address local climate change challenges.

## Conclusion

The influence of political systems on climate change policy implementation in Africa is significant and multifaceted. Democratic systems present more favorable conditions for policy implementation, whereas authoritarian systems may pose obstacles. Decentralized systems offer both opportunities and challenges. To ensure effective and sustainable responses to climate change, African countries must prioritize the greening of political systems by promoting citizen participation, accountability, and inclusive decision-making processes. Furthermore, regional cooperation and international support are crucial for enabling climate change policy implementation across the continent.

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