

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Theme: « Governance of Africa's Natural Resources and Energy. What perspective for sustainable and equitable management? ».

1. Context

Energy resources and natural resources are the cornerstones of the economic development of many African countries. Such an assertion, emphasized in many Constitutions, finds concrete expression in the national finance laws, which present the natural resources sector as the main economic revenue item and pillar of the balance of payments. This situation is further materialized by the fact that the economic situation of the majority of African countries seems today to be weakened by the fluctuation of international commodity prices.

This self-centered economic model emerged in the late 1950s as the pathway for effective economic development. As a result, most African countries have adopted Mining, Petroleum, Gas and Oil Codes, of which fourth generation reforms are currently underway. In this context of reform, it appears that it is really the governance of natural resources and energy that is at stake. The proliferation of questions raised by this governance, since the beginning of the 1960s, and the recent participation of non-state actors are now at the heart of the issue of exploitation of natural resources on the continent.

For various reasons, including the interdependence of the global economy and the economic development needs of African countries, international institutions, such as the World Bank, and regional institutions, such as the African Union, the African Development Bank or the European Union have constantly in recent years, highlight a particular interest in the theme of governance of natural resources and energy on the African continent. Whether it is the reports of these institutions or the numerous scientific works, most experts agree to highlight the important mining and energy potential of African countries. In this regard, these geological riches are a real asset for the good health of African economies, but also and above all, a true center of activity for foreign investors in the extractive sector.

Mineral and energy resources on the African continent are fueling the greed of the world's largest economies, seeking energy supplies and security. These African resources feed into the global market and are true elements of Africa's interconnection to the world's economies. The large-scale exploitation and development of the natural and energy resources of the African continent is a cause for concern because of over-exploitation and looting. The heritage of future generations is being mortgaged and the ecological and environmental impact of a not mastered management of the natural and energy resources of the African continent challenges political decision-makers, the international community and the citizens of African countries affected by the exploitation of their resources.

2. Objectives

This project is particularly aimed at providing a framework for discussion, analysis and reflection to researchers and practitioners primarily concerned by the issue of governance of natural resources in Africa. As evidenced by its title, the project is part of a transdisciplinary scientific approach. Likely to favor a broad reading, in its content and its content, of this general theme. This dimension is therefore based on a consolidated articulation of many social sciences disciplines such as: law, political science, economics, management, sociology, etc. Only such articulation seems in many respects to accurately reflect a holistic analysis of this theme.

Therefore, this objective is broken down into three essential pillars. The first relates to the imperative need for an inventory of governance of natural and energy resources in Africa. The second is to develop a transdisciplinary and in-depth analysis of the theme of natural resource management in Africa, taking the form of cross-referencing between scientists and practitioners. The third relates to the need to put into perspective the need for sustainable and equitable natural resource management, which should encourage the development of new forms of energy and the guarantee of equitable access to energy.

3. Axes of reflection

This project is multidisciplinary (international law, political science, sociology, economics, geology, environmental law, management) taking into account the multidisciplinary issues that cut across the issue of governance of natural resources and energy in Africa. Proposals for multidisciplinary items are therefore welcome. The work will focus on three thematic areas that will try to draw a precise portrait of the situation of governance of the natural and energy resources of the African continent. The contributions will explore the notion of governance from a reading of international, national and / or local trajectories. Empirical studies, original corpora as well as the encounter between a theoretical approach and a practical approach will be much appreciated.

The various contributions will be able to articulate around the following axes:

Axis I. Analysis of forms of governance of natural resources and energy

Sub-themes:

Normative governance
Institutional governance
Governance and risk management
Governance, ethics and responsibility
Governance of innovation

Related topics:

Public policies focused on the management of natural resources and energy;
National legal frameworks and mining policies of African states;
African Regional Standards for Mineral Resource Management;
Energy policies of African countries;
Extractive Industries Development in Africa and Human Rights;
Conflicts and natural resources in Africa;
Contribution of African Courts to Extractive Litigation
Ecological and environmental footprint of the industrial exploitation of natural resources in Africa;
Land grabbing and food security in Africa;
Overexploitation of fishery resources in West Africa;

Representation of local and indigenous communities in the management of extractive resources;

Citizen participation in the decision-making process in the exploitation of natural resources in Africa;

Africa's contribution to the normative evolution in the field of natural resources (mining, oil and gas, etc.)

Axis II. Analysis of the practical application of governance by domain or sector (natural resources and energy)

Sub-themes:

Fossil Energy Sector: Solid mines (iron, diamond, cobalt, etc.), including coal, and liquid mines (oil and gas).

Sector of new and renewable energies: solar, biomass, wind, etc.

Natural Resources Sector (land, forests and fisheries resources, etc.).

Scarce Resources / Strategic Minerals Sector

Circulation of governance models in natural resource sub-sectors (Mining, Oil, Gas, Renewable Energy, etc.)

Related topics:

Geopolitics of energy (oil and gas) in Africa;

Extractive activities development and social responsibility of multinational industries

Extractive Industries Development and Local and National Development in Africa;

Industrial exploitation of African forests;

Looting of forests;

Deforestation;

Destruction of the ecosystems and living environments of forest peoples;

Exploitation of extractive resources and socio-cultural transformations of African countries.

Axis III. Analysis of the issues and strategies of the governance of natural resources and energy for future generations?

Sub-themes:

Issues of natural resource governance and energy;

Strategies for governance of natural resources and energy

Related topics:

Energy and ecological transition in Africa;

New and renewable energies;

Exploitation of natural resources and clean technologies;

Exploitation of natural resources and sustainability;

Energy Challenges and Economic Development in Africa;

New African energy systems;

Balance of African (sovereign) funds for future generations

Which energy supply for democratic access to energy?

4. Project schedule

Proposals for articles are to be submitted before 1 March 2019 to the e-mail address of the three co-reporters:

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fred.nzaou@gmail.com

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These proposals must include: a provisional title, the name of the author, the name of his institution of attachment, a summary of the proposal, including a problematic as well as major axes, not exceeding 500 words.

-The authors shortlisted by the co-reporters and the scientific committee will be notified before March 31, 2019.

-The first versions of articles in accordance with the drafting instructions will be sent by the authors to the three e-mails mentioned above before June 30, 2019.

-The evaluation process of articles must be completed before August 31, 2019 by the scientific committee.

- The reporters will submit their respective reports by October 31, 2019

-The presentation of the report will take place before January 15, 2020 in Canada, during a restitution symposium to which all the participants in the drafting of this document will be invited.