

THELMA BIO

Dr. Thelma Arko is a leading expert in environmental policy, with a PhD in Environmental Science (Sustainable Cities) from the University of Ghana under the Pan African College Project. Her research focuses on crucial problems in environmental policy, particularly related to achieving a just energy transition.

Currently, Dr Arko holds a Postdoc position, leveraging her PhD and critical experience from the United Nations University's Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) to support postgraduate functions related to the prestigious Prince Claus Chair on Equity and Development at Utrecht University. She plays a pivotal role in coordinating initiatives and research activities, promoting student and public engagement, and contributing to the overall direction of the Prince Claus Chair's research program.

Dr. Arko's research competence extends to urban planning, waste management, energy poverty, stranded assets, and mineral governance. She has conducted empirical research in nearly a dozen African countries, amassing valuable data on transition levers and sectors leading the push for a green transition. She is proficient in resource mobilisation, proposal writing, and project management, driven by a commitment to tackling intricate challenges in climate change and development.

Previously, as a Research Fellow at UNU-INRA, she coordinated the JUSTIS project, authored policy briefs, and co-authored reports on stranded assets and green transition pathways. She has also held positions as a PhD research Fellow, PhD intern, Graduate Coordinator, Country Manager, and High School Teacher, contributing to various publications and conference presentations along the way.

Dr. Arko's publications include "The Multifaceted Socio-ecological Impacts of Charcoal Production in Afram Plains, Ghana" and "Africa Beyond Oil and Gas: Low-Carbon Technologies and The Fourth Industrial Revolution Opportunities for Africa." She has presented at notable conferences such as the World Resources Forum 2021 and the 7th School of Social Sciences International Conference.

With a diverse range of skills and a passion for continuous education, Dr. Arko is dedicated to addressing complex issues in climate change, energy transitions, and sustainable development.