

Africa Programme



What we do



Research

The Chatham House Africa Programme is a world-leading centre for independent policy-oriented research on African politics and socio-economic change. A sustained record of non-partisan and balanced engagement enables Africa Programme research to influence policy in support of building sustainably secure, prosperous and just societies.



Convening

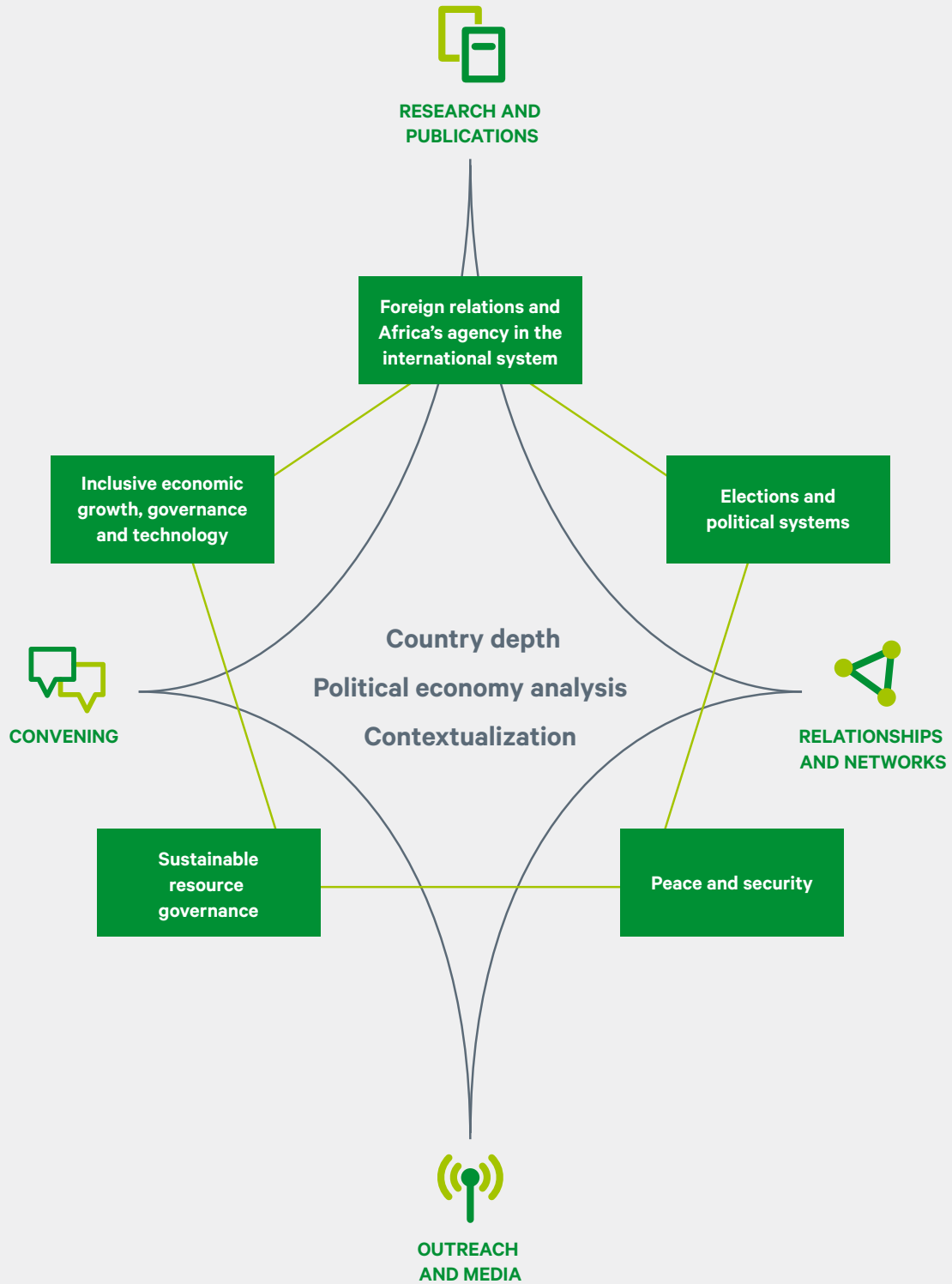
Africa Programme events provide opportunities to bring together recognised and new experts and stakeholders to explore critical issues in the politics and international relations of African states. The programme leverages its convening power to promote consensus- and outcome-oriented debates, connecting diverse perspectives and engaged audiences.



Outreach

Research publications are widely read, freely available and distributed to over 32,000 decision-makers and influencers globally. The production of diverse outputs enables the programme to engage audiences across conventional and new multimedia platforms. Regular contributions to regional and international media outlets promote informed reporting, improving the quality of information disseminated globally.

How we work



Research pillars

Foreign relations and Africa's agency in the international system

A series of Africa Programme research projects, publications and events are examining African states' bilateral and multilateral relationships, and the influence that African governments, institutions and citizens exert in global affairs. As part of this research focus, programme work seeks to improve understanding of individual countries' political and economic diplomacy and strategic autonomy (including projects on Zambia and Tanzania); evolving relations with traditional partners such as the EU and the UK; emerging or deepening relations with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the Gulf states; and re-engagement with Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Russia.

Inclusive economic growth, governance and technology

This research focus examines some of the key challenges in inclusive development and demographic change, including projects on sustainable financing and green jobs and the development of carbon markets. A multi-year project on Social Norms and Accountable Governance (SNAG) seeks context-specific solutions to address collective problems such as corruption through an evidence-based understanding of the drivers that sustain these problems.

Elections and political systems

The Africa Programme has a long track record of producing outputs and analysis on developments during and between election cycles, including through structured debates with presidential contenders, civil society, and technocratic figures ahead of elections in Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and the DRC. Programme staff have participated in electoral observation initiatives in Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria. Research has also focused on tensions between authoritarian opportunism and democratic resilience, as well as on diverse governance models across the continent, including Africa's last absolute monarchy, eSwatini.



48

research outputs

The Africa Programme produced 48 research outputs, including peer reviewed papers, book chapters, academic journal articles, expert comments, op-eds and multimedia outputs in 2023.



80

events

A total of 80 events were hosted by the Africa Programme in 2023, including virtual and in-person roundtables, panel events, and international conferences.



232

speakers

In 2023, the Programme hosted 232 speakers, including policymakers, governmental figures, and representatives of civil society, academia and industry.



3,000+
citations

Africa Programme staff were cited over 3,000 times in the global media in 2023.



32,000+
dissemination

In 2023, research outputs were widely read, freely available and distributed to over 32,000 decision-makers and influencers globally.



21
countries visited

Africa Programme representatives visited 21 countries over the course of 2023, including for events and conference convening in Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, Slovenia and South Africa.

Sustainable resource governance

This research area focuses on diversifying agriculture- and commodity-dependent economies for greater environmental and economic sustainability, as well as revenue management, human rights standards and transparency in the extractive sector. Seminal publications include *Nigeria's Criminal Crude*, which examined evidence on the scale and method of the trade in stolen crude and international options to stem the crime; *Oil in Uganda*, which explored lessons for success in developing and managing oil; and *Thirst for African Oil*, charting the impact of Asian national oil companies in Angola and Nigeria.

Peace and security

This research stream explores the interlinked structural issues that give rise to peace and security challenges across Africa, including inadequate public service delivery and state security mechanisms, which have influenced instability and jihadist configurations in the Sahel, West Africa, Horn of Africa and northern Mozambique. Projects and outputs have focused on cross-border conflict, as well as the role of regional institutions and African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Through convening country-specific dialogues, the Africa Programme seeks to develop baseline understandings of the structural causes of fragility and factors of risk and resilience in conflict-affected contexts.



The Africa Programme will continue to partner with African stakeholders and institutions to provide expert analysis and policy solutions that help to stimulate equitable economic growth, reduce poverty, promote peace and security and mitigate climate change.

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Afrobarometer (Accra)
African Development Bank (Abidjan)
African Foundation for Development (London)
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Centro de Estudos e Investigação Científica (Luanda)
Council on Foreign Relations (New York)
European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris)
Institut Français des Relations Internationales (Paris)
Institute for Peace and Security Studies (Addis Ababa)
Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria)
Institute of International Relations (Prague)
Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (Lisbon)
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Sankt Augustin)

Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics (Abuja)
Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (Lagos)
Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (Nairobi)
Search For Common Ground (Diffa)
South African Institute of International Affairs (Johannesburg)
The World Bank (Washington DC)
University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Norms and Behavioral Dynamics (Philadelphia)
United Nations Development Programme (Addis Ababa)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa)
U.S. Institute of Peace (Washington DC)
Westminster Foundation for Democracy (London)



Funders

Agility
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Anglo American
Barclays Private Bank
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BP
Brenthurst Foundation
British International Investment
Chevron
De Beers
DP World
ENI
Equinor

ExxonMobil
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Globeleq
Government of the United States of America
Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung
Helios
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MacArthur Foundation
Ministry of Defence, UK
Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsui
National Endowment for Democracy
Open Society Foundations
Rio Tinto
Robert Bosch Stiftung
Shell International
Standard Bank Group
Standard Chartered Bank
The World Bank
TotalEnergies
Tullow Oil
UNDP



Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, helps governments and societies build a sustainably secure, prosperous and just world.

Chatham House is an independent policy institute and a trusted forum for debate and dialogue. Our research and ideas help people understand our changing world. Chatham House events offer unique access to thought leadership, best practice and insight from world leaders, policy influencers and academics. We deliver webinars, conferences and simulations that help connect diverse, engaged audiences and build momentum for positive change.

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