

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

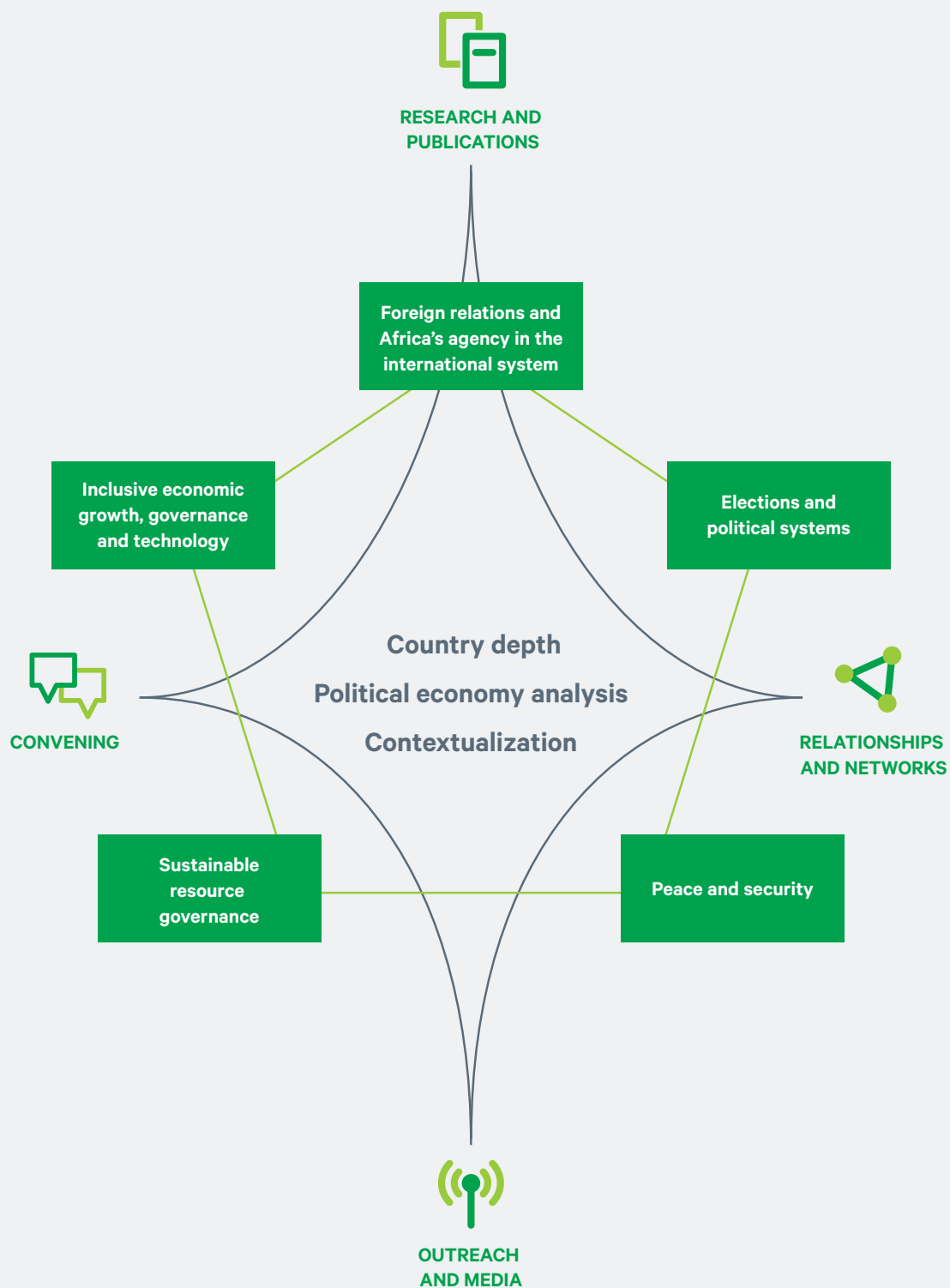
Africa Programme events provide opportunities to bring together recognised and new experts and stakeholders to explore critical issues in the politics and international relations of African states. The programme leverages its convening power to promote consensus- and outcome-oriented debates, connecting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



Outreach

Research publications are widely read, freely available and distributed to over 30,000 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



Current research areas

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 Africa's 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 developing African businesses of scale to generate quality jobs, and on connecting green financing mechanisms to priorities of sustainable job creation in the context of rapid population growth. 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 of electoral contexts in countries at pivotal junctures in their democratic transitions. 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.



2021 in numbers



44

publications

The Africa Programme produced 44 publications, including seven peer reviewed papers, book chapters, and academic journal articles.



2,000

citations

Africa Programme staff were cited over 2,000 times in the global media, including 21 opinion or comment pieces.



30,000

decision-makers

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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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Research partners

African Studies Association of India (New Delhi)	Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics (Abuja)
Afrobarometer (Accra)	Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (Lagos)
African Development Bank (Abidjan)	Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (Nairobi)
African Foundation for Development (London)	Search For Common Ground (Diffo)
CEEI/ISRI Universidade Joaquim Chissano (Maputo)	South African Institute of International Affairs (Johannesburg)
Centro de Estudos e Investigação Científica (Luanda)	The World Bank (Washington DC)
Council on Foreign Relations (New York)	University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Norms and Behavioral Dynamics (Philadelphia)
European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris)	United Nations Development Programme (Addis Ababa)
Institut Français des Relations Internationales (Paris)	U.S. Institute of Peace (Washington DC)
Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria)	
Institute of International Relations (Prague)	
Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (Lisbon)	
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Sankt Augustin)	



Funders

Actis	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	Mitsubishi Corporation
Agility	Globeleq	Mitsui
Anglo American	Government of Canada	National Endowment for Democracy
Baker McKenzie	Government of Germany	Omidyar Network
Barclays Private Bank	Government of the United States of America	Rio Tinto
Bechtel	Hogan Lovells	Robert Bosch Stiftung
BP	Humanity United	Shell International
Brenthurst Foundation	Investec	Standard Bank Group
Chevron	Irish Aid	Standard Chartered Bank
De Beers	JP Morgan	The World Bank
DP World	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung	Total
ENI	MacArthur Foundation	Tullow Oil
Equinor	Ministry of Defence, UK	UNDP
ExxonMobil		



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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