

## The Fate of Africa amidst Global Environmental Challenges

Fomutar Stanislaus, PhD

### Abstract

This article evaluates the concrete realities of environmental degradation in Africa and explores best practices that could foster a sustainable future for the continent. In recent times, following the outcry of Africans over environmental damage caused by rising emissions from industrialised countries; damage, that is increasing the vulnerability of African economies and ecosystems, Africans have continually demanded for reparation. Yet, since independence, Africa has received little genuine compensation from colonial and Neo-colonial masters, the same actors that the continent now looks to for adaption finance. While demanding adaption funds is a necessary and commendable step to take, especially given that mitigation strategies are most effective in industrialised regions that contribute the most to global emissions, it is difficult to say if these funds will ever adequately reach Africa, cognizant of past failed initiatives and unmet pledges. Without reparation and real accountability from major global polluters, Africa is likely to face ever more perilous conditions and a diminished capacity to adapt to environmental challenges, unjustly imposed on her by industrialised nations. This article argues that, for Africa to obtain justice and accountability from those responsible for the continent's deteriorating environmental conditions, she must first become a serious political contender on the global stage. A strong and united African bloc of continental negotiators would constitute a voice that cannot be ignored in international forums. Unless such a unity is achieved, individual African States and fragmented regional bodies risk remaining supplicants in Western corridors of power, asking for what they justly deserve rather than claiming it as a matter of right.

**Key words:** Africa, Industrialised Nations, Environmental Deterioration, Reparation, and Mitigation.



Fomutar Stanislaus is a teacher and creative writer. He has published a number of academic and literary works, and has three literary awards to his name. He has a doctorate degree in African philosophy and loves reading and writing.