

Exploring the Policy
Impact of African
Research: tools,
learnings and
potential strategies

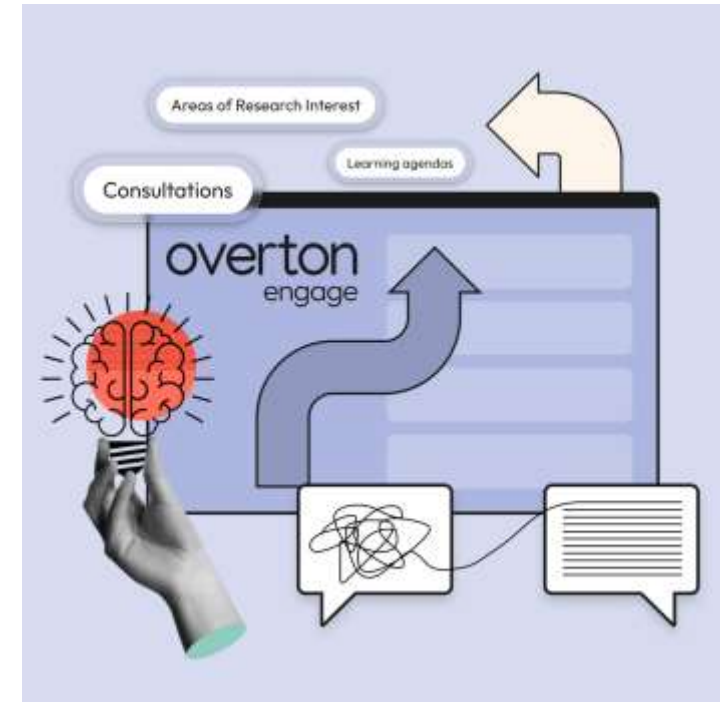
Euan Adie, overton.io, 13th Nov 2024

What we'll cover

- What's Overton?
- How research is used by policymakers
- Things we've learned about the academic / policy interface
- What can we do as researchers?

We do three main things at Overton

- “Like Google, but for policy documents”
- We track citations and other links to research from those policy documents
- We collect calls for evidence and expertise from



Combination of paid & free services

- Access is usually paid for by university / funder
- Free for research purposes (if you're writing a paper / poster)
- "Engage" database is free with a login

Document count

14,467,746

Countries

193

Sources

2,349





SEARCH POLICY DOCUMENTS

SEARCH PEOPLE

SEARCH SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

eg. universal credit

Search policy

or

Search by Overton ID

or

Search by policy document DOI

or

Reset search

Click to hide search filters

Showing documents from Africa and citing others sorted by Citations (excl. same source) and grouped by Landing page

Currently active filters

Cites others

Remove

Source region

Remove

Africa

Edit selection

Your Tags and Highlights

All tags and highlights 2

multi_duplicate 1

iadb 1

Cites work from funder beta

OTHER
NIHR (October 2023) 655

EUROPMC
Wellcome Trust 1,075

GTR
ESRC 905

show more

Cites or mentions institution

University College London 1,264

Save search

See report

Export

Explore

Showing 17,104 results (17.3K PDFs)

1 2 ... 343



National Climate Change Action Plan

Ministry of Environment and Forestry from Government of Kenya on May 6th 2014 Publication

Cited by 71 other policy documents (excl. same source)

Climate change adaptation Low-carbon economy Climate resilience

Tag this Download PDF

What's this about?

Climate Change Action Plan



Strategy 2010

Ministry of Water and Sanitation from Government of South Africa on November 17th 2010 Publication

Cited by 59 other policy documents (excl. same source)

Water and politics Liquid dielectrics Natural resources

Tag this Download PDF

What's this about?

Groundwater Strategy 2010 for South Africa



Cape Town's Water Strategy

City of Cape Town on January 22nd 2020 Publication

Cited by 49 other policy documents (excl. same source)

Environmental science Environmental engineering Liquid dielectrics

Tag this Download PDF

What's this about?

Cape Town's water strategy



Actions

- Tag this
- Export RIS
- Export to PowerPoint
- Read full text on www.somalia.gov.so

Language: eng
400 pages

Download PDF

SOMALIA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 to 2024

Government of Somlia on December 23rd 2019

Ministry of Investment and Economic Planning

See the 22 policy documents that cite this document

See report on the 22 policy documents that cite this document

See the 5 articles cited by this document

See report on the 5 articles cited by this document

Topics in this document

- Poverty
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Economic growth
- Business
- Poverty reduction
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- Social protection
- Fiscal policy
- Transitional federal government of Somalia
- Sustainability
- Tax
- Climate resilience
- Human activities
- Economy
- Politics
- Policy
- Somalia
- Food security
- Governance
- Remittance
- Public finance
- Agriculture
- Health
- Gross domestic product
- Employment
- WASH
- National security
- Aid
- Vocational education
- Monetary policy

Cites research from

- Mogadishu University
- International Monetary Fund

Citations

Cited by 22 other policy documents (16 of them are from other policy sources)

This description was generated by AI

Hide —

What's this document about?

Somalia National Development Plan

Document description

The Somalia National Development Plan 2020 to 2024 aims to create a just, stable, and prosperous Somalia. The document outlines the country's context, including geography, demographics, recent history, conflict, and economy. It also presents the achievements and lessons learned from the previous development plan (NDP-8) and the results of stakeholder consultations. The plan identifies poverty as a major issue in Somalia and presents a strategy framework to address it, including pillars such as inclusive politics, economic growth, and human development. The document also discusses the importance of a secure environment, empowerment, and education in reducing poverty. It presents a theory of change and links the strategy framework to sustainable development dimensions, the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus, and the 2030 Agenda. The plan aims to achieve Somalia's development goals and reduce poverty by 2024.

Document type

Government report

Audience

policy makers, government officials, civil servants, international organizations

Policy relevant?

very likely

Learn more about our AI generated descriptions

How would you rate this description?

Cited by others

Read article

Highlight this

Conceptions of Transitional Justice in Somalia: Findings of Field Research in Mogadishu

Northeast African Studies (Michigan State University Press)

Abdullahi (Baadiyow) 2014

“ In most traditional settings, clan elders oversee the implementation of the local xeer, while Islamic scholars are responsible for and called upon to render religious judgments related to criminal acts and civil disputes. 140 However, in 1973, the Siad Barre government introduced a unified civil code.

On page 165

140 Abdirahman M. Abdullahi (Baadiyow), 2014 "Conceptions of Transitional Justice in Somalia: Findings of Field Research in Mogadishu," Northeast African Studies, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Fall 2014), pp. 7-44

On page 165

Cited by others

Read article

Highlight this

The WTO promotes trade, strongly but unevenly

Journal of International Economics (Elsevier BV)

Arvind Subramanian et al. 2007

“ There is evidence that WTO accession has a powerful and positive impact on trade, in particular for developing countries that acceded after the Uruguay Round in 1995 211 .

On page 244

211 A. Subramaniam and S. J. Wei, "The WTO Promotes Trade, Strongly but Unevenly," 72(1) J. of Intl. Econ. 141 (2007).

On page 244

Cited by others

Read article

Highlight this

Trade Multilateralism in the Twenty-First Century

(Cambridge University Press)

2017

“ Research also shows that WTO accession results in a statistically significant improvement to trade intensity, not just quantitatively but also qualitatively, as trade in services increases for acceding countries 212 .

On page 244

212 H. Escaith, C. Osakwe, V. Chemtutal and Y. Yan, "Transforming Accessions Data into Knowledge," in A. Kireyev and C. Osakwe, eds., Trade Multilateralism in the Twenty-First Century: Building the Upper Floors of the Trading System Through WTO Accessions, 2017, 175, at pp. 190, 197.

On page 244

SEARCH POLICY DOCUMENTS SEARCH RESULTS SEARCH SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

e.g. universal credit Search policy or Search by Overton ID or Search by policy document DOI or Reset search

Click to hide search filters

Currently active filters

Cites or mentions institution Remove X

University of Ghana Edit selection

Your Tags and Highlights

- All tags and highlights 2
- multi_duplicate 1
- isab: 1

Cites work from funder **beta**

OTHER	2,113
NHR (October 2023)	
GTE	3,365
ESRC	
OTHER	3,364
ESRC January 2022	

[show more](#)

Noise score **alpha only**

0	263
3	255
2	254

[show more](#)

Cites UNCEPAL collection

Any UNCEPAL collection	645
Libros y Documentos Institucionales	151
Documentos de Proyectos	143

[show more](#)

Cites UNCEPAL policy author

United Nations CEPAL	346
Bianco, Elisa	76
Llavona, Aiba	76

Explore the policy documents citing research from University of Ghana Hide these help messages?

People

See the authors from University of Ghana being cited frequently or are mentioned by name in these results

Policy sources

See which policy sources, countries and source types are represented

Topics

Which subject areas is the policy from and are there any specific terms or topics that tend to come up?

Articles

List the articles from University of Ghana that are being cited

Showing documents connected to University of Ghana X sorted by **Relevance** and grouped by **Landing page**

[Save search](#) [See report](#) [Export](#) [Explore](#) Showing 8,272 results (3,818 PDFs) 1 2 ... 186

World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action

United Nations Human Settlement Programme on November 4th 2024 Publication

[What's this about?](#) Cities and Climate Action

Climate change adaptation Climate resilience Climate change mitigation

[Tag this](#) [Download PDF](#)

Electricity and informal settlements: Towards achieving SDG 7 in developing countries

James Kwame Mensah (2022) *Energy Research & Social Science*

Author from University of Ghana is James Kwame Mensah

Mensah, J.K. 2022. Electricity and informal settlements: Towards achieving SDG 7 in developing countries. *Energy Research Social Science*, 91, 102844. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102844>

On page 362

[show more](#)

OECD Review on Aligning Finance with Climate Goals

OECD on October 31st 2024 Publication

[What's this about?](#) Aligning finance with climate policy goals

Aligning finance with climate policy goals is crucial for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and resilience to climate change, as called for by Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement. Evidence-based policy making and investment decisions towards such alignment need to be informed by robust assessments. To support such efforts, this inaugural OECD Review on Aligning Finance with Climate Goals brings together best-available evidence on three core questions: (i) How is climate alignment of finance assess

Climate change mitigation Climate resilience Climate change adaptation

[Tag this](#) [See landing page for PDF](#)

A global assessment of policy tools to support climate adaptation

Nicola Ulbarri et al (2022) *Climate Policy*

Author from University of Ghana is Justice Issah Musah-Surugu

The Global Adaptation Mapping Initiative Team 2021. A global assessment of policy tools to support climate adaptation, *Climate Policy*, Vol. 22/1, pp. 77-96. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2021.2002251>

Showing documents connected to University of Ghana

Showing 9,272 results

University of Ghana

Showing documents connected to University of Ghana sorted by Relevance

World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action
United Nations Human Settlement Programme on November 4th 2024

University of Ghana
Edit selection

Your Tags and Highlights

- All tags and highlights 2
- multi, duplicate 1
- iodb 1

Cites work from funder

ESRC	2,113
ESRC (October 2023)	2,113
ESRC	3,365
ESRC January 2022	3,004

Noise score

0	263
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2	254

Cites UNCEPAL collection

Any UNCEPAL, collection	645
Libros y Documentos Institucionales	151
Documentos de Proyectos	143

Cites UNCEPAL policy author

United Nations CEPAL	346
Bonco, Elio	76
Llorens, Abo	76

Perception, experience, and indigenous knowledge of climate change and variability: the case of Accra, a sub-Saharan African city
Samuel Nii Ardey Codjoe et al. (2014) Regional Environmental Change
Authors from University of Ghana are George Owusu and Samuel Nii Ardey Codjoe

“ While there is no consensus on the definition and use of the terms (Onyanha, 2022; Petzold et al., 2020), Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in this report refers to all disaster-related risk knowledge accumulated by people who live in close contact with the natural environment and are associated with local culture (Hermans et al., 2022; Codjoe et al., 2014; Roncoli et al., 2002; Muita et al., 2016). ”

On page 22

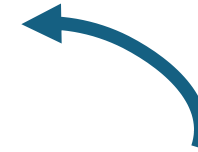
Codjoe, S. N. A., Owusu, G., and Burkett, V.: Perception, experience, and indigenous knowledge of climate change and variability: the case of Accra, a sub-Saharan African city, Reg Environ Change, 14, 369383, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-013-0500-0>, 2014.

On page 60

How does research get into a document like this?



Through informal channels



- May not be recorded
- Hard to get credit for as a researcher

How can your work impact policy?

Discover policy engagement opportunities from around the world.

Q solar power Search Reset search

All opportunity types Advisory Committee Areas of Research Interest (ARI) Consultation Event Fellowship Funding

Explore help topics
What are policy engagement opportunities? What are the different types of opportunity?

- All opportunities
 - Saved opportunities
 - My assigned opportunities
- Sort by
Relevance
- Filter results
- Country
 - Organisation
 - Department
 - Opportunity type
 - Best match score
 - Published date
 - Expiry date
 - Show expired opportunities
 - Only show opportunities with matches

Showing results for "solar power"

Save search Export opportunities Show matched researchers

Funding

Digital tools for concentrating solar power and solar thermal

EU European Commission → Horizon Europe

Published on: 17/09/2024 Expires: 21/01/2025

View opportunity

Areas of Research Interest (ARI)

How do low or no emission power methods for 4G mobile masts, such as wind, solar, hydrogen, and other methods, compare to diesel generation power in terms of ;(i) viability, (ii) reliability, (iii) durability, (iv) cost to operate?

UK UK Government → Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Published on: 26/02/2024

View opportunity

Funding

Funding: Photovoltaic-integrated electric mobility applications

EU European Commission → Horizon Europe

Published on: 17/09/2024 Expires: 21/01/2025

View opportunity

overton Start Discover Engage **Beta** Explore the data Admin Help euan@overton.io Log out

Opportunities / Advisory Committee

Call for experts: WHO Technical Advisory Group for the preparedness, prevention, surveillance, and response related to respiratory viruses

Opportunity type: Advisory Committee
Published on: 03/10/2024
Expires: 11/11/2024
Country: Global
Organisation: World Health Organisation
Department: World Health Organisation

View contact details

Save for later
Share this opportunity
Export this opportunity

Tags: Add a tag
Managed by: Select an administrator

An Advisory Committee is a group of individuals with specialised knowledge and expertise in a particular field who are convened to provide informed advice, guidance, and recommendations to an organisation, government agency, or decision-making body. Their role is to offer objective, evidence-based insights that can help shape policies, programs, and strategies.

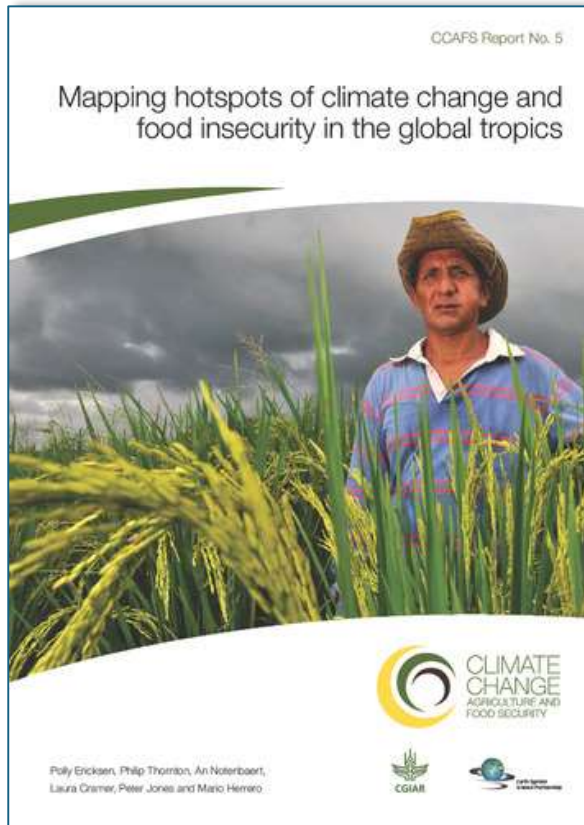
Matched researchers

- Researcher: Alimuddin Zumla
- Richard Pebody
- James D. Choppell
- Rosalind M Eggo
- Limkaten

We try to track opportunities like these at `engage.overton.io` (free after login)

What about ways that are more traceable?





Editorial Type: Article
Article Type: Research Article

Recent Trends of Minimum and Maximum Surface Temperatures over Eastern Africa

S. M. King'uyu, L. A. Ogallo, and E. K. Anyamba

Print Publication: 15 Aug 2000
DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442\(2000\)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2000)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2)
Page(s): 2876 - 2886

Policy documents may cite both scholarly research and grey literature

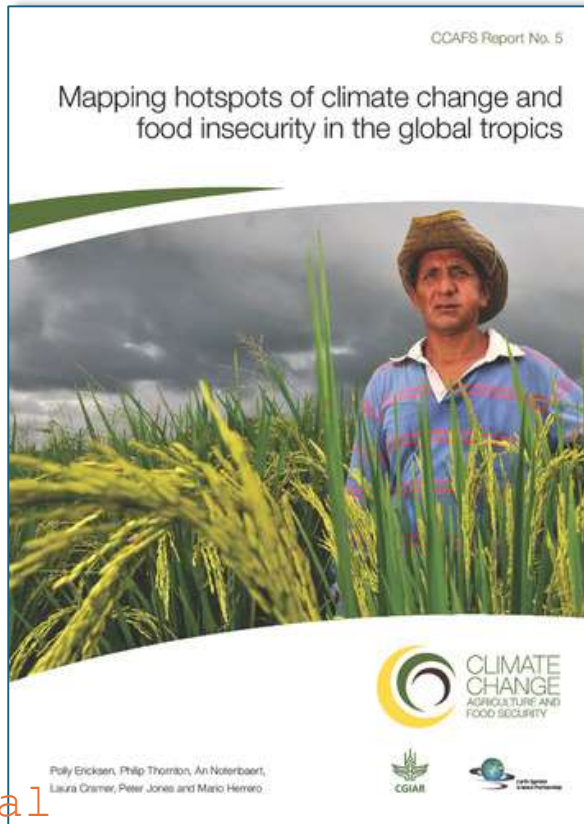
As a quick aside – the grey literature



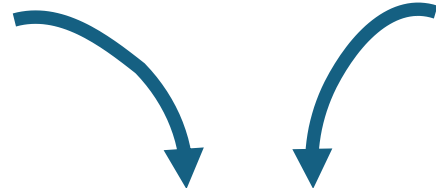
Journals,
monographs, books
– in the scholarly
record, may have
DOI



Everything else –
policy briefs,
blog posts, white
papers, reports



International
Livestock
Research
Institute,
Nairobi



Editorial Type: Article
Article Type: Research Article

Recent Trends of Minimum and Maximum Surface Temperatures over Eastern Africa

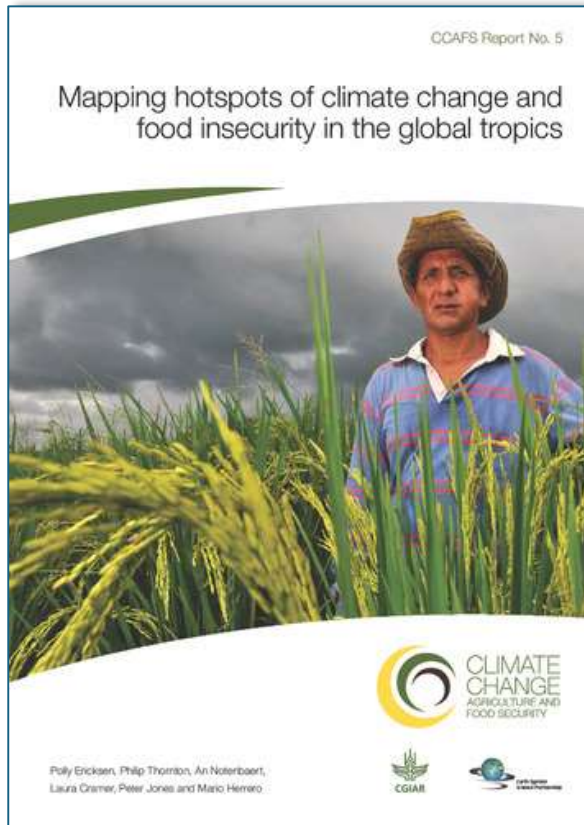
S. M. King'uyu, L. A. Ogallo, and E. K. Anyamba

Print Publication: 15 Aug 2000
DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442\(2000\)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2000)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2)
Page(s): 2876–2886

Institute for
Meteorological
Training
and Research,
Nairobi



(we'll pick examples of African research – more on this later)



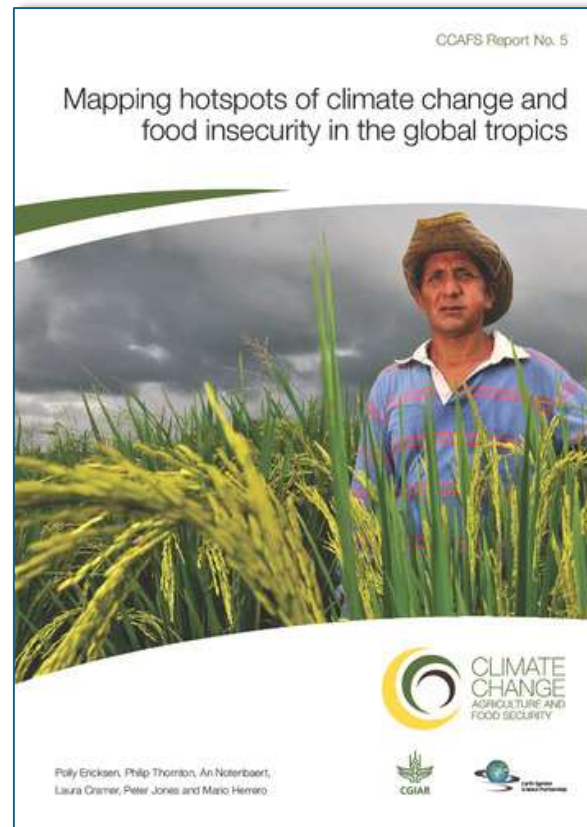
Editorial Type: Article
 Article Type: Research Article
 Recent Trends of Minimum and Maximum Surface Temperatures over Eastern Africa
 S. M. King'uyu, L. A. Ogallo, and E. K. Anyamba
 Print Publication: 15 Aug 2000
 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442\(2000\)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2000)013<2876:RTOMAM>2.0.CO;2)
 Page(s): 2876-2886

- ### 13. Annex 1a: NCCAP Thematic Working Group Members
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 1</p> <p>Cleopus Wangombe, MPND&V2030 (Macro Planning Directorate)</p> <p>John Nyangena, MPND&V2030 (Rural Planning Directorate)</p> <p>Dr. Joseph Onjala, University of Nairobi (Institute of Development Studies)</p> <p>Dr. Christopher Oludhe, University of Nairobi (Dept of Meteorology)</p> <p>Dr. Jane Wamuongo, KARI (Assistant Director, NRM)</p> <p>Justus Mwatu Mbithi, Ministry of Energy (Renewable Energy Department)</p> <p>Andrew Khamadi, Energy Expert</p> <p>David Matole, Environmental Architect</p> | <p>THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 2</p> <p>Patrick Chabeda, Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>Eunice Lumallas, Parliament</p> <p>Patrick King'uru Wahome, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources</p> <p>Jael Ludeki, Kenya Pipeline Company</p> <p>Wilfred Nyangena, KIPPRA</p> <p>Faith Pesa, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources</p> <p>Odhiambo Makoloo, Environmental Lawyer</p> <p>Wilson Dima, State Law Office Legislative Dept</p> <p>Dr. Jones Agwata, University of Nairobi (CASELAP)</p> <p>Festus M. Murithi, KARI (Socio-economics & Biometrics)</p> | <p>THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 3</p> <p>Victor Orindi, Ministry of Northern Kenya and Arid Lands</p> <p>Dr. James Kinyangi, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Esther Magambo, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Guyo Roba, International Union for the Conservation of Nature Program Officer</p> <p>Michael Okoti, KARI Coordinator Environment Research Program</p> <p>Emma Bowa, Care International</p> <p>Robin Mbae, Ministry of Livestock</p> <p>Prof Chris Shisanya, University of Nairobi</p> <p>James Sang, Ministry of Health</p> |
|---|---|---|

Often policy cites people, not papers
 Approx 1 academic mentioned per 10 citations

A very common scenario: research is cited by an intermediary / knowledge broker who write a brief or report, which is cited in gov policy.

We call these "second order" citations



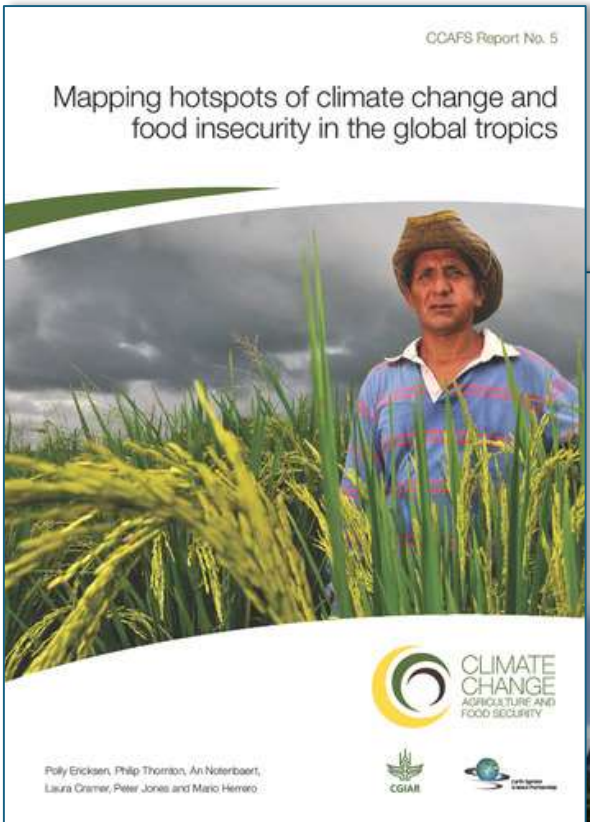
Editorial Type: Article
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Page(s): 2876-2886



13. Annex 1a: NCC Group Members

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 1

Cleopus Wangombe, MPND&V2030 (Macro Planning Directorate)
John Nyangena, MPND&V2030 (Rural Planning Directorate)
Dr. Joseph Onjala, University of Nairobi (Institute of Development Studies)
Dr. Christopher Oludhe, University of Nairobi (Dept of Meteorology)
Dr. Jane Wamuongo, KARI (Assistant Director, NRM)
Justus Mwatu Mbithi, Ministry of Energy (Renewable Energy Department)
Andrew Khamadi, Energy Expert
David Matole, Environmental Architect

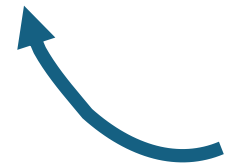
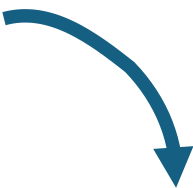


Editorial Type: **Article**
 Article Type: **Research Article**
Recent Trends of Minimum and Maximum over Eastern Africa
 S. M. King'uyu, L. A. Ogallo, and E. K. Anyamba
 Print Publication: 15 Aug 2000
 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442\(2000\)013<2876>](https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2000)013<2876>)
 Page(s): 2876–2886



13. Annex 1a: NCA Group Members

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 1
 Cleopus Wangombe, *MPND&V2030 (Macro Planning Directorate)*
 John Nyangena, *MPND&V2030 (Rural Planning Directorate)*
 Dr. Joseph Onjala, *University of Nairobi (Institute of Development Studies)*
 Dr. Christopher Oludhe, *University of Nairobi (Dept of Meteorology)*
 Dr. Jane Wamuongo, *KARI (Assistant Director, NRM)*
 Justus Mwatu Mbithi, *Ministry of Energy (Renewable Energy Department)*
 Andrew Khamadi, *Energy Expert*
 David Matole, *Environmental Architect*



International Journal of Climatology 

Research Article
ENSO signals in East African rainfall seasons
 Matayo Indeje, Fredrick H.M. Semazzi, Laban J. Ogallo
 First published: 20 January 2000 | [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1097-0088\(200001\)20:1<19::AID-JOC449>3.0.CO;2-0](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1097-0088(200001)20:1<19::AID-JOC449>3.0.CO;2-0) | Citations: 292

Another quick aside – when does impact happen?

Step 1



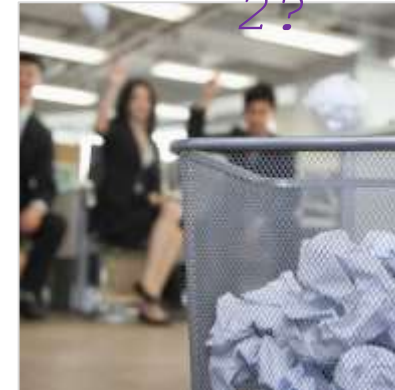
Step 2?



Step 2?



Step 2?







Some things we've learned

In general

May 10 2021

A large-scale validation of the relationship between cross-disciplinary research and its uptake in policy-related documents, using the novel Overton altmetrics database

Henrique Pinheiro , Etienne Vignola-Gagné , David Campbell  

[> Author and Article Information](#)

Quantitative Science Studies 1–40.

https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00137 [Article history](#)

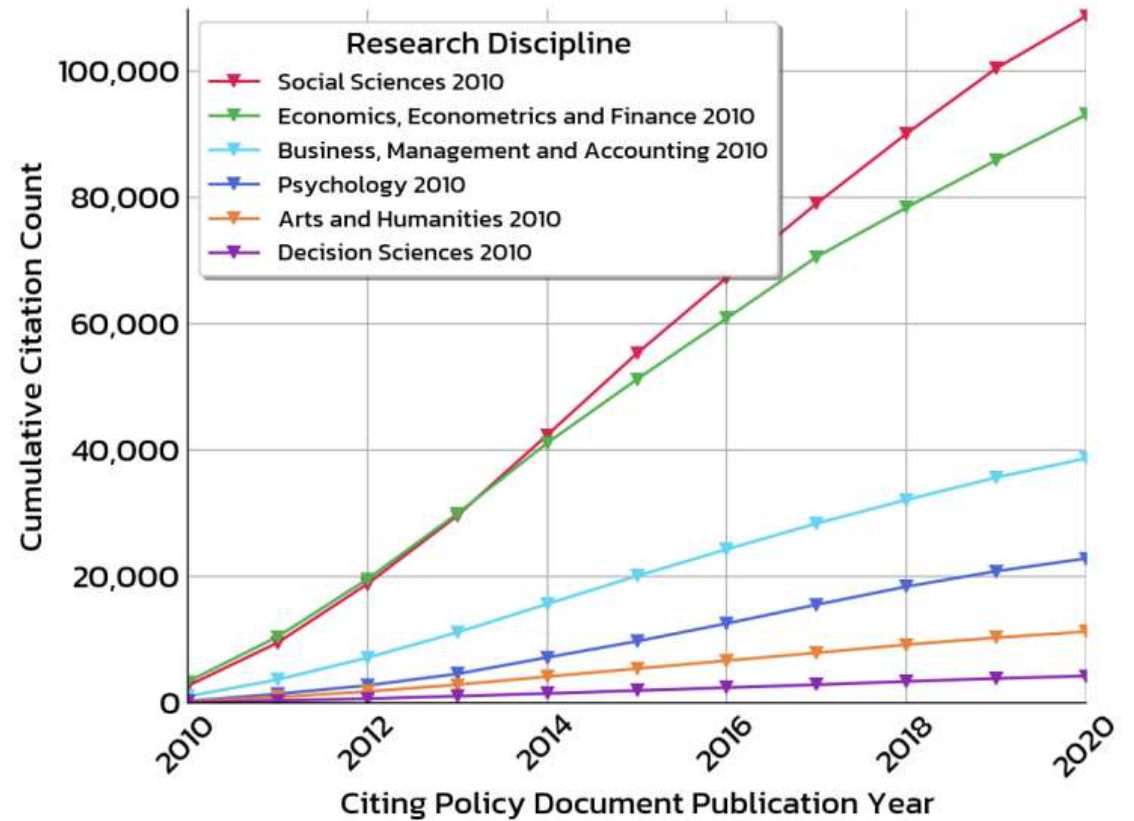
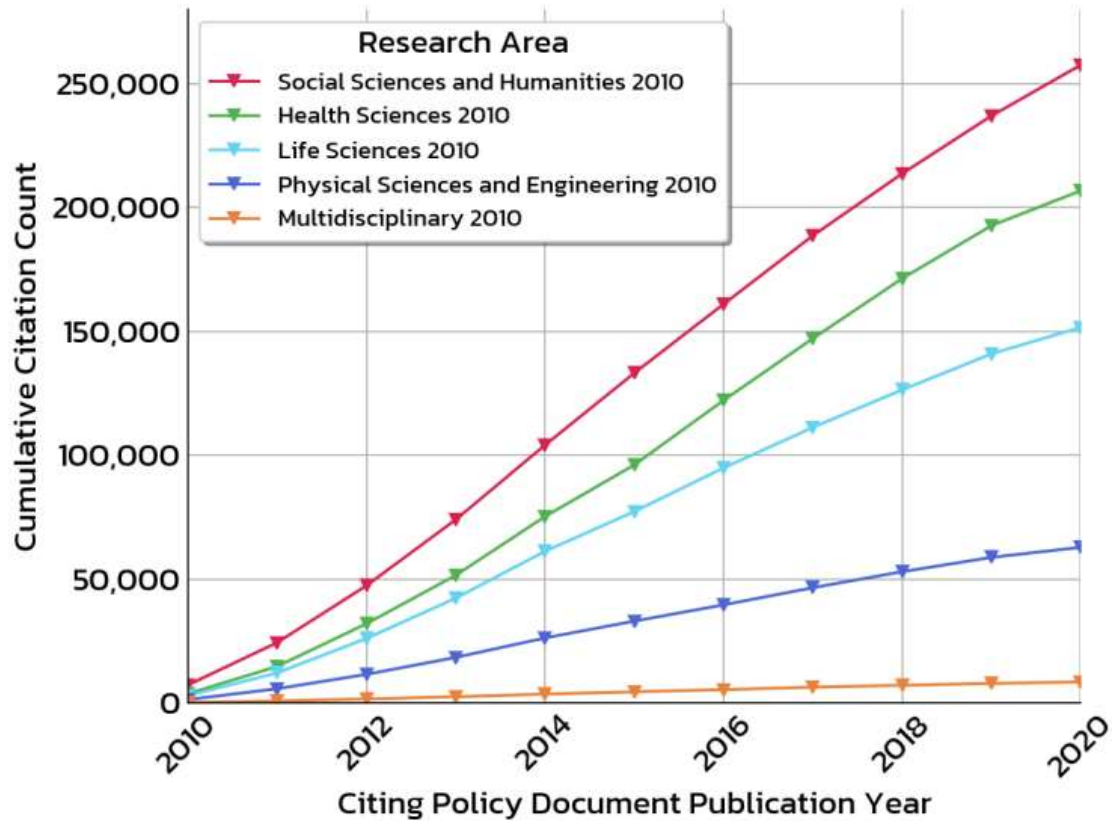
Science cited in policy documents: Evidence from the Overton database

Zhichao Fang^{1*}, Jonathan Dudek¹, Ed Noyons¹, Rodrigo Costas^{1,2}

* Corresponding author

- 5.8% of Scopus articles published between 2008 and 2016 are cited in policy (47% of a random sample of Development Studies, 0.1% of Drama & Theatre)
-

The social sciences are heavily cited



Governments cite local

In policy from...



The three most cited institutions are...

University of Melbourne University of Sydney Australian National University	University of Cape Town University of the Witwatersrand Stellenbosch University	University of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah UST University of Oxford	University of Sao Paulo University of Brasilia University of Minas Gerais
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Except in countries with a smaller research base

Looking at policy from all of Africa, the top cited institutions are...

World Bank	University of Cape Town	NBER	Yale University
Harvard University		University of the Witwatersrand	MIT
University of Oxford	UC Berkley	Stanford University	World Health Organization
	Columbia University		

What can we do as researchers?

- Consider non-journal outputs: policy briefs, reports
- Building a network with policymakers takes time, care and attention for little reward. You may be better to identify which knowledge brokers are already active in your area
- Visibility matters: if a policymaker can't find your work, they can't use or cite your work

Updates

Overton's Policy Impact Grant returns for 2024: apply now!

September 20, 2024



Overton to fund research that enhances our understanding of the policy landscape

We are excited to announce that Overton's Policy Impact Grant is back for its second year, with a larger funding pool!

Building on the success of our inaugural grant, we continue our commitment to supporting researchers and practitioners who study the use of evidence in policy. This year awards will be made from a total pool of £13,000, up from £10,000. Once again, we're looking for innovative projects that aim to enhance the links between research and policy-making.

If you're interested in research on how research interacts with policy... we have an open funding call

<https://bit.ly/microgrant2024>



Thank you!

- Happy to chat by email: ewan@overton.io
- <https://www.overton.io/>