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The Impact of Methane Management on Ghana's Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability

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Methane, a greenhouse gas more than 80 times stronger than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, has emerged as both a critical climate threat and a strategic energy opportunity. In Ghana, where natural gas powers the majority of thermal plants, tackling methane emissions presents a dual benefit: protecting the environment while strengthening energy security. Yet, despite its growing levels and far-reaching consequences, methane remains largely absent from national climate discussions.

Ghana's policy and public discourse have not kept pace with its rising emission trends. Between 1990 and 2022, methane emissions in Ghana increased by about 260%, driven largely by developments in the energy and waste sectors. These emissions contribute not only to climate change but also to ground-level ozone formation, which affects air quality, respiratory health, and agricultural productivity.

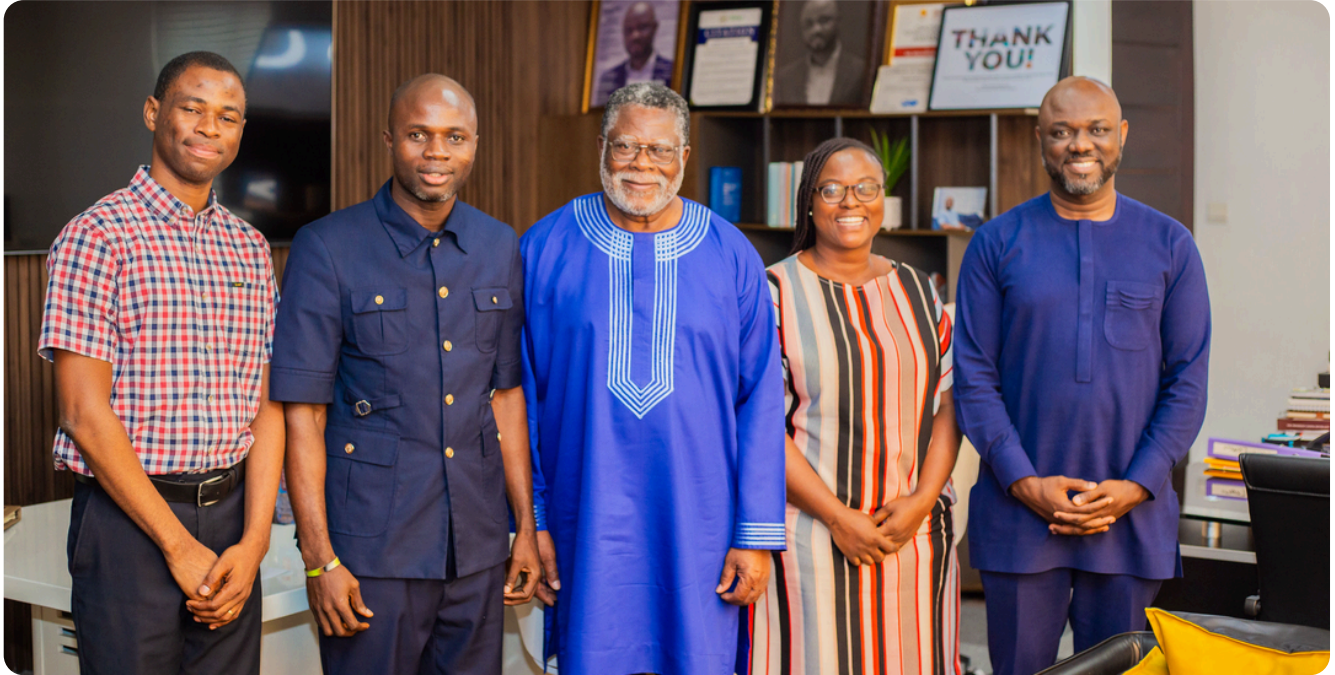
More critically, methane plays a significant role in Ghana's energy system. As the main component of natural gas, it powers the majority of the country's thermal generation capacity. However, this reliance exposes a key vulnerability: fuel availability. Installed capacity alone does not guarantee stable electricity supply unless matched by dependable fuel inputs.

With gas now a strategic component of Ghana's power mix, efficient gas management and commercialisation are essential, not only to reduce emissions but also to ensure energy reliability and economic resilience. Read full issue [here](#).

Program/Event Highlight

Courtesy Call on ACEP by the Organisers of the Ghana Energy Awards

August 13, 2025 | ACEP Office, North Legon - Accra



On 13th August 2025, the organisers of the Ghana Energy Awards (GEA) paid a courtesy call on the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP). They were warmly received by the Executive Director, Mr. Benjamin Boakye.

The delegation, led by Hon. Dr. Kwame Ampofo, Ghana's Ambassador to Hungary, expressed their appreciation to ACEP for its significant contribution to the success of the awards scheme over the years. They also sought future collaboration and support from ACEP to help upscale the initiative as it marks its 10th anniversary in 2026, with a focus on innovation and technology.

In his remarks, Mr. Boakye commended the organisers for their efforts and encouraged them to ensure that the awards go beyond recognising outstanding industry players. He noted that the scheme should also serve as a platform to reshape the energy industry by setting benchmarks of excellence for individuals and institutions to aspire to. According to him, recognising those who meet such standards will not only reward achievement but also inspire others to strive for excellence, thereby contributing to the transformation of Ghana's energy sector.

Program/Event Highlight

Highlights from the Future of Energy Conference

August 26 -27, 2025 | Labadi Beach Hotel Accra



The Future of Energy Conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, civil society actors, and youth voices from across Africa and beyond to engage in timely conversations on the continent's energy future. The gathering was a platform not only for sharing knowledge but also for shaping collective action toward an inclusive and sustainable energy transition

At the heart of the discussions was the recognition that true energy access extends beyond grid connections. It entails ensuring that households, businesses, schools, hospitals, and industries cannot only access electricity but also afford it and use it productively to improve lives and sustain growth. Energy access, therefore, is not merely a technical issue but a matter of dignity, equity, and opportunity.

Speakers also emphasized that energy access is ultimately about dignity, equity, and opportunity. With Africa's population projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, universal, reliable, and affordable energy access will be critical for raising incomes, advancing gender equity, and driving economic transformation.

Other conversations focused on the urgent need for innovative financial solutions. With African governments already fiscally overstretched, participants highlighted that they cannot carry the burden of risk alone. Designing new financial instruments to de-risk investments and attract private capital is essential. At the same time, governments must strengthen their capacity to negotiate and structure bankable projects, engaging professional transaction advisors early to avoid poorly designed contracts that limit long-term benefits.

Program/Event Highlight

The conference underscored that Africa's energy transition must be shaped by its own realities and interests. Building sustainable, inclusive, and competitive energy systems is not only vital for resilience and poverty reduction but also for positioning Africa as a strong voice in the global energy transition. Participants emphasized that this transition must prioritize the needs of Africa's people while unlocking opportunities in clean energy innovation and industrialization.

Finally, speakers called for a deeper regional cooperation through integrated energy markets and cross-border infrastructure. Such collaboration is key to achieving cost efficiency, ensuring energy security, and accelerating Africa's transition to a just and inclusive energy future. The conference reaffirmed that Africa's energy future is inseparable from its development agenda. By working together through bold policies, innovative financing, and regional partnerships, Africa can transform its vast potential into sustainable growth and shared prosperity.







Program/Event Highlight

Building the Next Leaders in Africa's Extractives and Energy Sectors

August 18- 28, 2025 | ACEP Office, North Legon, Accra



The Africa Regional Extractive Industries Knowledge Hub (AFREIKH) Summer School on the Governance of Extractive Industries in Anglophone Africa 2025 was organised by Natural Resource Governance Institute and the Africa Centre for Energy Policy.

Africa's extractive and energy sectors are at the heart of the continent's development story. They hold immense potential to drive industrialization, create jobs, and fund public services. Yet, they are equally entangled in complex challenges – from governance gaps and revenue mismanagement to the urgent demands of climate action and the just energy transition. It is against this backdrop that the 2025 Summer School was convened, providing a timely and critical forum to interrogate these issues while empowering the next generation of leaders to shape a more sustainable path forward.

The Summer School combined intensive lectures, panel discussions, and interactive exercises. The highlight of the program was the two-day Future of Energy Conference, which drew in a wider community of stakeholders to deepen dialogue on Africa's role in the global energy transition. This blend of structured training and open conversation created a unique platform where technical knowledge, lived experiences, and diverse perspectives could intersect. This year, the program welcomed 26 participants from across Africa, including fellows from the Next Generation Resource Governance Leaders Program.

Program/Event Highlight

The diversity of countries represented – Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, D.R. Congo, and Zimbabwe – underscored the continental scope of both the challenges and the opportunities in Africa's resource governance landscape.

Over the course of the program, participants engaged with leading experts and practitioners on some of the most pressing issues shaping the sector today. Topics ranged from oil field development and unitization to methane abatement, from the political economy of extractives to value addition in mineral value chains. There were also deep dives into community engagement, financing the energy transition, and the broader governance structures that will determine whether Africa can truly harness its wealth for the benefit of its people.

These conversations were grounded in real-world challenges and opportunities, with participants encouraged to critically assess policy trade-offs, explore innovative financing mechanisms, and propose governance reforms that could make extractive resources a true engine of inclusive development. The 2025 Summer School created a space for peer learning, collaboration, and visioning Africa's future. The program created a cross-sectoral dialogue by bringing together voices from government, civil society, academia, media, and local communities, the program created a cross-sectoral dialogue that reflected the complexity of resource governance. Participants learned not only from experts but also from each other's country experiences, challenges, and innovations.

At its core, the Summer School reinforced AFREIKH's mission to cultivate the next generation of leaders who can champion transparency, accountability, and sustainable development in Africa's extractives and energy sectors. It reminded us that the future of resource governance is not just about managing oil wells, gas pipelines, or mineral deposits rather it is about people, justice, and long-term development.

Program/Event Highlight

As Africa stands at a crossroads in the global energy transition, the voices of young leaders, equipped with knowledge and networks, are more important than ever. The 2025 Summer School demonstrated that with the right investment in capacity, dialogue, and collaboration, Africa can produce a generation of leaders who will ensure that resource wealth is not a curse but a foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth. Ultimately, the work continues in the networks built, the ideas generated, and the renewed commitment of participants to transform governance in their respective countries. Together, they represent a growing movement determined to rewrite Africa's resource story.



Program/Event Highlights

Meet our 9th Cohort of NextGen Leaders



We are excited to welcome the 9th cohort of the Next Generation Resource Governance Leaders Program—a dynamic group of young professionals from Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Ghana.

These emerging leaders are part of a new wave of voices shaping the future of Africa's energy and extractive sectors. Through intensive workshops on critical thinking, research methods, fiscal regimes, and mining laws, they are gaining a deeper understanding of fiscal accountability, transparency, and the governance of natural resources.

Equipped with these skills, the cohort is developing the analytical, advocacy, and leadership capacity to influence policy, demand accountability, and design innovative solutions that connect Africa's development goals with sustainable resource management. Their participation in this program positions them not only as national changemakers but as global actors in the evolving discourse on energy transition, climate resilience, and equitable resource governance.

At ACEP, we believe that investing in young people is key to ensuring that Africa's natural resource wealth translates into inclusive and sustainable growth. The NextGen program is building a pipeline of professionals who are ready to champion reform, shape policy, and collaborate across borders to secure a just and sustainable future for the continent.

This cohort represents not just the future of resource governance but a growing movement of young Africans determined to transform their countries, their communities, and the world.



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ACEP is a thought leader in Africa's energy and extractives governance space, working towards improving economic transformation and inclusive sustainable development. We contribute to developing alternative and innovative policy interventions through high-quality research, analysis, and advocacy in Africa's energy and extractives sector.