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Proposal for a research agenda relevant to climate equity and justice

Project Title: Climate Justice, Social Innovation and Community Development in Africa

Research Discipline areas

Domestic Climate Justice; Climate Change; Social Innovation; Community Development; Africa Communities

Research Agenda

Billions of people in poor communities are innocent victims of climate change. They are amongst the lowest polluters in the world, yet they are already suffering from loss and damage caused by climate change (Julie A. Richard and Keely Boom 2014). Also some countermeasures such Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that aim at halting such damage or degradation are often criticized for their negative impacts on people's livelihoods

Studies have shown that failure to adopt effective policies and actions to address climate change has increasing impacts on human livelihoods and directly affects people's rights. These impacts range from increased disease and mortality to food insecurity, water scarcity, and threats to the very survival of communities and future generations. Climate change affects certain communities at a fundamental level by changing the basic environmental conditions upon which their livelihoods and cultural traditions depend. The Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, convener of the Church of Scotland's Church & Society Council were attending the Paris summit as part of a delegation from the Church of Scotland and Eco-Congregation Scotland stated that "Communities are disappearing, crops are failing and people are going hungry because of our lifestyle choices, we must therefore tackle both long term causes and short term symptoms". For example, inhabitants of small island states are threatened with total loss of territory and with statelessness due to the possibility that their homelands will disappear under the rising ocean. The Inuit, the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, are facing rapid changes to the Arctic ecosystems that threaten their unique culture **Greiber, Thomas (Ed.) 2009**). Apart from the direct and indirect impacts on human communities caused by the phenomenon of climate change, innovation or measures adopted to mitigate or address such change may also have impacts on human livelihoods. Biofuels, for example, involve possible impacts on land tenure and food security. Projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism may involve displacement of communities and other local environmental impacts. **(Greiber, Thomas (Ed.) 2009)**. A compilation of case studies of CDM projects with environmental impacts by Carbon Market Watch presented cases such as Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project in India's Singrauli region generates fly ash generated that pollutes the water and makes it unsafe to consume food; Chengdu Luodai Municipal Solid Waste Incineration Project in China has brought problems that

affected local residents' life and farming work, due to its poor control of odour, noise and the emissions of pollutants.

Aim: In light of the impacts of climate change on human communities, the aim of this research is to explore state of climate justice, roles and socio-economic impact of social innovation to community development in Nigeria. This research will focus on domestic climate justice in Africa with the aim of exploring and contributing to the development of Africa's (Nigeria) Domestic Climate Justice Policy. The project explores the concept of domestic climate justice and the role of social innovations and community empowerment/development culminating in the development of a possible domestic (Nigeria) climate social movement. It is anticipated that through the lens of climate justice and social innovation, aspects of developing a sustainability community development policy and plans will emerge

Research Questions: What is the state of climate injustice/ justice in Africa and how can this be underpinned or informed by the development of a domestic climate justice policy?

- 1) What is the relationship between climate change and climate injustice in Africa (Nigeria)?
- 2) What is being done to address climate injustice issues at the community level? What role does social innovation play?
- 3) What does domestic climate justice policy look like and how will this differ from domestic climate change policy and to sustainable community development in Africa (Nigeria)?
- 4) How can Africa communities' benefits from a domestic climate justice policy?