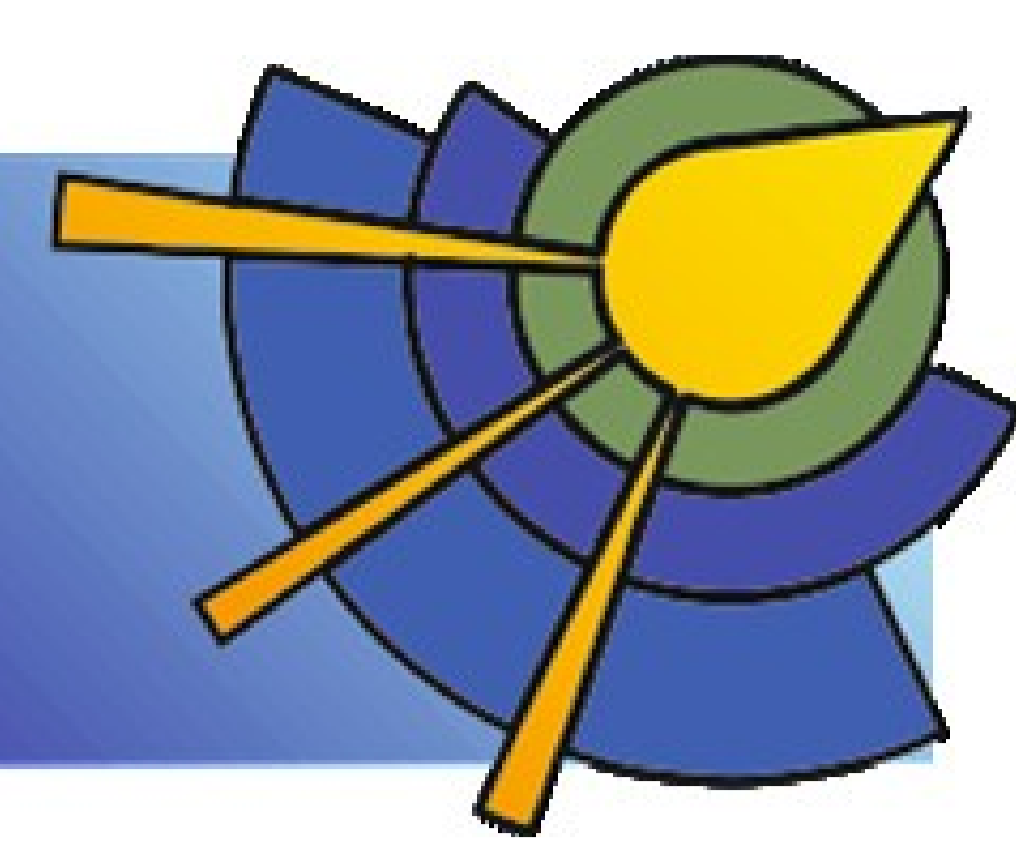


Power, Equity & Accountability in Global Climate Change Governance



Michael Hammer¹; Susannah H. Mayhew² with support from the climate governance project research team

What is the project about?

On a planet in which all countries and sectors are increasingly interconnected, climate change affects people and societies around the world and at all levels. Responding to the long term and complex impacts of climate change has emerged not only as an economic and technical problem, but also as a governance challenge at global level. Without equitable and accountable structures and processes of policy and decision making it will not be possible to shape the consensus around key principles required for a joint global response to climate change nor will it be possible to develop a long term vision for ensuring the sustainability of development.

This three year research programme will explore how global and national organisations who play an important role in responding to climate change-induced threats to poverty-alleviation and public health, are preparing themselves institutionally to meet these challenges. Specifically, it will ask how these actors remain responsive and accountable to their key stakeholders, especially those poorest and most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and seek to develop a conceptual framework in which the role and dimensions of accountability can be understood in the context of the governance and provision of global public goods and sustainable development.

To achieve this aim the programme will study and engage with several of the key institutions (see below) that shape global policy and influence national response; it will then connect these findings with national level realities through research in a reference country - Ghana.

Population dynamics are taken as one of three tracer issues to focus the research (the other two are energy and food security). Reviews of key global and national policies responding to climate change suggest that despite recognised evidence on the impact of population dynamics being available, the subject is frequently neglected in the climate change discourse. One output of this project will be a conceptual framework for understanding the capacity of institutions to be accountable to key stakeholders and how/to what degree this capacity influences whether population dynamics are included in climate-change adaptation discourse and strategies.

What value are we adding to the debate ?

The project will

Generate new empirical knowledge, both qualitative and quantitative, **on the way institutions with global reach which are involved in the global response to climate change function, interact and prepare themselves to be accountable** to their stakeholders and effective providers of key global public goods

Contribute to the building of theory of accountability of global climate governance from the perspective of organisational and systemic accountability and preparedness

Explore the capabilities of global institutions and national governments to engage with new ideas, lead on and **implement change in relation to the paradigms that guide their work** in response to climate change and poverty.

Case study organisations

The project focuses on organisational preparedness and accountability of key actors in global climate governance. The research concentrates on

- the **World Bank** (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) as a global research, programme, and funding body in development and climate change, with emerging functions as a manager and governing body for global climate finance.

- the **WTO** as a regulator and adjudicator in issues of global trade affecting opportunities for access of countries and enterprises in both developing and developed countries to energy (including from different sources) and technology.

- the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** as a key policy maker and standards setter in the domain of population dynamics and public health, factors which remain only partially reflected in national and global climate change response.

- the **UK Department for International Development (DfID)** as key bilateral donor agency with important influence on policy and programme for poverty reduction and responses to climate change.

Why Ghana?

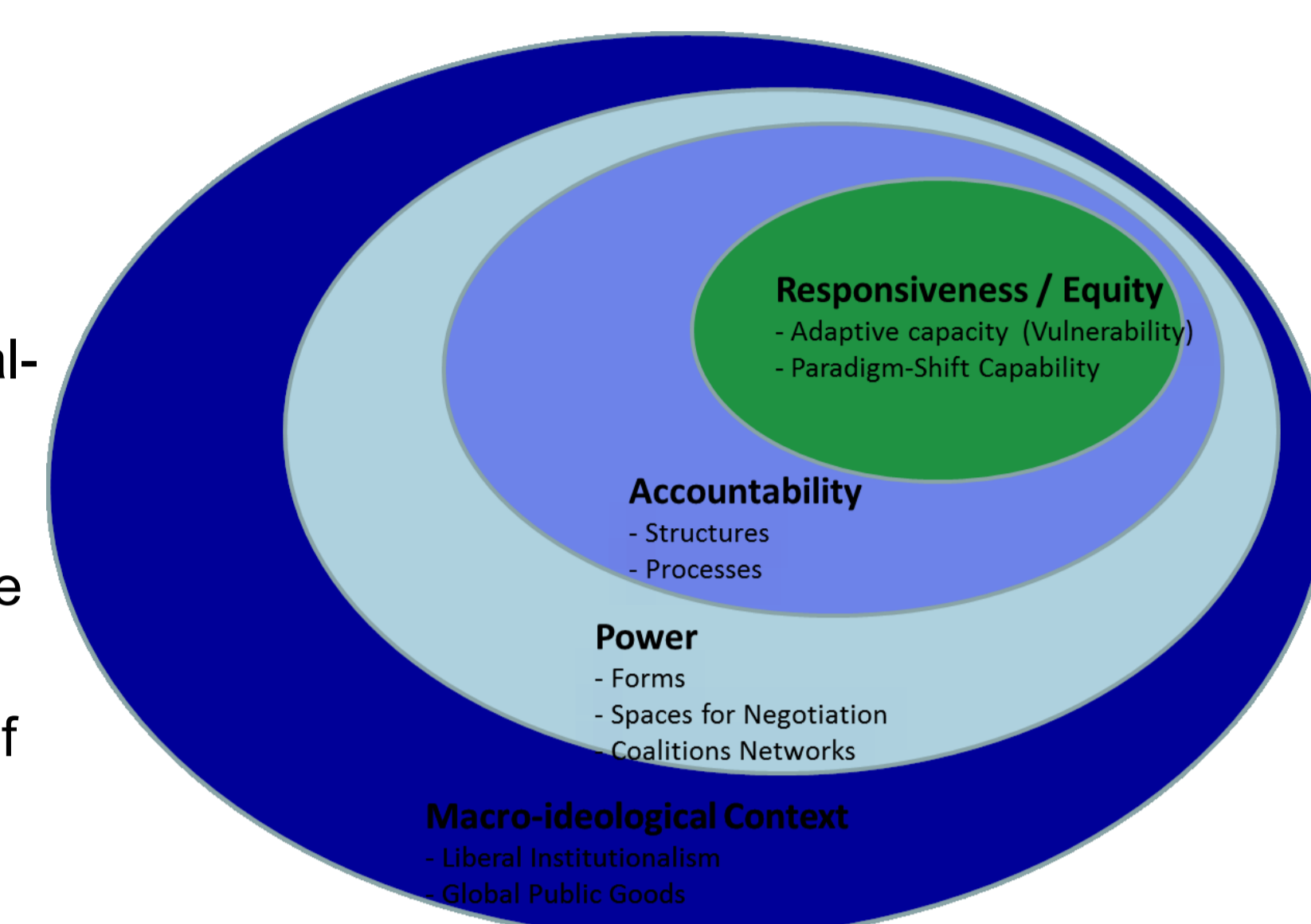


Ghana has been chosen as the reference country because of its growth aim to become a lower middle income country by 2025, which both involves a requirement to meet significantly increasing energy demands, and a need to address continued, widespread and regionally unevenly distributed poverty (Government of Ghana, 2010). The increasing variability of environmental conditions in result of climate change adds to the challenges. At the same time Ghana features a maturing institutional environment, and has extensive links with the global institutions studied in the project. Its civil society and corporate actors are contributing actively to policy formation.

The four conceptual spheres of investigation

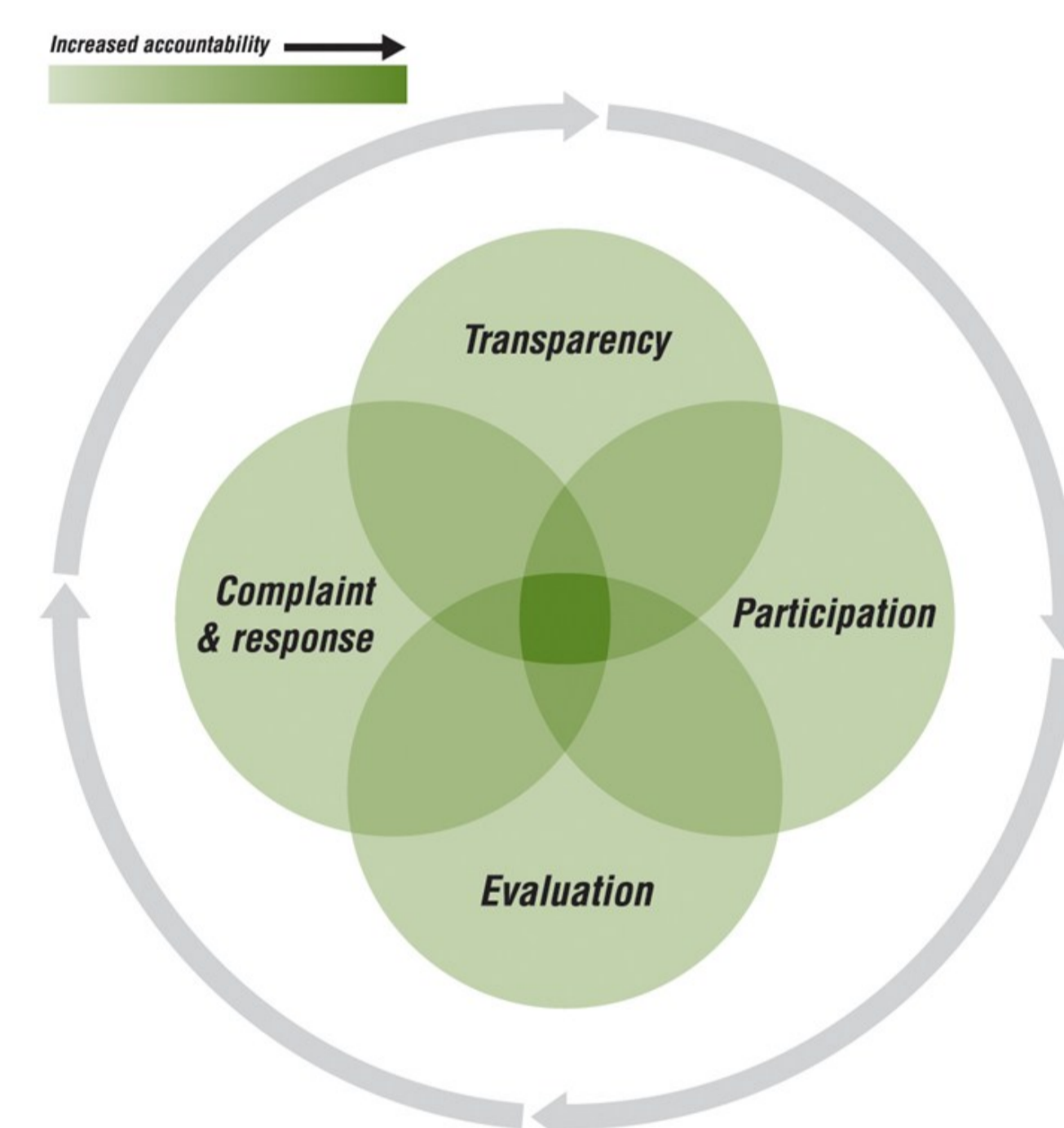
'Climate Governance' as a shorthand term for the global governance of the process of response to climate change is a complex, transnational and multi-layered process involving a range of actors at global and national levels. We have identified four main spheres for our research which may allow us to explain and understand how the world defines an answer to the challenge climate change poses:

Sphere I: The **macro-ideological context** in which global climate governance evolves influences, even determines, the overall direction that ideas can take. Following the global governance regime theory of neoliberal institutionalism (Keohane, 2003) we recognise the importance of nation states and their interest-led behaviour in global processes, but also assume that global institutions exercise a normative influence on the direction of ideas and shaping of paradigms. Using the concept of Global Public Goods (Desai 2003; Kaul et al. eds. 1999) we are starting from the normative assumption that in their work global institutions pursue an aim of public benefit, i.e. any effective climate governance framework ought to serve people and deliver the global public good of a stable and sustainable climate.



Sphere II: The way that global institutions and other important organisations with global reach engage in the debate is framed by their **accountability** capabilities. These can be conceptualised as their ability to be transparent, allow internal and external stakeholders to participate in their decision-making, openly evaluate and report on their work, and handle complaints fairly and with a view to learn. Our assessment will be based on the One World Trust Global Accountability Framework, in its revised 2011 version (Lloyd; Hammer; Langan, 2011), using qualitative document analysis and interview analysis to score indicators, and contextualise the results.

Sphere III: Power differentials, relationships and confluence of interests between actors significantly influence final policy outcomes and the way policies are formed. The project will conduct qualitative and policy analysis research into the **role of power** by investigating the nature of, accessibility and level of the spaces in which interaction between various stakeholders of policy processes takes place through the lens of John Gaventa's Power Cube (Gaventa, 2005), and through conducting policy tracer studies on **population dynamics and public health, energy and food security** using an adapted form of the policy advocacy coalition framework originally developed by Sabatier, 1998) focusing on the relationships and alliances between actors that affect the policy or systematic practice of government in response to a key thematic aspect of climate change related response.



Sphere IV: Starting from the understanding of global (climate) governance being a purpose driven process that serves people and has the idea of delivering global public goods at its core, the project will use qualitative interviews and their analysis to research the value framework and key goals underpinning the current global climate governance architecture, seek to understand to what degree the present practice realises its values and goals, and what its capabilities are for change and reform. To this end we will research understandings of **equity**, of **vulnerability** of key stakeholders and the **adaptive capacity of global and key national institutions**. In combination, the research on this sphere is expected to give us insight into the **capability, space for and barriers faced by institutions to engage with new ideas, lead and implement a shift in paradigms that guide their work** in response to climate change and poverty. The Delphi consensus building method and policy feasibility questionnaires will be used to explore elements on which stakeholders of this project from the studied organisation, the Government of Ghana and the wider community of research and practice can agree as central to a new paradigm of governance for sustainable development in the age of climate change.

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Author affiliation

- 1 One World Trust
- 2 London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Contact

Climate Governance Project
c/o One World Trust
109-111 Farringdon Road
London EC1R 3BW, UK
Tel +44 (0) 207713 6970
Email climategovernance@oneworldtrust.org
Web www.oneworldtrust.org/climategovernance