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Urbanization, Democracy, Bureaucratic Quality and Environmental Degradation

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Abstract

The study examines the relationship between urbanization and environment degradation while controlling for political environment in 38 African countries over the period 1970-2011. Using panel cointegration and causality analyses; the findings of the study show that urbanization, environmental degradation and political economy variables (democracy and bureaucratic quality) are cointegrated. Second, democracy and bureaucratic quality are effective in reducing environmental degradation in the long-run. Third, there are positive bi-directional relationships between CO2 emissions and Affluence and CO2 emissions and population as shown by panel vector autoregressive and impulse response functions. However, a negative unidirectional

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