

Climate change is a global phenomenon of climate transformation characterized by a general increase in average surface temperatures. This permanently modifies meteorological balances and ecosystems. This is a phenomenon to which the law can no longer remain indifferent. It is, therefore, necessary to regulate actors in climate change in order to take into account the damage to the environment and its costs, and impose some form of social and environmental justice while respecting proprietary rights and proposing alternatives as renewable energy. This bears in mind that climate justice is a recent political notion aimed at addressing unequal causes and consequences of climate change. It is particularly reflected in legal actions carried out by associations and citizens' groups against States or corporations. Climate justice raises questions of responsibility.

These lead to considerations of carbon offsetting, which is a means of an actor or perpetrator offsetting its own emissions by financing projects to reduce other CO₂ emissions. However, there is a diversity of players who seek to offset their emissions. As this market is unregulated, there is a wide variety of methods for calculating emissions, as well as for certification and monitoring of projects. In this context, a labeled certification is necessary. The objective is to provide buyers of carbon credits with guarantees of reliability and credibility relating to projects by ensuring that the offsets are real and lasting, additional (that emissions cannot be reduced in the absence of a project), measurable and verifiable. Voluntary labels are derived from the Kyoto Protocol certification requirements, now ending. The vast majority of projects on the voluntary compensation market are certified by independent organizations. In this regard, the GATo Network seeks to set up legal bases for African Certification of African CO₂ Offset projects instead of relying on standards developed outside of the continent while rooting for practical compensatory measures.

Thematic Areas

- Accreditation regimes in climate change
- Regulation of actors and compensation frameworks in climate change
- Approximation of legal regimes on climate change in the African continent
- Realising social justice in climate change processes

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