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ACEP RADAR

JANUARY - MARCH, 2026

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Insights & Perspectives

Environmental and Health Impacts of Methane Emissions

Dr. Charles Gyamfi and Dr. Carl Osei



As global conversations on climate change continue to intensify, increasing attention is being drawn to the environmental and public health impacts of methane emissions. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are expected to contribute significantly to the spread and severity of climate-sensitive diseases, making methane not only an environmental concern but also a growing human health threat.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes heavily to global warming and deteriorating air quality. While exposure to methane at lower concentrations is relatively non-toxic, higher concentrations can lead to methane gas poisoning by displacing oxygen in the air, depriving the body of the oxygen it needs to function properly.

Exposure to high levels of methane gas can trigger a range of immediate health effects, from mild to severe. Early symptoms often include irritability, slurred speech, blurred vision, headaches, nausea, vomiting, facial flushing, and memory loss. Prolonged or intense exposure may result in irregular breathing, changes in heart rate, dizziness, and difficulty maintaining balance. In severe cases, methane poisoning can cause numbness, unconsciousness, respiratory failure, cardiovascular complications, and even death.

Beyond its direct health implications, methane emissions also worsen climate change impacts that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, especially in developing regions already struggling with weak health systems and climate-related shocks. This highlights the urgent need for stronger climate policies, methane reduction strategies, and integrated approaches that recognise the close connection between environmental sustainability and public health. Read more [here](#).

Program/Event Highlight

ACEP Participates in Strategic Dialogue on Revamping the AMV Private Sector Compact at Mining Indaba

February, 8 -11, 2026



The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) participated in a high-level Industry Intel Session at Investing in Mining Indaba, focused on revamping the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) Private Sector Compact, an important initiative aimed at redefining Africa's role in the global minerals economy and ensuring that the continent derives greater value from its vast mineral resources.

At the heart of the discussions was a critical question: How can Africa ensure that the growing global demand for transition minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, and graphite becomes a catalyst for industrialisation and economic transformation rather than a continuation of historical extractive models?

As the world accelerates efforts toward a low-carbon future, Africa's mineral wealth has become increasingly strategic. Yet despite supplying many of the minerals essential for the global energy transition, the continent continues to capture only a fraction of the value generated along the supply chain. The Industry Intel Sessions therefore sought to identify practical pathways for changing this narrative.

A key focus of the engagement was the modernization of the 2016 AMV Private Sector Compact to align with emerging priorities, including Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards and the Africa Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS). Participants explored how the revised Compact can serve as a framework for deeper collaboration between governments, industry actors, and development partners to support sustainable and inclusive mineral development.

Discussions emphasised the importance of moving beyond the traditional “pit-to-port” model of resource extraction toward a more integrated approach that promotes Equitable Resource-Based Industrialisation (ERBI). This approach seeks to leverage Africa's strategically important mineral reserves to stimulate local value addition, industrial development, technology transfer, job creation, and regional economic integration.

Participants also highlighted the need to strengthen transparency and accountability in the minerals sector by improving the tracking of financial flows and investments associated with strategic minerals. Ensuring that greater value remains within African economies will be critical to translating mineral wealth into broad-based development outcomes.

Importantly, the dialogue marked a shift from broad policy aspirations to actionable implementation mechanisms. Participants explored practical tools such as the African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System (AMREC-PARC), which can support better resource governance, investment decisions, and the development of competitive African enterprises across the mineral value chain from exploration and extraction to processing, manufacturing, recycling, and circular economy solutions.



Program/Event Highlight

ACEP Collaborates on Continental Minerals Innovation Drive

February, 9, 2026 | Cape Town, South Africa



The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), in collaboration with regional and continental partners including the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), UNDP, Timbuktu MineTech Hub, and UniPods, is playing a central role in advancing a new innovation-driven approach to Africa's mineral development under the Continental Extractive Industries Programme (CEIP), a flagship implementation initiative of AUDA-NEPAD.

The engagement reaffirmed that Africa's mineral challenge is fundamentally structural rather than geological. Although the continent holds close to one-third of global mineral reserves, limited value is captured due to weak value-chain integration, inadequate project preparation, fragile innovation ecosystems, and uneven institutional capacity. The CEIP was established to address these constraints by shifting focus from policy formulation to disciplined implementation.

The CEIP provides a structured, five-pillar execution framework designed to translate mineral endowment into industrial capability, bankable projects, and inclusive growth. Central to this approach is the recognition that mineral-led industrialisation requires strong collaboration across governments, research institutions, the private sector, and development partners. Within this framework, ACEP is a key implementation partner, contributing to the operationalisation of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) pillar through the Afrohackathon initiative.

ACEP's Afrohackathon initiative is being implemented in collaboration with UNDP's Timbuktu MineTech Hub, UniPods, the Pan-African Decarbonisation Institute (P-ADI), and the Africa Change Lab. Together, these partners are building a continental innovation ecosystem that links academic research, policy, industry, and finance across the extractive value chain.

Anchored in ACEP's Future of Energy Conference, the Afrohackathon serves as a practical platform to identify minimum viable products, support mentorship and commercialisation, and connect innovators with investors and policymakers. The initiative is deliberately structured to ensure that innovation outcomes are aligned with continental standards, regulatory frameworks, and investment priorities.

A core focus of the Afrohackathon is lithium-ion battery value addition, spanning applications such as off-grid solar systems, clean cooking solutions, mobile devices, electric mobility, and energy storage. This focus reflects Africa's energy access needs, demographic realities, and growing demand for green minerals.

ACEP is helping to anchor innovation at the centre of Africa's extractive-led industrialisation agenda through collaboration with regional partners and leadership in the innovation track reinforcing the CEIP's objective of transforming mineral wealth into sustainable economic and industrial outcomes.



ACEP hosts Judith Neilson Foundation Delegation to Discuss Africa's Energy and Development Future

February, 16, 2026 | ACEP Office, North Legon



The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) was pleased to host a delegation from the Judith Neilson Foundation, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Simon Freeman, and Titus Gwemende, on a courtesy visit as part of the Foundation's learning tour across Africa. The visit formed part of the Foundation's efforts to deepen its understanding of how African institutions are driving development, shaping policy conversations, and advancing solutions to some of the continent's most pressing challenges.

Recognising the central role of energy in economic transformation, the engagement provided and opportunity for ACEP to share its work in promoting inclusive, sustainable, and equitable energy development across Africa. Discussions focused on the importance of evidence-based research, policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and institutional collaboration in supporting effective governance of the energy sector.

ACEP's Executive Director, Benjamin Boakye, highlighted the organisation's growing regional footprint and its partnerships across several African countries, including Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Angola, and Mozambique. He noted that ACEP's work increasingly focuses on helping African countries navigate the opportunities and challenges presented by the global energy transition while ensuring that development priorities remain at the centre of decision-making.

The delegation also learned about ACEP's broader efforts to strengthen resource governance, promote accountability, and support policy reforms that enable countries to maximise the benefits of their natural resources for long-term development. We thank the Judith Neilson Foundation delegation for the visit and for the insightful discussions, and we look forward to continued engagement on issues of shared interest and impact.

Program/Event Highlight

ACEP Engages Bloggers on Governance and Accountability in Ghana

February, 18, 2026 | ACEP Office, North Legon



Ghana's democracy is strengthened by institutions that promote accountability, transparency, and informed public participation. Among these institutions, the media plays a vital role in shaping public discourse, scrutinising government actions, and empowering citizens with information needed to participate meaningfully in national development.

As Ghana's media landscape continues to evolve, bloggers and digital media actors have emerged as influential voices in public conversations, increasingly shaping opinion and influencing political discourse across the country. Recognising their growing role in democratic governance, the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) convened a focused engagement with bloggers to critically examine the first year of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration under the leadership of President John Dramani Mahama.

Facilitated by Professor Godfred A. Bokpin, the session provided a platform for open and evidence-based discussions on the government's early policy decisions, governance priorities, economic management strategies, and reform initiatives. Participants explored key developments within the administration's first year, assessing both achievements and emerging challenges within the broader context of Ghana's democratic and development agenda.

The engagement sought to strengthen the capacity of bloggers and digital media practitioners to interpret policy developments critically and communicate them accurately to the public. Through informed dialogue and analytical reflection, participants were equipped with tools and perspectives to engage more effectively in public debates and contribute to a more informed citizenry.



Program/Event Highlight

Unlocking Local Opportunities in Ghana's Solar PV Industry

February, 25, 2026 | ACEP Office, North Legon



Modern renewable energy solutions, especially solar PV systems, are shaping the future of reliable electricity, energy security, and sustainable economic growth across Africa. In Ghana, solar PV is increasingly complementing the national grid and expanding access to underserved and off-grid communities. Beyond improving energy access, the sector also presents growing opportunities for job creation, skills development, and enterprise growth particularly for Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) operating across the solar value chain.

To explore this potential, ACEP, together with A Rocha Ghana and the World Energy Council - Future Energy Leaders, Ghana (WEC-FEL), with support from the Institute of Economic Justice (IEJ) and funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), convened a stakeholder engagement to generate industry-based evidence on localisation potential, working conditions, and supply chain dynamics within Ghana's solar PV sector.

The engagement brought together stakeholders from industry, government, academia, and civil society to examine opportunities and challenges within the sector, while identifying practical policy and market solutions to strengthen local participation, promote decent work, and support SMME integration in Ghana's growing renewable energy industry.

Introducing the 10th Cohort of NextGen Leaders

March, 2, 2026 | ACEP Office, North Legon



On 2nd March 2026, the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) welcomed the 10th cohort of the Next Generation Resource Governance Leaders Programme, a milestone that reflects our continued commitment to nurturing Africa's future leaders in resource governance, energy, and sustainable development.

This year's cohort comprises eight exceptional young professionals from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania. Representing diverse academic and professional backgrounds including engineering, development and sustainability studies, political science, and public policy the cohort brings together a rich mix of perspectives, experiences, and expertise.

They are young leaders stepping boldly into critical conversations around energy transition, governance, accountability, natural resource management, and sustainable development. United by a shared commitment to Africa's progress, they bring fresh ideas, curiosity, and a determination to contribute meaningfully to the continent's development journey.

The Next Generation Resource Governance Leaders Programme is designed to equip emerging leaders with the knowledge, practical skills, and analytical tools needed to navigate complex governance challenges and drive impactful change. Through research, mentorship, policy engagement, and practical learning experiences, participants are exposed to real-world governance issues while developing the capacity to influence policy and decision-making processes.

At ACEP, we believe that meaningful and lasting change is driven by people. Investing in young leaders is therefore an investment in the future we want to see one characterised by transparency, accountability, innovation, and inclusive development. As such, the programme goes beyond learning; it creates a platform for participants to contribute ideas, ask difficult questions, challenge conventional thinking, and engage in conversations that matter.

The passion, dedication, and intellectual curiosity demonstrated by this cohort offer a strong reminder of the immense potential that exists across the continent. Their willingness to engage with critical development challenges provides hope for a new generation of leadership grounded in integrity, innovation, and impact.

We are excited to accompany these young leaders on their journey of growth and discovery and look forward to seeing the contributions they will make to shaping Africa's energy, governance, and development future.

Welcome to the Next Generation Resource Governance Leaders Programme. The journey begins.



Program/Event Highlight

Bridging Theory and Practice: ACEP Engages UENR Students on Energy Transition and Natural Gas Management

March 25 -26, 2026| UENR, Sunyani



As Africa navigates the complexities of energy security, industrial development, and climate action, preparing the next generation of energy professionals has become more important than ever. In line with this commitment, a two-day seminar was recently convened at University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) in collaboration with the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering. The engagement brought together students, faculty, and energy policy experts for practical and thought-provoking discussions on some of the most pressing issues shaping the future of Africa's energy sector.

The first day of the seminar focused on the theme: "Energy Transition in Africa: Balancing Development and Justice." The session was facilitated by Charles G. Ofori, Policy Lead for Energy Transition and Climate Change, who challenged participants to critically examine the realities and contradictions within the global energy transition discourse.

The discussion highlighted the unique position of African countries within the transition conversation. While the continent contributes minimally to global emissions, it continues to face disproportionate climate impacts alongside persistent energy poverty and developmental deficits. Students were encouraged to think beyond imported narratives and engage with the question of what a “just transition” truly means in the African context.

The second day shifted attention to the technical and commercial dimensions of natural gas management and commercialisation. Facilitated by Dr. Joseph Willie Amoah, the session provided students with practical industry insights that complemented their academic training. Beyond knowledge sharing, the seminar reinforced the importance of creating platforms where students can engage directly with practitioners and policy actors. Such interactions are essential in helping young people appreciate the relevance of their studies and prepare meaningfully for careers in energy, climate, and resource governance.



Program/Event Highlight

Youth Champions for Fiscal Accountability: Building Skills for Citizen Oversight

March 24 -26, 2026| ACEP, North Legon



Ghana continues to face significant fiscal and macroeconomic pressures, from rising public debt and revenue mobilisation challenges to persistent gaps in public financial management. While government reforms and IMF-supported interventions are underway, concerns around accountability, transparency, and effective oversight remain critical to ensuring sustainable fiscal governance.

At the same time, although Ghana's youth population is increasingly informed and digitally connected, sustained citizen engagement on fiscal governance issues remains limited. Complex public finance processes and limited access to simplified information often make it difficult for many young people to actively participate in accountability conversations.

To help bridge this gap, ACEP, through its Youth Champions for Fiscal Accountability Fellowship, convened a more focused, output-driven, and action-oriented training programme aimed at building a new generation of young fiscal accountability advocates.

Over a three-day period, more than 40 young people were equipped with practical skills in budget tracking, fiscal analysis, and audit follow-up. Participants also strengthened their capacity to interpret and simplify complex fiscal data, transforming technical public finance information into clear advocacy messages, public interest content, and citizen-centered engagement tools.

The fellowship further created space for participants to critically examine Ghana's fiscal challenges, understand the importance of citizen oversight, and explore innovative ways young people can contribute to transparency, accountability, and responsible public resource management.





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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.