Giving Africa a Voice in the Global Environmental Governance Discourse

Kariuki Muigua

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Kariuki Muigua[*]

Abstract

This paper explores the need to strengthen Africa's voice in the global environmental governance discourse. It argues that the continent has often been sidelined in the global environmental governance discourse. The paper further argues that in light of growing global environmental challenges including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution, international cooperation is key in addressing these challenges and strengthening global environmental governance. The paper therefore posits that Africa has a key role to play in strengthening global environmental governance. The paper suggests ideas towards giving Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse.

1.0 Introduction

The concept of governance entails the system by which entities including nations and organisations are controlled and operate and the mechanisms by which such entities and their people are held accountable[1]. Governance has also been defined as a system that provides a framework for managing institutions[2]. It identifies who can make decisions, who has the authority to act on behalf of a particular body and who is accountable for how an institution and its people behave and perform[3]. Governance can also be understood as the collection of arrangements and interactions between private and public stakeholders, aimed at addressing economic, social, and environmental problems and creating equal opportunities, as well as the institutions within which the interactions

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[1] Governance Institute of Australia., 'What is Governance?' Available at https://www.governanceinstitute.com.au/resources/what-is-governance/ (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[2] Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland., 'What is Governance' Available at https://www.cgi.org.uk/professional-development/discover-governance/looking-to-start-a-career-in-governance/what-is-governance (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[3] Ibid

function[4]. Good governance can be characterized by, among others, participatory behaviour, transparency and accountability[5]. Good governance is also effective and equitable and it promotes the rule of law[6]. It has been noted that good governance ensures that political, social, environmental and economic priorities are based on consensus in society and that the voices of the vulnerable are heard during decision-making processes relating to the allocation of development resources[7].

Good governance is one of the most important factors for ensuring effective environmental management and conservation actions[8]. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), environmental governance includes policy, rules and norms that govern human behavior and it also addresses who makes decisions, how decisions are made and carried out, the scientific information needed for decision-making and how the public and major stakeholders can participate in environmental decision-making[9]. Environmental governance has also been defined as the set of regulatory processes, mechanisms and organizations through which political actors influence environmental actions and outcomes[10]. It entails rules, practices, policies and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment[11]. Environmental governance focuses on how decisions related to the environment are made and whether resultant

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[4] Governance., Available at
https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/environmentoutlook_chapter4.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[5] Ibid

[6] Ibid

[7] Ibid

[8] Bennett. N., & Satterfield. T., 'Environmental Governance: A Practical Framework to Guide, Design, Evaluation, and Analysis' Available at https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12600 (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[9] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Environmental Governance' Available at https://www.unep.org/regions/west-asia/regional-initiatives/environmental-governance (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[10] Lemos. M.C., & Agrawal. A., 'Environmental Governance' *Annual Review of Environmental Resources.*, Volume 31, 2006, pp 297-325

[11] Haque. M., 'Environmental Governance.' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318166768_Environmental_Governance (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

policies and processes lead to environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes[12]. It has been noted that the aim of environmental governance is to manage individual behaviors or collective actions in pursuance of public environmental goods and related societal outcomes[13].

Sound environmental governance has become a top priority at global, regional, national, and local levels[14]. It has been noted that the global community faces intertwined crises, from poverty and inequalities to environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change[15]. Further, environmental governance systems are strained, with marginalized groups often excluded from environmental decision-making[16]. The shortcomings in global, regional, national, and local systems of environmental governance are worsening the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, pollution, and climate change[17]. In light of these challenges, it is imperative to strengthen environmental governance for sustainability[18].

This paper explores the need to strengthen Africa's voice in the global environmental governance discourse. It argues that the continent has often been sidelined in the global environmental governance discourse. The paper further argues that in light of growing global environmental challenges including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution, international cooperation is key in addressing these challenges and strengthening global environmental governance. The paper therefore posits that Africa has a key role to play in strengthening global environmental governance. The paper suggests ideas towards giving Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse.

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[12] Bennett. N., & Satterfield. T., 'Environmental Governance: A Practical Framework to Guide, Design, Evaluation, and Analysis' Op Cit

[13] Ibid

[14] United Nations Development Programme., 'Strengthening Environmental Governance' Available at https://www.undp.org/nature/our-work-areas/environmental-governance (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[15] Ibid

[16] Ibid

[17] Ibid

[18] Ibid

2.0 The Place of Africa in Global Environmental Governance

Global environmental governance refers to the sum of organizations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, procedures and norms that regulate global environmental protection and conservation[19]. Global environmental governance has also been defined as the collection of governmental and non-governmental individuals and institutions that aim to influence individual and collective human behaviour regarding the global environment, including the drafting, implementation and enforcement of local, national and international law and policy[20]. Global environmental governance can also be understood as an attempt by civil society, governments, and even private entities, to address global environmental issues in a collective manner[21]. The ultimate objective of global environmental governance is to improve the state of the environment and to eventually lead to the broader goal of Sustainable Development[22]. It has been noted that global environmental governance addresses several current global environmental crises that directly and indirectly impact human security, including: climate change[23]; resource scarcity[24]; the illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species[25]; legal and illegal land-grabs that take away the lives, livelihoods, and cultures of indigenous populations[26]; the global trade of recyclables and hazardous waste to vulnerable countries[27]; and the mass-scale of illegal fishing and over-fishing in our oceans, and the harmful practices that are used, that foster human trafficking, endanger traditional fishing practices, and harm regeneration of natural habitats and populations[28].

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[19] International Institute for Sustainable Development., 'Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda' Available at https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/geg.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[20] Gwiazdon. K., 'Human Security and Global Environmental Governance' Available at https://opentextbc.ca/humansecurity/chapter/environmental-governance/ (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[21] Ibid

[22] International Institute for Sustainable Development., 'Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda' Op Cit

[23] Gwiazdon. K., 'Human Security and Global Environmental Governance' Op Cit

[24] Ibid

[25] Ibid

[26] Ibid

[27] Ibid

[28] Ibid

It has been noted that similar to state governance actors, mechanisms, and institutions, global environmental governance is influenced and implemented by a variety of parties, with a variety of methodologies, and within a variety of institutions[29]. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment[30]. Its objective is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations[31]. UNEP works with governments, civil society, the private sector and other United Nations entities to address humanity's most pressing environmental challenges - from restoring the ozone layer to protecting the world's seas and promoting a green, inclusive economy[32].

Another key global environmental governance body is the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) which is the world's highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment, with a universal membership of all 193 Member States[33]. UNEA sets the global environmental agenda, provides overarching policy guidance, and defines policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges[34]. Further, UNEA undertakes policy review, dialogue and the exchange of experiences, sets the strategic guidance on the future direction of UNEP and fosters partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization[35].

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[29] Ibid

[30] United Nations Environment Programme., 'About the United Nations Environment Programme' Available at https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/about-us (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[31] Ibid

[32] Ibid

[33] The United Nations Environment Assembly., Available at https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/ (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[34] Ibid

[35] Ibid

It has been noted that the main components of the global environmental governance system are multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)[36]. According to UNEP, MEAs are one of the key instruments of international environmental governance and international environmental law[37]. They are separate treaties to which States, regional economic integration organizations and, in some instances, and international organizations have become a Party[38]. MEAs intend to promote international cooperation on a specific set of environmental issues, such as the protection of the ozone layer and biodiversity and sustainable management of hazardous chemicals and waste[39].

Some of the key MEAs include the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*[40] that seeks to enhance the global response to climate change; the *Convention on Biological Diversity*[41] that seeks to enhance the global conservation of biological diversity; the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)*[42] which seeks to enhance the conservation of wetlands; and the *Convention to Combat Desertification*[43] that aims to restore degraded and desertified land[44]. The institutions established under these legal instruments are also key in strengthening global environmental governance. For example, the UNFCCC establishes the Conference of the Parties (COP) as the supreme decision making body of the

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[36] Andresen. S., 'The Role of International Courts and Tribunals in Global Environmental Governance' Available at https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ_French/journals_E/Volume-07_Issue-3/andresen_e.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[37] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Meeting Global Environmental Commitments' Available at https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/meeting-global-environmental (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[38] Ibid

[39] Ibid

[40] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change., United Nations, 1992., Available at https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[41] United Nations., 'Convention on Biological Diversity.' Available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[42] Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat., Available at https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/current_convention_text_e.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[43] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification., Available at https://catalogue.unccd.int/936_UNCCD_Convention_ENG.pdf (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[44] Ibid

Convention[45]. All States that are parties to the UNFCCC are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements[46]. The COP is therefore a key body in the global environmental governance discourse and plays a crucial role in strengthening the global response on climate change.

International courts and tribunals are also key in the global environmental governance discourse[47]. For example, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has embraced international environmental law and is now of the key players in the global environmental governance discourse[48]. Other bodies including the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) also play a major role in strengthening global environmental governance[49].

Global environmental governance has grown significantly since the first world conference on the environment being the *1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment[50]* held in Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference led to the adoption of a series of principles for sound management of the environment including the *Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment[51]*. Further, it has been noted that the Conference set in motion decades of discussion, negotiation and ratification of a

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[45] United Nations Climate Change., 'Conference of the Parties (COP)' Available at https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[46] Ibid

[47] Andresen. S., 'The Role of International Courts and Tribunals in Global Environmental Governance' Op Cit

[48] Fitzmaurice. M., 'The International Court of Justice and International Environmental Law' Available at https://academic.oup.com/book/10167/chapter-abstract/157752981?redirectedFrom=fulltext (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[49] McMillan. A., 'Time for an International Court for the Environment' Available at https://www.ibanet.org/article/71B817C7-8026-48DE-8744-50D227954E04 (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[50] United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 5-16 June 1972, Stockholm.' Available at https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972 (Accessed on 10/07/2024)

[51] Ibid

whole series of international environmental agreements[52]. The immense growth of the system of global environmental governance signifies the world's growing appreciation of the scope and scale of the problems and the need for international cooperation towards addressing global environmental problems[53]. However, it has been noted that this growth has also made the system unwieldy and increasingly incoherent[54].

A major concern with the current framework on global environmental governance is the voice of the Global South[55]. It has been noted that the vast majority of the environmental governance systems originate in the Global North and thrust the Global North's economic and environmental agenda into the Global South[56]. Such systems have had little and in some cases adverse impacts on the environment in the Global South[57]. It has been pointed out that in the world economy, as in international affairs, African states and other states in the Global South participate in global environmental governance as unequal partners[58]. Most global environmental agendas are set by countries in the Global North to secure their interests in natural resources, many of which are found in the Global South[59]. Policies such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) have been accused of promoting the environmental agendas of the Global North in the Global South[60]. It has been opined that global environmental policies impact on African states in different ways: they trigger competition and solidarity among states and lead to new forms of environment-related insecurities[61]. African countries have thus

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[52] International Institute for Sustainable Development., 'Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda' Op Cit
[53] Ibid
[54] Ibid
[55] Ibid
[56] Minneti. J., 'Environmental Governance and the Global South' *William & Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review*., Volume 43, Issue 1., 2018
[57] Ibid
[58] Ramutsindela. M., & Buscher. B., 'Environmental Governance and the (Re-)Making of the African State' Available at https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.903 (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[59] Ibid
[60] Ibid
[61] Ibid

been unequal partners in the global environmental discourse. It is therefore necessary to give Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse.

3.0 Giving Africa a Voice in the Global Environmental Governance Discourse

It is imperative to embrace the role of Africa in the global environmental governance discourse. It has been correctly noted that facing global environmental challenges including climate change, pollution, the loss of biodiversity and the overuse of critical natural resources requires efficient international cooperation[62]. Global environmental challenges are best addressed when the community of nations works together through greater cooperation on the environment[63]. Giving Africa a voice in the global environmental discourse can therefore improve international environmental governance[64].

In order to achieve this goal, it is ideal for African countries to adopt a common position in the global environmental governance discourse[65]. Adopting a common African position is key in ensuring that Africa's voice is heard and integrated into the global environmental governance framework[66]. African countries have been urged to speak with one voice and to act in unity to ensure that Africa's voice is heard and is fully integrated into the global Sustainable Development agenda[67]. Embracing a common African position is key in giving Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse. For example, it has been noted that embracing a coordinated common position can strengthen the continent's role in international climate change negotiations and

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[62] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Facing Our Global Environmental Challenges Requires Efficient International Cooperation' Available at https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/editorial/facing-our-global-environmental-challenges-requires-efficient (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[63] Ibid
[64] Ibid
[65] African Union., 'Common African Position' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/32848-doc-common_african_position.pdf (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[66] Ibid
[67] Ibid

further help African countries to design robust policy approaches for a collective effort in confronting complex climate change challenges[68].

In addition, it is necessary to strengthen environmental diplomacy in Africa[69]. Environmental diplomacy involves the use of diplomacy and international cooperation to address global environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution[70]. It entails negotiations, treaties, and other forms of cooperation among countries to develop and implement policies that promote Sustainable Development and protect the environment[71]. This can include efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect endangered species and ecosystems, promote sustainable land use practices, and ensure access to clean water and air[72]. According to UNEP, environmental diplomacy can foster global unity in tackling key environmental challenges[73]. It is therefore necessary to strengthen environmental diplomacy in Africa. This can be realized by equipping African diplomats with environmental information and skills to better engage in regional and global environmental negotiations[74]. It is important to strengthen the capacity of African diplomats in environmental diplomacy, negotiation skills and to provide them with deep understanding of emerging environmental issues in order to solidify Africa's position in

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[68] AUDA-NEPAD., 'Climate Diplomacy in Africa' Available at https://www.nepad.org/climate/publication/climate-diplomacyafrica#:~:text=Climate%20Diplomacy%20is%20the%20interface,finds%20the%20space%20for%20agreement (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[69] United Nations Environment Programme., 'UNEA-6: Global Unity through Environmental Diplomacy' https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/unea-6-global-unity-through-environmental-diplomacy (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[70] DiPLO., 'Environmental Diplomacy' Available at https://www.diplomacy.edu/topics/environmental-diplomacy/#:~:text=Environmental%20diplomacy%20refers%20to%20the,%2C%20biodiversity%20loss%2C%20and%20pollution. (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[71] Ibid

[72] Ibid

[73] United Nations Environment Programme., 'UNEA-6: Global Unity through Environmental Diplomacy' Op Cit

[74] United Nations Environment Programme., 'UN Environment Organises the First Dialogue on Environmental Diplomacy for African Diplomats' Available at https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/news/un-environment-organises-first-dialogue-environmental-diplomacy-african (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

the global environmental discourse[75]. Access to the right information, better organization and effective communication have been identified as crucial factors for African negotiators to achieve concrete results in multilateral negotiations such the United Nations Environment Assembly[76].

It is also imperative to foster fully open, transparent and inclusive global environmental negotiation processes in which all nations are equal and have an equal voice[77]. For example, it has been suggested that there is need to reform the global environmental multilateralism system in order to ensure inclusivity and participation of all stakeholders including developing countries, youth, women and other marginalized groups who are often left behind[78]. African countries should therefore be fully involved in developing and implementing MEAs through open, transparent, and inclusive negotiation processes[79].

Further, there is need to amplify Africa's voice in the global conversation on climate action and achieve climate justice for Africa[80]. Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts[81]. Despite having the lowest greenhouse gas emissions, Africa faces exponential collateral damage due to climate change posing systemic risks to its economies, infrastructure investments, water and food systems, public health, agriculture, and livelihoods, threatening to undo the continent's modest development gains and slip into higher levels of extreme poverty[82]. While Africa has contributed

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[75] Ibid
[76] Ibid
[77] African Union., 'Common African Position' Op Cit
[78] Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen. S., & Dahl. A., 'Building Effective Multilateralism for the Environment' Available at https://iefworld.org/fl/Policybrief_KarlssonVinkhuyzen_Dahl.pdf (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[79] Ibid
[80] Afrobarometer., 'Afrobarometer at COP28: Elevating, Adding African Voices to the Climate Conversation' Available at https://www.afrobarometer.org/articles/afrobarometer-at-cop28-elevating-adding-african-voices-to-the-climate-conversation/ (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[81] African Development Bank Group., 'Climate Change in Africa' Available at https://www.afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-change-africa (Accessed on 11/07/2024)
[82] Ibid

negligibly to climate change, it stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable region in the world[83]. It has been noted that this vulnerability is driven by the prevailing low levels of socioeconomic growth in the continent[84].

It is therefore necessary to elevate the position of the continent in the global climate action discourse. This is vital to understanding the unique challenges and opportunities faced by communities across the continent as a result of climate change[85]. It is also key in enhancing the principle of equity in climate action, emphasizing the need for a fair distribution of the responsibilities to combat climate change, particularly considering historical emissions between and among nations[86]. It has been noted that Africa is not just a passive victim of climate change but a strong voice and actor in achieving global climate targets and commitments[87]. It is therefore crucial amplify Africa's voice in global climate negotiations in order to achieve positive climate outcomes that drive meaningful shifts on both regional and global scales[88].

Finally, there is need to strengthen environmental governance in Africa[89]. It has been noted that the current state of environmental governance in African countries is

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[83] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Responding to Climate Change' Available at https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[84] Ibid

[85] Afrobarometer., 'Afrobarometer at COP28: Elevating, Adding African Voices to the Climate Conversation' Op Cit

[86] Ibid

[87] Climate Centre., 'Africa is not just a passive victim of climate change but a strong voice and an actor for global targets' Available at https://www.climatecentre.org/11497/africa-is-not-just-a-passive-victim-of-climate-change-but-a-strong-voice-and-an-actor-in-achieving-global-targets/ (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[88] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Africa Climate Week 2023: Charting a Fresh Course for Climate Action' Available at https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/africa-climate-week-2023-charting-fresh-course-climate-action (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[89] Tsitohery. M., & Zafimahova. C., 'Environmental Governance in the Division of Roles International Institutions and Government Institutions in African Countries' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370475404_Environmental_Governance_in_The_Division_of_Roles_International_Institutions_and_Government_Institutions_in_African_Countries#:~:text=The%20current%20state%20of%20environmental%20governance%20in%20African%20countries%20is,will%20to%20prioritize%20environmental%20protection. (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

influenced by a range of challenges, including limited resources, weak institutions, and a lack of political will to prioritize environmental protection and conservation[90]. It is therefore imperative to embrace sound environmental governance in Africa through: strengthening environmental rule of law[91]; fostering public participation in environmental governance[92]; giving voice to indigenous peoples and utilizing indigenous knowledge in environmental conservation[93]; and strengthening legal, policy, and institutional frameworks on environmental governance[94]. By strengthening environmental governance at a regional level, Africa will be better positioned and have legitimacy in influencing the global environmental governance discourse[95].

4.0 Conclusion

Africa has often been sidelined in the global environmental governance discourse. The global environmental governance discourse is often shaped by the Global North which imposes its economic and environmental agenda into the Global South[96]. African countries have for many years been unequal partners in the global environmental discourse[97]. It is therefore necessary to give Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse. Giving Africa a voice in the global environmental discourse is vital in strengthening international cooperation towards tackling global challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution while also improving international environmental governance[98]. In order to give Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse, it is necessary to: adopt a common African position in the global

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[90] Ibid

[91] Muigua. K., 'Embracing Sound Environmental Governance in Africa' Available at https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Embracing-Sound-Environmental-Governance-in-Africa-1.pdf (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[92] Ibid

[93] Ibid

[94] Ibid

[95] United Nations Environment Programme., 'Strengthening Environmental Governance' Available at https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/strengthening-environmental-governance (Accessed on 11/07/2024)

[96] Minneti. J., 'Environmental Governance and the Global South' Op Cit

[97] Ibid

[98] Ibid

environmental governance discourse[99]; strengthen environmental diplomacy in Africa[100]; foster fully open, transparent and inclusive global environmental negotiation processes in which all nations are equal and have an equal voice[101]; amplify Africa's voice in the global conversation on climate action and achieve climate justice for Africa[102]; and strengthen environmental governance in Africa[103]. Giving Africa a voice in the global environmental governance discourse is necessary in order to improve environmental outcomes for sustainability.

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[99] African Union., 'Common African Position' Op Cit

[100] United Nations Environment Programme., 'UNEA-6: Global Unity through Environmental Diplomacy' Op Cit

[101] African Union., 'Common African Position' Op Cit

[102] Afrobarometer., 'Afrobarometer at COP28: Elevating, Adding African Voices to the Climate Conversation' Op Cit

[103] Tsitohery. M., & Zafimahova. C., 'Environmental Governance in the Division of Roles International Institutions and Government Institutions in African Countries' Op Cit

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DiPLO., 'Environmental Diplomacy' Available at https://www.diplomacy.edu/topics/environmental-

diplomacy/#:~:text=Environmental%20diplomacy%20refers%20to%20the,%2C%20biodiversity%20loss%2C%20and%20pollution.

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