

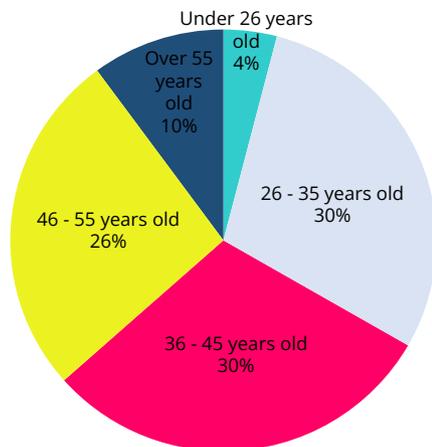
Promoting Awareness and Understanding of IPCC among Experts in Sub-Saharan Africa

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) plays a leading role in consolidating scientific evidence that guide global climate talks. Engagement of African scientists and experts in the IPCC work has however remained relatively low. The Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa of the Konrad-Adenauer- Stiftung sought to support IPCC sensitization among scientists and experts from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to enhance their engagement in IPCC work. Over 300 experts from 9 countries participated in a baseline survey to establish the level of awareness and engagement in IPCC work in the the region.

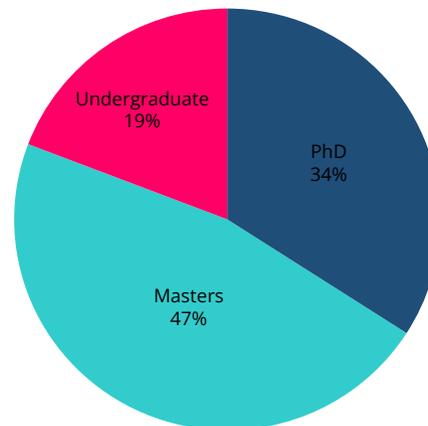
Baseline survey on IPCC awareness among scientists and experts from SSA countries

Age category of experts:



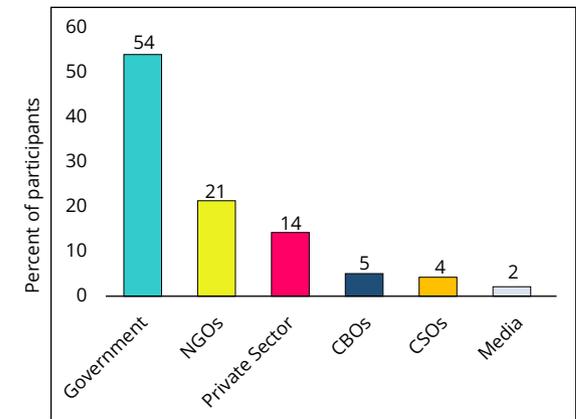
Young African experts are highly underrepresented in climate research and related processes

Education level of experts:



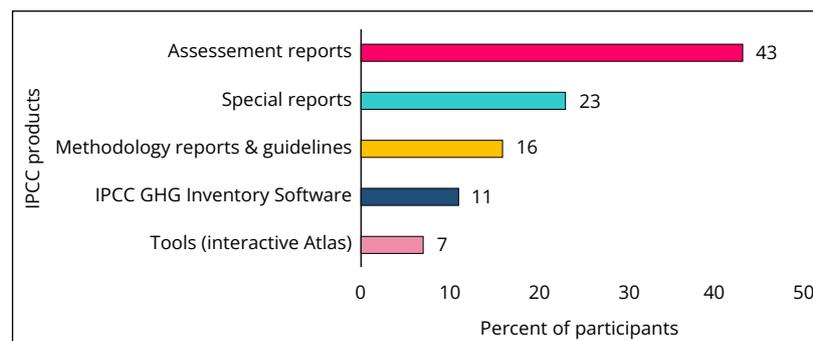
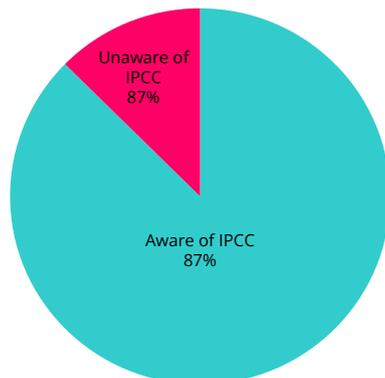
Majority of experts and scientists involved in IPCC work have attained masters to PhD education levels

Organization of the experts:



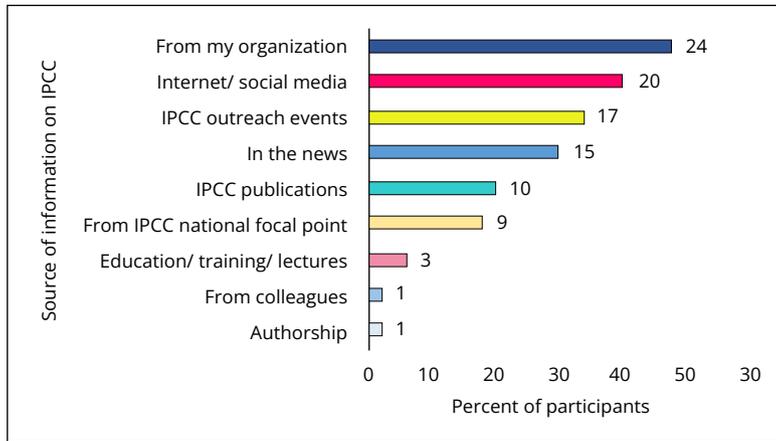
While government institutions are the largest hub of SSA scientists and experts, the engagement of non state actors remains low

Awareness of IPCC and its products among experts in SSA

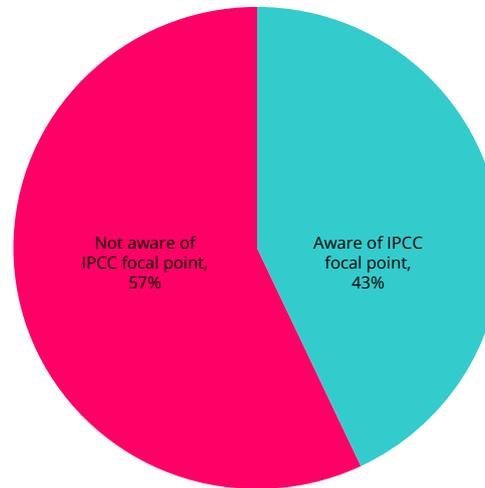


While majority of participating experts have heard of IPCC, their scope of awareness varies with various IPCC products

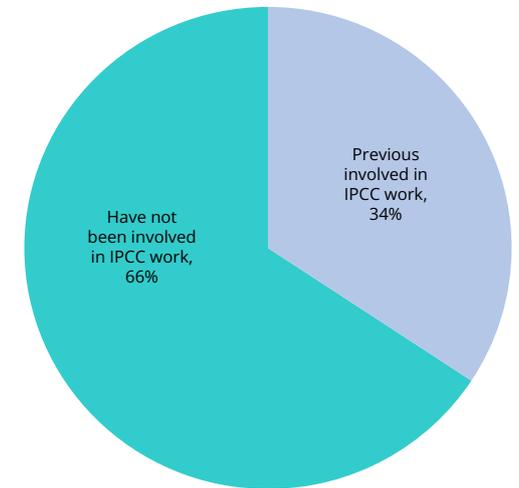
Source of knowledge:



Knowledge of IPCC national focal points:



Previous involvement in IPCC work:



Communication from government institutions and IPCC options are key sources of information. The internet and social media platforms have also been identified to play an important role in enhancing access to information and awareness on IPCC among experts and scientists in the region. Comparatively, IPCC focal points are still relatively unknown or not engaged by most experts

Key message from IPCC awareness workshops for scientists and experts in SSA



Many African researchers and experts do not only have great potentials but are also keen to be part and effectively contribute to the IPCC work. Enabling and upscaling their engagement in these processes require collective efforts that promote collaborative and focused research, enhance engagement with IPCC focal points and facilitate institutional and technical support.

Multi-sector approaches

IPCC awareness and related actions should embrace cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches given the cross-cutting nature of climate change and its impacts

Enhancing IPCC among young experts

Invest in mentorship and capacity building programs for early career and young scientists to boost their contribution to research and related IPCC work

Facilitating relevant research and publishing

Establish regular national and regional sessions to inform experts and scientists on relevant research gaps for future IPCC reports, funding opportunities and publishing. A revolving African scientist fund can a possible starting point to facilitating such actions in the region

Coordinated and consistent awareness campaigns

Effective awareness program should be supported by strategic promotional campaigns leveraging both formal and informal (social media) avenues for wider outreach to scientists and experts in the region