

Reappropriation of Resilience to Neoliberal Vision Political Sustainability in Post-Paris Africa's Climate Change Adaptation

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Paris Agreement is credited with finding enduring solution to the political gridlock of limiting carbon emission globally. Despite its remarkable achievement, COP21 has reframed adaptation to resilience by insisting on self-reliance strategy as the most sustainable option for mitigating climate risk. Although resilience to disaster risk is improving globally, Africa is witnessing re-appropriation of the concept skewed towards neoliberal vision of political life. Dislocation exists between sustaining adaptation strategies of the poor and one-size-fits-all market-led resilience strategy. In its present form, resilience is a reactive process involving complex interactions between different stakeholders. These stakeholders hold different notions of building peoples' resistance to change. Most of these views are shaped by interests, political experience and their historical past. In this adaptation regime, financialization of risk is a precondition for overcoming vulnerability as acceptance of sufferings determines adaptability. This relocation of adaptation arising from the internalization of coping strategy has serious consequence of deterritorialization which is capable of triggering political instability.

This paper examines correlation between resilience and political sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa showing how they are inextricably bound with the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Our analysis is through Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment (DRR/CA) methodology based on a review of primary data and relevant documentation related to DRR, NDCs, NAPA, environmental management and climate change adaptation in Nigeria. The selection of respondents is contingent upon their expertise in answering the research questions. A total of forty (40) experts were purposively sampled with the respondents drawn from the MDAs, academia, and CSOs. Data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire and personal interview. The method avails us opportunity for an in-depth case study approach which x-rays array of adaptation strategies. This illuminates consequence of not sustaining individual knowledge, attitude and practice of diverse actors at different stages of agroecological complexities.

The study finds that resilience in its current form has its own demons. We confront resilience's demons in the reinvention of neoliberal wheels at Paris. Though the NDCs attempted to integrate some of the age-proven strategies of the poor yet, are fundamentally flawed as they are not region specific neither do they address specific adaptation challenges of most regions. Instead, they have created further avenue for internalization of uncertainties by displacing sovereign authority of the poor for those who control instruments of building resilience.

The result shows that the NDC has minimal local anchorage as it is an externally driven agenda. For political sustainability, portfolio of challenges that have cumulatively made attainment of the NDC a tricky venture should be overcome while region specific adaptation practices should be synergically integrated into a comprehensive toolkit mainstreamed into national development plan. Refocusing policy towards individualization coping strategy requires biomass economy is

made building block of low-carbon and climate resiliency. In post Paris era proactive adaptation requires synergetic integration of the NDCs with Climate-Smart Agriculture to address food and energy crop paradox, creation of disincentive in the form of eco-tax and eco-label and incentive through granting of subsidy to the clean energy sector.