

Special Issue

Climate Change and Economic Development in Africa

Message from the Guest Editors

The current evidence indicates that, apart from the expected temperature rise and drying in most parts of Africa, climate change will result in increases in both the frequency and severity of extreme weather Events, such as droughts and floods. This will harm the foundations of Africa's development, from health systems to agriculture, ecosystems, water resources, energy resources and physical infrastructure, with adverse implications for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many African countries, which are already facing climate-related stresses, such as droughts, floods, locust infestation and variable rainfall, are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to low adaptive capacity. Agriculture will be the hardest hit sector due to its dependence on rainfall. Seven out of ten Africans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and it accounts for about a quarter of the GDP of African economies, on average, and as much as 50% in some countries.

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