

Abstract

African Security in the Anthropocene (Springer 2023)

By

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Any MoU, however, needs to deliver on tangible outputs. Following the signing of an MoU between Niger Delta University (NDU) and the UFS, it was decided to focus on an edited book bringing together staff from both universities and elsewhere on the continent to focus on the nexus between climate change and security. The proposed edited book was to have two editors – Prof Jude Cocodia from the NDU and myself.

The reason for our choice of topic emanates from the fact that climate change is real and holds catastrophic consequences for the world. Africa is projected to suffer the greatest effects of global warming of any region in the world. Illegal logging in the Congo Basin, for instance, threatens the world's second most important carbon sink. Climate change in the African context undermines peace by heightening the existing drivers of violence. Climate change, for instance, exacerbates farmer-herder competition over scarce resources. In societies driven by the politics of identity – ethnic, clan or religious – this is given added momentum. The unfolding conflicts across the Sahel region sadly demonstrate this all too well. In Southern Africa, droughts and heatwaves are becoming more frequent. In the 2015/2016 El Nino drought, Botswana lost 40% of its cattle and South Africa's maize crop was 40% lower than the previous year. What sort of impact will this have on food security and social stability when El Nino returns later this year?

Far from merely mapping out the challenges, the authors of the chapters attempted to also provide concrete recommendations to respond to the challenges posed. One of the key take-aways was that sovereignty has to be pooled since issues of climate change know no borders. The book was published by Springer Nature in April 2023.