

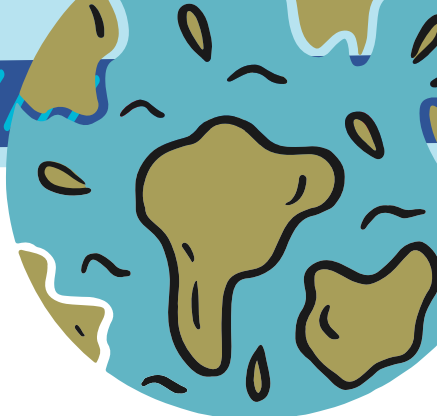
Feminist Analysis of the Impacts of Climate Change on Women's Rights in Uganda



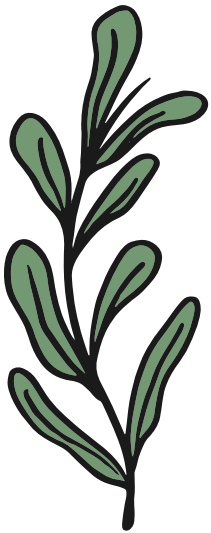


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Executive Summary



This report presents an analysis of the climate change and how it specifically affects women in Uganda focusing on aspects of their livelihood and looking at the connections between climate change and the emerging on impacts to girls' education, gender-based violence, migration, and conflict. The report provides alternatives and consideration of opportunities for the eco-feminist movement to influence Ugandan government policy and practice.

The report begins by situating the context of how we got here, particularly for African Women. It will contextualize climate change as a crisis of existing power structures. In particular, emphasizing global economic power structures that have largely led us to this crisis. In making this analysis, the report I highlights and gives examples of various neo-liberal policies aimed at new economic policies, liberalization of trade and markets, privatizing state enterprises and social services, among others, and how these intersect with the climate crisis. The assessment focuses on naming the effects of massive natural resource extraction, the forced shift from internally generated solutions, privatization of social amenities all which have had dire consequences on the lives of African people in all their diversities, and especially women and others already minorities. In the first section, the report introduces the issues through outlining the current context and analysis of the existence and impact of climate change globally, and in connection to Uganda, connecting the shifting patterns of climate change over time, and driving forces between corporate institutions and the state. The last section of the report will focus on alternative solutions that actively challenge the status quo, highlighting the alternatives that exist, drawing inspiration from the work of eco-feminists and indigenous knowledge that exists and focuses on preservation and harmonious living with the earth and center community. It will explore what it means to ensure that those who work and till the land, grow our food, and fight to protect our natural resources are protected. It will also highlight solutions such as renewable community owned energy, concepts such as agroecology, food sovereignty and resisting solutions that allow states, corporations, and global powers to evade accountability.

This report is intended to serve as one of the tools to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base for and with affected women in Uganda through sharing of accessible evidence based knowledge that can also be used by the current context and analysis of the existence and impact of climate change in Uganda connected to women's the emergence, action and achievements of the eco-feminist movement within Uganda in response to lack of sufficient ecofeminist movement, and our allies in other movements, networks and alliances.

The report is commissioned as part of the PISCCA project, implemented by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), along with other three CSOs under the climate change coalition. The CSOS include Fridays for future Uganda, Simma Africa Foundation and Girls for Climate Action. The Project is being implemented in Bududa, Wakiso, Kasese, Manafwa, Kiboga districts in Uganda.

Key Findings

- **Understanding of climate change and its effects in Uganda**

There is still a lot to be done in terms of creating national consensus and understanding of what climate change is, and how it actively affects the day-to-day life of Ugandans. While there is a recognition of changing weather patterns and seasons for example, there is still a limited acknowledgment of this being connected to climate change, and in turn, ways to mitigate these crises. For some districts where these catastrophes have become the order of the day, this sensitization is being done by activists and NGOs, sometimes with support of the government. However, most of this support focuses on addressing the manifestations of the problem, and not the root cause of it.

There is also still a need to task different institutions both national and international to stand in accountability and commit both the resources and the change of action that it will take to reverse and or mitigate climate change. While it is necessary to hold national leaders accountable, it is also equally urgent to frame climate change as a geopolitical reality that has been shaped by socio-economic and political injustices, and whose solutions must involve the complete acknowledgement of how this crisis came to be in the first place.

- **Situation of women and girls as affected by climate change in Uganda.**

Ugandan women and girls continue to be uniquely affected by climate change. This is resulted from the gendered manifestations of structural inequalities that breed violence, poverty and allow for disparities. Gender roles and expectations placed women and girls that include caregiving, food, and water sourcing, have resulted into an exacerbation of said violence. Some of the specifics include gender violence that breeds from conflict and tensions coming from food and water shortages, poor health stemming from malnutrition, higher chances of girls dropping out of school to either fend for families or because of increased poverty levels, and so forth.

Nonetheless, women and girls continue to emerge as leading voices against climate change, with some of them leading rallying calls for community action. It is therefore important to situate Ugandan women not as victims but as active agents and leaders of change, despite the systemic changes they continue to be meted with.

- **Legislative and Policy Progress Made**

The Ugandan government has made significant progress in trying to address climate change through various legal and policy provisions. There have also been international commitments and shows of good faith that point to a willingness to act. All these should be lauded, and actions of both government and non-government actors should continue to be consolidated to ensure that there is no voice left behind.

That said, there are existing and emerging concerns that affect this progress. This includes for example government decisions on things such as the oil pipeline as has been raised by activists and citizens at large, the limitations of national agencies to affect the law, as well as others that undermine progress, and sometimes even perpetuate further injustices.

- **Beyond the law; Feminist Resistances and Opportunities**

The law in of itself is not sufficient to remedy climate change, and to be effective, it must work alongside attitude shifts that necessitate individual and collective action. There are already examples of indigenous practices and ways of being that seek out eco-feminist practices. These practices are both familiar and native to many cultures in Uganda and can serve as a great resource if encouraged.

Feminist resistances both in Uganda and beyond further illustrate the importance of women and girls in the battle to combat climate change. There is a lot to be learnt from eco-feminist movements and practices that seek to place contextual and community-based solutions at the frontline of this fight.

Climate change should also be understood as an urgent call to action, that necessitates some radical changes and requires each of us to equally be concerned and ready to act.



This report is intended to serve as one of the tools to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base for and with affected women in Uganda through sharing of accessible evidence based knowledge that can also be used by the current context and analysis of the existence and impact of climate change in Uganda.



Methodologies Used

The report was designed primarily using qualitative methods which primarily looked at review of current literature on climate change, both nationally and internationally sourced. The report focuses on feminist analysis of current trends, policies, and legislation, using both academic writings as well as current events reporting through traditional and digital publications and news sources. In addition, the report and its findings were supported by the interviews and discussions with three of the key partners engaged in this study whose knowledge and expertise both confirmed the trends and findings.

Introduction

Climate change, despite being a global challenge, does not pose similar threats and burdens for all.¹ For those already marginalized and dealing with several inequalities, climate change only compounds the challenges. Inequalities bred by race and ethnicity, class, disability, gender and sexuality exist on a spectrum and intersect, influencing access to power and resources. Women already marginalized by historical and current inequalities remain disproportionately affected by both rapid and slow-onset climate changes.² This is especially true for indigenous women, women from the Global South, migrant and refugee communities, and youth.³ Climate justice must therefore recognize the gendered and otherwise structural limitations to come up with policies, practices and changes that leave no one behind.

In many countries, especially those most likely to be affected by climate change, women still rely heavily on land, agricultural and food production.⁴ Given the gendered nature of poverty⁵, and the various disparities caused by systemic power imbalances, climate change effects are bound to continue causing a bigger crisis for women. Changes in temperature, several floods, droughts and variations in the weather continue to increase women's economic vulnerability by causing delays or significantly declining agricultural produce, increasing difficulties to access water and food, heightening chances for disaster caused migration, among others. This increased vulnerability both economically and personally trickles down and heightens other forms of violence against women that is caused by unequal power relations such as sexual and domestic violence. The burden of unpaid care work further compounds women's responsibilities as they have to take care of both their families and bigger communities.

1 **The climate crisis disproportionately hits the poor. How can we protect them?**, World Economic Forum, Jan 13, 2023.

2 **Women and Climate Change: Impact and Agency in Human Rights, Security, and Economic Development**, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2015).

3 **African women bear the brunt of climate change**, ISS, March 2023.

4 **Africa Women are behind 80 percent of continent's food production**, Relief Web, Oct. 2009

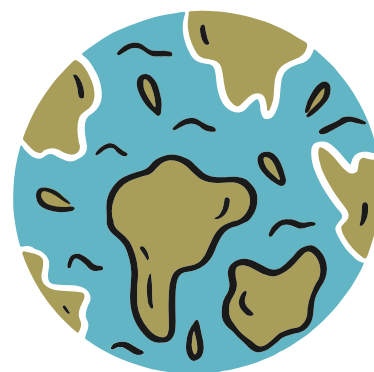
5 **Understanding poverty from a gender perspective**, Women and Development Unit, June 2004.

This is further supported by the reality that we still remain far from achieving parity, and women continue to be excluded from political and policy decision making roles, and in the instances where they are included, systemic hinderances related to power and control continue to be eminent.⁶ This erasure, underrepresentation, and actionable power of women ignores key voices of most impacted communities. Resolutions that are not driven by these communities do not take into account their different contexts, lifestyle and challenges are unsustainable in creating environmentally sustainable solutions for all. Adopting the motto, *"nothing for us, without us"*, feminist tools of intersectionality and the ethics of care should be centered in the fight to push back against the effects of climate change.

Climate change and the crisis it creates must therefore be addressed with the full understanding of the ways in which different systems intersect to further reinforce existing inequalities.

Uganda has various laws and policies aimed at protecting and continuing to safeguard the environment which include the climate change act, forest and tree planting act, land act, wildlife act, among others. These policies recognize the dependency of the vulnerable groups on the ecosystem and provide for the participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making at local level. The guidelines also specify how these vulnerable groups should be supported to access the resources required to meet their basic needs. The report will seek to understand the existing gaps and limitations within these various laws, and how those affect women in Uganda. This section will also make recommendations on how to further strengthen existing legal and policy frameworks.

A Crisis Created, and Crafted: Situating and understanding climate change as a structural failure.



To fully situate why the climate crisis is a feminist issue, it is important for us to define firstly what the climate crisis is, and relatedly, why it is a feminist issue. Defining feminism as firstly a political praxis that acknowledges that there are systemic inequalities based off sex, gender, sexuality, class, race, age, among others, it is a belief and action steeped in the radical imagination that collectively, these can be transformed.⁷ This definition is important because we must always emphasize that feminism is about challenging and transforming power structures. As we discuss why African women,

6 Zipporah Musau, *African Women in politics: Miles to go before parity is achieved*, Africa Renewal, April 2019. Read also, Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza, *Rwanda shows that it takes more than seats in Parliament to liberate women*, Open Democracy, March 2023

7 Charter of Principles of African Women



gender diverse persons, sexual minorities are minoritized and discriminated against, feminism gives us the tools and language to name the systems and understand how they work deliberately to reproduce oppressions. To answer simply why or if climate change is a feminist issue, yes, it is. As people who are invested in socio-economic and political transformation, climate change and the crisis it creates must be addressed with the full understanding of the ways in which different systems intersect to further reinforce existing inequalities.

We do not have the luxury of talking about climate change a way that obscures the reasons why we are where we are today. Named as, *"the battle of our lives"*⁸, the climate change and the threats it poses, particularly to those already minoritized cannot be understated.⁹ It should therefore be treated as a crisis, one that demands clear and actionable steps. Understanding that climate change is not something that just happened is crucial then to finding solutions that mitigate, and perhaps reverse its effects. This requires us to address climate change as a crisis of existing power structures. In particular, we must emphasize the global economic power structures that have largely led us to this point.¹⁰

Understanding climate change as a structural issue means recognizing that it is not solely a matter of individual behavior or natural occurrence but is deeply rooted in systemic and interconnected social, economic, and political structures. This perspective emphasizes that climate change is a result of the way societies are organized, how economies function, and the distribution of power and resources.

Here are some key aspects of understanding climate change as a structural issue:

Instead of attributing climate change solely to isolated actions, a structural understanding identifies the root causes that drive greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation. These root causes include industrialization, deforestation, fossil fuel dependence, unsustainable agriculture, and unequal patterns of consumption and production. The UN reports that Fossil fuels are by *"far the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly*

8 Guterres: *Climate Action Is a "Battle for our Lives"*, UN 2019

9 *Scientists deliver 'final warning' on climate crisis: act now or it's too late*, The Guardian, March 2023

10 Julia Rosen, *The Science of Climate Change Explained: Facts, Evidence and Proof*, New York Times, April 2021. Read also: (1) Dorothy Grace Guerrero, *The Climate Crisis: South African and Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*, 2018, pp. 30-46. (2) *What does colonialism have to do with climate change?*, WEF, Sept. 2022.

Cultural norms and values that prioritize consumerism, individualism, and exploitation of nature contribute to unsustainable behaviors and resource depletion. A structural perspective to mitigating and undoing some of the long term effects of climate change must therefore be steeped in the recognizing the importance of addressing cultural paradigms to foster more sustainable ways of living.



90 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions.”¹¹ Global inequality is evidenced through the ways in which climate change, despite it being a global issue that affects countries differently. Historically, developed countries have contributed significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, while the impacts are more severe in developing countries with fewer resources to cope with the consequences.¹² This global inequality reinforces the structural nature of climate change. *Hunger Strike: The Climate and Food Vulnerability Index* found that the 10 most food-insecure countries in the world generate less than half a ton of CO₂ per person. Collectively, they generate just 0.08% of total global CO₂. A study by The Lancet Planetary Health quantified national responsibility for climate breakdown found that the global north was responsible for 92% of excess global emissions.¹³ Cultural norms and values that prioritize consumerism, individualism, and exploitation of nature contribute to unsustainable behaviors and resource depletion.¹⁴ A structural perspective to mitigating and undoing some of the long term effects of climate change must therefore be steeped in the recognizing the importance of addressing cultural paradigms to foster more sustainable ways of living.

All this cannot be disconnected from the current economic systems, which are characterized by capitalism and its pursuit of endless growth and profit, plays a significant role in driving climate change.¹⁵ Extractive industries, overconsumption, and the emphasis on GDP growth often prioritize short-term gains over long-term environmental sustainability.¹⁶ The effects of this have been varied, the degradation and depletion of land and natural resources that further exacerbates poverty, the further displacement of people, further gender based violence, among others.¹⁷ In Uganda specifically, women in the Albertine region where the discovery of oil has resulted into several of these named issues, and many other violence meted onto the region, women have spoken up and resisted these activities that happen on their land without the free and prior informed consent of the community.¹⁸ Among the notable results of this have been; displacement, forced migration, violence, land degradation, loss of livelihoods, and increased military presence to ‘protect’ oil workers and installations.¹⁹ Poverty levels remain high, with women suffering the biggest brunt of this, despite loud promises to compensate and have these discoveries do more good than harm. All this inevitability breeds social inequities. It cements the manifestation of climate change as an issue that disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples, low-income populations, and people living in developing countries. These communities often have limited access to resources, face higher exposure to climate-related risks, and have less capacity to adapt and recover from climate impacts.

Political power structures that exist both nationally and globally influence, encourage and cement this. Climate change responses are influenced by power structures that prioritize the interests of certain industries and powerful actors. Fossil fuel companies, for instance, may influence policy decisions to protect their profits, hindering the transition to renewable energy and more sustainable practices.²⁰

11 **Causes and Effects of Climate Change**, UN.

12 Lauren Sommer, **Developing nations say they're owed for climate damage. Richer nations aren't budging**, NPR, Nov. 2021. Read also, Salma El Wardany, **COP26: Developing nations urge rich ones to fund climate goals**, Aljazeera, Nov. 2021

13 Jason Hickel, **Quantifying national responsibility for climate breakdown: an equality-based attribution approach for carbon dioxide emissions in excess of the planetary boundary**, Lancet Planetary Health, Volume 4, Issue 9, Sept 2020.

14 Martin Lukacs, **Neoliberalism has conned us into fighting climate change as individuals**, The Guardian, July 2017. Read Also, Twasiima P. Bigirwa, **Decolonization Cannot Be Cosmetic, Moving the Development Industry Beyond Rhetoric, Shift The Power**, August 2022.

15 Ibid 10

16 Charmaine Pereira and Dzodzi Tsikata, **Contextualizing Extractivism in Africa**, Feminist Africa 2021.

17 **Impact of Extractives on Land, Environment and Women's rights in East Africa**, Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action, June 2018.

18 Sostine NamanyaBwailisa Christine, **How Uganda's ecofeminists are fighting back against oil-industry land grabs**, Open Democracy, March 2021.

19 Ibid 15

20 Emily Holden, **How the oil industry has spent billions to control the climate change conversation**, The Guardian, Jan. 2020



Climate change then should be understood to be interconnected with various other challenges, such as food insecurity, gendered violence, poverty, and so forth. Understanding climate change requires acknowledging these interconnections and addressing them holistically. Addressing climate change as a structural issue then involves transformative changes at various levels, including policies, economic systems, cultural values, and global cooperation. Solutions must go beyond individual actions and focus on systemic changes that promote sustainability, social justice, and equity. This perspective highlights the need for collective action and emphasizes the role of governments, businesses, and civil society in shaping a more sustainable and just future.

The specific root causes of climate change in Africa, and Uganda specifically are deeply tied to the workings of global power, and solutions must recognize both local agency and self-accountability, while remaining steeped into the geopolitical dynamics that so shape our worlds.

As we talk about why Africa is going to be hard hit by the climate crisis, we must acknowledge why that is. The answer requires us to address the legacies of colonialism, how imperialism manifests and affects our ability as Africans to self-determine, in economic global systems that are built on hierarchies and center profit over people and where Africa despite its continued contributions to the world by way of its food, land, natural resources and people continues to be situated as lesser than.²¹ This requires that we discuss the Neo-liberal policies aimed at creating inorganic economic policies, liberalization of trade and markets, privatizing state enterprises and social services, among others.²² The focus on massive natural resource extraction, the forced shift from internally generated solutions, privatization of social amenities all which have had dire consequences on the lives of African people in all their diversities. This Neo-liberal capitalism that has been pushed by western governments, global financial institutions and now has permeated into the core of our workings and dealings with the state, individual thought processes, among others must be named for exactly what it is. The failures and effects of neo-liberal capitalism on the continent are obvious, even more so now with the Covid-19 pandemic.²³ All this has resulted into increased pressures to land, water, food all which have been further commodified and entrench disparities.

Those on the margins of our society suffer the most as a result. The consequences particularly to indigenous, poor, rural women cannot be overstated. The climate crisis must therefore be understood not as a single issue crisis, but rather the intersection of many different isms. Given that we do not live single issue lives²⁴, it would be dishonest to imagine that the solutions can be assessed through a single issue lense. The climate crisis therefore simply exacerbates existing inequalities. Those already marginalized will end up bearing the biggest brunt of it. Addressing the root causes of climate change in Africa requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, equitable access to resources and technology, indigenous knowledge and beings, reparation actions, among others. Additionally, global cooperation and accountability are crucial to achieving this.

21 Read, Sylvia Tamale, *Decolonization and Afro-Feminism*, 2020.

22 Jörg Wiegratz, Fake capitalism? The dynamics of neoliberal moral restructuring and pseudo-development: the case of Uganda, *Review of African Political Economy* Vol. 37, No. 124 (June 2010), pp. 123-137

23 Sara Stevano, Tobias Franz, Yannis Dafermos & Elisa Van Waeyenberge (2021) COVID-19 and crises of capitalism: intensifying inequalities and global responses, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 42:1-2, 1-17.

24 Audre Lorde, "Learning from the 60s," 1982.

🌸 Unanswered Cries: Gendered Impacts of Climate Change on Ugandan Women, and the lasting impact on all

The effects of the climate crisis manifest differently based on gender, class, and positionality in the world due to existing social, economic, and cultural disparities. These intersecting factors can exacerbate vulnerabilities and influence the capacity to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Women and men often experience climate change impacts differently due to traditional gender roles and unequal access to resources.²⁵ In Uganda, where women are still disproportionately responsible for tasks like water and food collection, child rearing, etc.²⁶ they are more vulnerable to changes that affect natural resources. Climate-related disasters also increase the risks of gender-based violence, as women face heightened insecurity during displacement or when accessing relief resources.²⁷

Addressing these disparities and ensuring a more equitable response to the climate crisis is crucial. It requires acknowledging and understanding the varying impacts on different groups and developing inclusive policies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities. This involves empowering women, supporting marginalized groups, and providing resources and assistance to those most affected by climate change. Additionally, global cooperation and collaboration are essential to promote climate justice and create a sustainable future for all.



As discussed above, the gendered impacts of climate change on African women are shaped by pre-existing gender inequalities, social norms, and cultural practices, which can exacerbate women's vulnerabilities and limit their adaptive capacities.

25 Alex O. Awiti, *Climate Change and Gender in Africa: A Review of Impact and Gender-Responsive Solutions*, 2022.

26 *Gender Issues in Uganda: An analysis of gender based violence, asset ownership and employment*, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, March 2019.

27 Bharat H. Desai and Moumita Mandal, *Role of Climate Change in Exacerbating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Women: A New Challenge for International Law, Environmental Policy and Law* 51 (2021) 137–157



As discussed above, the gendered impacts of climate change on African women are shaped by pre-existing gender inequalities, social norms, and cultural practices, which can exacerbate women's vulnerabilities and limit their adaptive capacities. For Ugandan women in particular, the gendered impacts of climate change on Ugandan women have resulted into multiple other crises, which are discussed further below.

Agriculture and food production remain a core to Uganda's economic and social landscape, employing about 72% of the population and contributing the value of 32% to the GDP.²⁸ As such, land remains a core asset in Uganda tied to power, access, and ability to self-sustain. As a result of the different social and otherwise dynamics that persist, women's ability to own and control the land in Uganda remains constrained,²⁹ and yet, their labor and contributions to the sector continues to be the most notable.³⁰ Women are engaged in small-scale, and sometimes large rural and semi-urban agriculture for household food security and or income generation. Over the years, this has become further strained by different developments, including the climate crisis and the ways in which it manifests and shapes their ability to farm and participate in practices that support food security. About 85% of women in Uganda depend on the use of land for livelihood and food production for their families.³¹ 75% of women are smallholder farmers dependent on rain-fed agriculture and climate-sensitive resources. Increased climate variability has and continues to make women more vulnerable to the knock-on effects of climate change through occurrences like droughts, floods and shortened rainy seasons. As this vulnerability has increased, so has the strain on food provision, access to sustainable and clean energy and potable water and increased agricultural workload.³²

Women who play crucial roles in food production, processing, and preparation then suffer doubly through these climate change-induced droughts, floods, and extreme weather events can disrupt agricultural activities, whose lasting effects are food scarcity and malnutrition. As climate change affects natural resources and agricultural productivity, women too face increased workloads to ensure food security and access to water. Women in rural areas for example who are responsible for tasks such as collecting water and firewood, which become more challenging due to changing weather patterns and resource availability.³³ This tension exacerbates violence in homes, with women being made to carry and face the consequences of poor crop yields, sick and malnourished children, etc. as if they were their own creations.³⁴ As primary caregivers, women are also more likely to prioritize feeding their families, which in turn negatively impact their own nutritional well-being. Where women rely on other natural resources and ecosystems for income, such as collecting firewood or engaging in small-scale fishing, climate change-induced environmental degradation too has disrupted these livelihoods, leading to income loss and economic vulnerability.

28 **Agriculture Value Addition**, Uganda Investment Authority.

29 Watch; **Land Is Everything - Women, Climate Crisis and Extractivism in Uganda**, Womankind Worldwide 2022.

30 Alys William, Margaret Arnold, **A sustainable green recovery for Uganda depends on women**, Feb. 2022.

31 **Impact of Extractives on Land, Environment and Women's rights in East Africa**, Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action, June 2018.

32 **Gender, labour and a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all**, ILO

33 Nakiyemba, A., Arayo, I., Kennedy, W., Joseph, K., Branda, L. J., Nandi, M. N., Phillipson, M. and Dayoub, M. (2022). Women and climate change impacts in Uganda: A review article. *International Journal of Agricultural Technology* 18(6), 2022.

34 **Climate change exacerbates violence against women and girls**, UN, July 2022



Climate change activist Hilda Flavia Nakabuye has recounted the changes she has witnessed in her once plentiful district of Masaka situated south-West of Kampala.³⁵ As a child, she remembers the green and natural cover that comprised of swamps, forests, and bushes as well as the land that was used by her family to both provide for food, as well as income that was used to support her family's livelihood as well as source for school fees.³⁶ This soon changed with the unpredictable and changing weather conditions causing food scarcity and making it harder for livestock farming. She has specifically noted dangerous weather conditions and disasters that include heavy or no rainfall at all, strong winds, very hot sunshine, and high temperatures that as some of the named weather patterns that she has witnessed.³⁷

Water scarcity, which is exacerbated by climate change, again disproportionately affects women due to their roles as water gatherers in many African communities.³⁸ Increased distances to water sources and reduced water availability can result in women spending more time collecting water, leaving less time for other activities, such as education or income-generating work.³⁹

Women are often traditional knowledge holders and caretakers of biodiversity. Climate change-related impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity undermines women's roles in preserving and utilizing traditional plant and animal species for medicinal, nutritional, and economic purposes.⁴⁰

Climate-induced disasters, such as floods and droughts, have forced communities to migrate.⁴¹ These disasters have been witnessed in districts across Uganda, with Kasese District in Western Uganda being one of the most consistently hard-hit areas by climatic change catastrophes.⁴² There have been repetitive hydrological floods, mudslides, long periods of drought, among other disasters that have so affected the quality-of-life residents.⁴³ The same has also been noted in Eastern parts of Uganda in districts such as Mbale, Manafwa and Bududa.⁴⁴

This, as well as the man-made drivers that are tied to extractives have demanded of many people to be displaced, relocated to areas perhaps unfamiliar and unsuitable to different communities.⁴⁵ The lasting effect of these have fundamentally changed the ways in which communities, particularly women are able to care for themselves and their own. A report detailing the impact of Migration, Environment & Climate Change Nexus in Uganda noted that thousands have already been forced to

35 Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, in interview conducted by Twasiima P. Bigirwa, July 13, 2023.

36 **Women and climate change: inspiring Ugandan activist Hilda Nakabuye**, 21 November 2019.

37 Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, in interview conducted by Twasiima P. Bigirwa, July 13, 2023.

38 Nakiyemba, A., Arayo, I., Kennedy, W., Joseph, K., Branda, L. J., Nandi, M. N., Phillipson, M. and Dayoub, M. (2022). Women and climate change impacts in Uganda: A review article. *International Journal of Agricultural Technology* 18(6)

39 Alex O. Awiti, **Climate Change and Gender in Africa: A Review of Impact and Gender-Responsive Solutions**, 2022.

40 Ibid. 33

41 **Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Options**, UNHCR, Feb, 2009.

42 **Kasese residents call for urgent action on flood risk**, Climate Action Uganda News, March 20, 2021.

43 Yayiru Tibara, Hannington Wasswa, and Henry Musoke Semakula, **Analysing drivers of community vulnerability to flood hazards in Kasese Municipality**, Uganda, October 4th, 2022.

44 **Climate Profiles and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Mbale Region of Uganda**, UNDP, mAY 2013.

45 Sostine NamanyaBwailisa Christine, **How Uganda's ecofeminists are fighting back against oil-industry land grabs**, Open Democracy, March 2021.

migrate because of climate change.⁴⁶ The same report noted rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall as contributors to water crises, declining soil productivity, livestock losses, and ultimately a loss of livelihoods, all which are contributing to the forced migration of people. Additionally, conflicts over land and resources are evidenced as commonalities when this happened, which again, exacerbates poverty. The report also concluded that women, children, and people with disabilities are most affected⁴⁷, with women facing specific risks during displacement, including an increased risk of gender-based violence, exploitation, and lack of access to resources and services.⁴⁸

In Uganda, gender norms still restrict women's access to resources, education, and decision-making processes. Climate change and its effects further limit their access to information, resources, and participation in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, hindering their ability to influence policies that directly impact their lives. Girls are more likely to drop out of school, and women who already work in sectors highly susceptible to climate change, face related disruptions in these sectors can result in income loss and economic marginalization for women. Addressing the gendered impacts of climate change on Ugandan women requires integrating gender-responsive approaches into climate policies and actions. This includes resourcing women to be more economically stable, providing access to education and resources, recognizing and supporting their roles as stewards of natural resources, and ensuring their active participation in decision-making related to climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Recognizing and addressing the gendered dimensions of climate change is crucial for building resilient and sustainable communities in Africa, and Uganda.



Women who play crucial roles in food production, processing, and preparation then suffer doubly through these climate change-induced droughts, floods, and extreme weather events can disrupt agricultural activities, whose lasting effects are food scarcity and malnutrition.

⁴⁶ Thousands Forced to Move in Uganda Due to Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, IOM, April 2022

⁴⁷ Ibid 40

⁴⁸ Ibid 38



Legislation, public awareness, policy, and practice as measures to move towards climate justice in Uganda.

Notably, Uganda was the first country in Africa to develop and endorse its Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership Plan (NDC-PP). It made key commitments in this regard, including, reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by 22% by 2030, reducing climate vulnerability of climate sensitive sectors since the economy is natural resource based, and building climate resilience of key sectors and managing disaster risks.⁴⁹ Uganda ranks high in its number of commitments regarding climate change mitigation and environmental protection.⁵⁰

Key national document; the Uganda Vision 2040 notes the vulnerability of Uganda to the impacts of climate change.⁵¹ It notes that development has concentrated on improvement and advancement of economic, social cultural and political conditions and less on preserving the environment which has in turn resulted into global warming and other adverse environmental conditions associated with climate change.⁵² Under the same vision, the government proposes the development of appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and popularization of guidelines on how to include climate change in sector and local government plans and budgets. It also highlights that policies and organizational structures will be developed to advance climate change efforts, with an emphasis on coordination at the national and local levels.⁵³ The government has also gone on to make several commitments to build the capacity to access international funds for climate change initiatives and develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism. There are also national projects under way aimed at supporting communities, the most recent one based in Karamoja Uganda, where the goal is to increase resilience to extreme climate and weather events in the region through improved nutrition programs and food security initiatives.

Nationally, Uganda has taken several actions to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development through legislation and policy. Some of these efforts which are laudable include:

National Climate Change Policy (2015): Uganda developed a National Climate Change Policy to guide its response to climate change challenges. The policy aims to integrate climate change considerations into national development planning and promote climate-resilient and low-carbon development pathways.

49 Uganda releases first NDC partnership plan for climate action in Africa, NDC, June 2018

50 Ugandan Government Steps Up Efforts to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change, World Bank, May 2018.

51 Uganda Vision 2040, National Planning Authority

52 Uganda Vision 2040, pg 12

53 Uganda Vision 2040, pgs 100- 102



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Uganda submitted its NDCs under the Paris Agreement, outlining its commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The NDCs focus on various sectors, including agriculture, energy, and forestry.

Climate Change Department: Uganda established a Climate Change Department under the Ministry of Water and Environment to coordinate and oversee climate change-related activities and policies in the country.

Renewable Energy Promotion: The government has been actively promoting the use of renewable energy sources, such as hydroelectric power, solar energy, and biomass, to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Afforestation and Reforestation: Uganda has engaged in afforestation and reforestation projects to increase forest cover and sequester carbon. Initiatives like the National Forestry Authority's efforts aim to combat deforestation and promote sustainable forest management.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: To enhance resilience in the agriculture sector, Uganda has been promoting climate-smart agricultural practices. These include introducing drought-resistant crop varieties, sustainable water management techniques, and agroforestry.

Waste Management: The government has implemented waste management strategies to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, such as waste segregation, recycling, and waste-to-energy projects.

Climate Education and Awareness: Uganda has been working to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts among citizens, especially in vulnerable communities. Climate education and public outreach programs aim to promote climate resilience and adaptation.

International Collaboration: Uganda has actively participated in international climate conferences and forums to collaborate with other countries on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Uganda has also implemented several laws and policies to address climate change and promote sustainable development. Some of the key laws related to climate change in Uganda include:

Climate Change (Management) Act (2018): This is a comprehensive piece of legislation that establishes the legal framework for managing climate change in Uganda. The law aims to integrate climate change considerations into national and local development planning, and it provides for the establishment of the Climate Change Department within the Ministry of Water and Environment.

National Environment Act (2019): While this act primarily focuses on environmental management, it includes provisions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It addresses issues such as environmental impact assessments, waste management, and natural resource conservation, which are relevant to climate change efforts.

National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003): This law focuses on forest management and conservation. It provides for the sustainable management of forests and the promotion of afforestation and reforestation initiatives, which contribute to climate change mitigation.



Renewable Energy Policy (2007): Although not a law, this policy provides the framework for promoting renewable energy sources and their integration into Uganda's energy mix. It encourages the use of clean and sustainable energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy Policy (2002): This policy outlines Uganda's energy objectives and strategies. While it focuses on energy development, it recognizes the importance of addressing climate change concerns through the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Wetlands Act (1995): This legislation seeks to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands, which play a critical role in climate regulation and natural resource protection.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (1998): These regulations require developers to assess and mitigate the environmental and social impacts of their projects, including potential contributions to climate change.

Fisheries Act (2000): While not exclusively focused on climate change, this law includes provisions related to sustainable fisheries management, recognizing the impact of climate change on aquatic ecosystems.

While it is true that Uganda's legislation, policy and commitments made internationally shows great promise, a number of gaps and challenges need to be addressed to enhance its effectiveness.

While Uganda has several laws speaking to climate change, existing laws primarily focus on institutional arrangements and planning rather than providing comprehensive legal provisions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. A review of these laws and policies notes that while there has been an amendment and a progression in current laws with the Climate Change Act 2021, there are gaps that still fail to address specific sectors such as clear guidelines on how emission reduction targets will be met as well as measurable outlines for climate finance mechanisms that are outlined in the act. For example, as agriculture is a key sector vulnerable to climate change impacts, there is a need for targeted legislation to name, address and recommend climate-resilient agricultural practices, sustainable land use, and conservation measures. While existing legislative efforts in climate adaptation planning exist, robust legislation is required to ensure that adaptation measures are mainstreamed across all sectors and effectively implemented at local levels. Ensuring climate justice and equity is essential to address the unequal impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, and this needs to be central to all legislative and policy efforts. Effort should be geared towards naming and addressing the disproportionate burden faced by marginalized populations, even those that are meted by state sanctioned activities.

As discussed above, women continue to face key challenges resulting from climate change. For any policies and legislation to be affected, they need to be integrated with understandings of gender considerations and how they influence and shape realities. While Uganda recognizes gender as a cross-cutting issue in its climate change policy, there is a need for more specific and targeted measures to address the gender dimensions of climate change. Integrating gender considerations into all climate policies and projects can enhance their effectiveness and promote gender equality. Laws and policies too continue to name and perpetuate stereotypes against women. By naming them as a homogenous group for example, there is neglect to address the variable ways in which class, region, education levels, among others influence how different women are susceptible to



climate change. This coupled by insufficient consideration to gender structural constraints in policy and preserving norms fail to match words to actual commitments. As such legislation and policy still fails to address the structural constraints that hinder women's access to resources.

Even with existing legislation, enforcement and implementation of climate change policies remain weak.⁵⁴ Adequate resources, capacity-building, and political will are necessary to effectively enforce climate-related laws and regulations.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process is crucial for assessing potential environmental and social impacts of projects, including climate change implications. However, the effectiveness of the EIA process in addressing climate change concerns need improvement. With reports of ineffective system management that lead to delays and bypassing of requirements made by the ESIA to the improper funding and staffing of NEMA, among others being named as specific incumbrances.⁵⁵

Insufficient funding for climate change initiatives remains a significant gap that hinders any serious progression of strategies and policies.⁵⁶ As outlined in the NCCP's policy implementation strategy, the financial requirements set the cost of addressing climate change in Uganda at an estimated 1.6% of national GDP, or US\$258 million annually.⁵⁷ Uganda requires substantial financial resources to support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, but funding, prioritization and perhaps political will remains limited. Attracting climate finance from international sources is also a challenge, as has been noted in discussions above, with wealthier countries failing to match up to their commitments to support countries such as Uganda.⁵⁸

While climate change impacts vary across regions and communities in Uganda, there is still limited engagement of local communities.⁵⁹ Vision 2040 acknowledges that there is still poor understanding of climate change and variability in Uganda and insufficient attention being given to climate change initiatives at community levels. There is a therefore need for more meaningful engagement of local communities, including indigenous and vulnerable groups, in the formulation and implementation of climate policies to ensure their specific needs and perspectives are addressed.

Dependency on extractives, fossil fuels and other such dangers continue to pose a threat to the effective mitigation of climate change. Uganda's energy mix still heavily relies on fossil fuels.⁶⁰ This, coupled with developments in the oil and gas sector as well as other sectors such as mining, continue to fuel the climate crisis.⁶¹ There has been heavy resistances from both government and private companies for whom this is seen to be profitable. To be able to effectively meet the commitments towards mitigating climate change, there is a need for stronger legislative incentives and policies to promote renewable energy sources, phase out fossil fuel dependency and other such extraction and depletion of natural resources.

54 Uganda Vision 2040, pg 101

55 Pius Kahangiirwe, Frank Vancly, Evaluating the effectiveness of a national environmental and social impact assessment system: lessons from Uganda, Impact Assessment and Project Proposal, Vol. 40, 2022.

56 Daniella Echeverría Anika Terton Alec Crawford, Review of Current and Planned Adaptation Action in Uganda CARIIA Working Paper 19, 2016.

57 Daniella Echeverría Anika Terton Alec Crawford, Review of Current and Planned Adaptation Action in Uganda CARIIA Working Paper 19, 2016.

58 **Uganda raises ambition to deal with greenhouse gas emissions in new climate change plan**, UNDP, March 2023.

59 Uganda Vision 2040, pg 101

60 Getrude Mbaseege, **Uganda's shift to clean energy by 2030 remains a pipe dream**, Daily Monitor, Dec. 2020

61 **Uganda: Oil Pipeline Project Impoverishes Thousands**, HRW, July 2023



🌻 A battle we can still win; Solutions, learnings and recommendations to facing climate change in Uganda

Facing climate change in Uganda requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates sustainable development, climate resilience, and social equity. There are lessons, learnings to be drawn from both indigenous ways of being as well as feminist resistances across the world.

Indigenous communities in Uganda have developed various traditional and local practices over generations to address and adapt to climate change. These methods often draw on their intimate knowledge of the local environment and ecosystems. While many of these indigenous ways of being have been eroded, as a byproduct of colonialism and globalization, there is still much we can learn from them. Reintroducing these practices, as a commitment to eco-feminism create viable solutions for mitigation and adoption, especially as most remain intricate to local cultural customs and norms. Some of these, such as agroforestry have also been reinvested in by various communities today.⁶² This practice of planting trees alongside crops, creating diverse and resilient ecosystems helps regulate temperature, conserve water, and improve soil fertility, contributing to climate change adaptation. Agroforestry activities in Uganda are aimed at halting and reversing land degradation while scaling up sustainable land management practices in more climate at-risk regions. This is in line with the country's agricultural sector development strategy and investment plan, as well as Uganda's Vision 2040 that seeks to promote options and provide policy guidance on restoration of degraded lands through integration of trees on farms.



Crop Diversity has been evidenced to improve soil health and quality, decreases non beneficial pest populations, encourages beneficial organisms and improves the economic resilience of farm

⁶² Deusdedit Ruhangariyo, 'We see its value': Ugandan communities benefiting from agroforestry, December 2018.



Similarly, practices such as rainwater harvesting are traditional techniques for collecting and storing rainwater. Communities can build small-scale reservoirs and underground tanks to capture and retain rainwater during the wet season, providing a reliable water source during dry periods. This coupled with traditional weather forecasting that focus on knowledge of weather patterns based on natural indicators like cloud formations, animal behavior, and plant flowering. This knowledge can be used to support the prediction of weather changes and adjust agricultural practices accordingly.

Crop Diversity has been evidenced to improve soil health and quality, decreases non beneficial pest populations, encourages beneficial organisms and improves the economic resilience of farms.⁶³ With this, farmers maintain a wide variety of crop species and local landraces, which offer better resilience to changing climate conditions ensuring that if one crop fails due to adverse weather, others can still thrive. In many parts of rural Uganda, this practice of farming is embedded in concepts home gardens that serve as are the primary source of food and provide a diverse diet for households. Like many other innate practices, social economic pressures threaten the functioning of these home gardens, crop productivity and diversity.⁶⁴ This, together with the use of indigenous plant species that are native plant to regions in Uganda, whose species can be used for medicinal purposes and food security should be considered as easily workable ways of mitigating climate change that can be easily implementable at different local government and community levels. Such plants that are adapted to local climate conditions and can provide sustenance during times of scarcity should be prioritized and their regeneration encouraged. This, together with forest management and the use rotational harvesting to ensure the regeneration of tree species, can support in maintaining biodiversity and preserving carbon sinks.⁶⁵

Community-based adaptation that rely on collective decision-making and communal sharing of resources provide alternate and contextual ways for communities to deal with climate-related challenges. Until much recently, climate change discussions have focused on top down approaches, many of them removed from the daily realities of those most affected, hence the negligible results at adoption thus far. Community-based adaptation strategies promote solidarity and mutual support during times of crisis. Community-based adaptation to climate change then becomes a is a community-led process, based on the specific contextual needs, knowledge, capacity, etc.⁶⁶ In doing this, Uganda must pay attention to cultural preservation by acknowledging and promoting cultural practices that encourage respect for nature and the environment. By preserving and passing down these cultural values, indigenous communities foster an ecological consciousness and encourage sustainable resource management. Practices such as totem reverence or ancestral veneration through safeguarding trees and other natural resources are but some of these examples. Sacred sites and rituals dedicated to natural elements, such as forests, rivers, or mountains were previously performed to reinforce the connection between humans and nature and promote stewardship of the environment. Many of these practices have since fallen away or are currently considered blasphemous or irrelevant. The result has been a detachment and disconnection to nature that

⁶³ Laura Sterari, Martin Hartmann, Nadine Engbersen, Johan Six, Christian Schob, Positive Effects of Crop Diversity on Productivity Driven by Changes in Soil Microbial Composition, *Front. Microbiol.*, April 2021.

⁶⁴ Marta Kozicka, Elisabetta Gotor, Walter Ocimati, Tamar de Jager, Enoch Kikulwe, Jeroen C.J. Groot, Responding to future regime shifts with agrobiodiversity: A multi-level perspective on small-scale farming in Uganda, *Agricultural Systems*, Vol. 183, 2020.

⁶⁵ **Greening Uganda: Restoring Native Forest Cover To Increase Local Resilience**

⁶⁶ Hannah Reid, Mozaharul Alam, Rachel Berger, Terry Cannon, Saleemul Huq & Angela Milligan, Community-based adaptation to climate change: an overview, *International Institute for Environment and Development*.

breeds for depletion of resources. As most of this knowledge has previously been transmitted through oral traditions and storytelling, seeking out those who can continue to educate and pass down this knowledge about climate variability and adaptation strategies especially for younger generations serves as an important aspect of climate resilience and adaptation strategies for local communities.

By recognizing and respecting indigenous knowledge and practices, Uganda can benefit from the wisdom and resilience of these communities in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Integrating traditional and indigenous approaches with modern climate change strategies can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Eco-feminism too offers alternate and evidenced perspectives on addressing climate change and further highlights the interconnectedness of the climate crisis, and persisting gender challenges. It emphasizes issues of personal life, values, and spirituality, and a reversal of current ills that plague through reversal of current social values that are environmentally and gendered violent.⁶⁷ By embracing an ecofeminist perspective, climate change solutions can become more holistic, inclusive, and sustainable, addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of both environmental degradation and gender inequality. Ecofeminism as a global movement is diverse, and its influence can be found in many regions in Africa, Latin America, India and parts of Europe. In India and Latin America, which both have strong eco feminist movements, women have been at the forefront of environmental activism and advocating for climate justice.⁶⁸



Ecofeminism emphasizes the importance of recognizing and resourcing women as agents of change in environmental sustainability. Practical and implementable solutions such as increasing women's representation and ability to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes

67/ Susan Buckingham, *Ecofeminism*, International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition), 2015.

Read also, Leah Rodriguez, *The Faces of Ecofeminism: Women Promoting Gender Equality and Climate Justice Worldwide*, Global Citizen, April 2022

68 Aneel Salman and Nuzhat Iqbal, *Ecofeminist Movements - from the North to the South*, The Pakistan Development Review, Vol. 46 (2007).

Read Also, Lucía Delbene Lezama, *No "future of work" without respect for nature: ecofeminist visions of anti-extractivist re-existences from Latin America*, Feminist Dialogue Series, Nov. 2019.



Some solutions to climate change from an ecofeminist perspective include:

1. **Advocating and focusing on environmental justice.** Mainstream climate change crisis situate the state of affairs as outside of social justice. Such arguments ignore the direct result of histories of inequality and the legacy of colonialism and imperialism.⁶⁹ Ecofeminism then advocates for environmental justice, which involves recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, including women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups. Solutions then prioritize the needs and voices of these mostly marginalized and neglected communities in climate policies and actions.⁷⁰
2. **Ecofeminism emphasizes the importance of recognizing and resourcing women as agents of change in environmental sustainability.**⁷¹ Practical and implementable solutions such as increasing women's representation and ability to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes related to climate change are some of the recommendations made by ecofeminists. It focuses too on supporting sustainable livelihoods for women and local communities can help reduce pressures on natural resources and promote climate resilience. Encouraging eco-friendly and gender-inclusive income-generating activities can contribute to both poverty alleviation and environmental conservation. Ecofeminist solutions also include promoting education and awareness about climate change and its gendered impacts. This can lead to informed and empowered individuals who take sustainable actions in their daily lives and advocate for climate-friendly policies.?
3. **Ecofeminism advocates for transitioning away from fossil fuels and supporting renewable energy sources.** As has been named and evidenced severally, minimizing carbon pollution is central to combatting climate change. This energy transformation has the ability to significantly improve climate realities and is one of the most necessary actions that is required to see progress.⁷² Emphasizing community-based renewable energy projects can both empower women and foster sustainable development.
4. **Ecofeminist solutions encourage community-based adaptation strategies that take into account the specific needs and knowledge of local communities.** These solutions respect indigenous and traditional ecological practices. These solutions involve advocating for climate justice through grassroots activism and community organizing and women's environmental and climate activism as a pivotal role in driving positive change. It advocates for policy reform that integrates gender and environmental considerations. Gender-responsive climate policies that prioritize the well-being of people and the planet are essential for addressing climate change effectively.

⁶⁹ Chaone Mallory, Environmental Justice, Ecofeminism, and Power, Linking Ecology and Ethics for a Changing World, Jan 2013.

⁷⁰ Read: Linda A. Malone, **Environmental Justice Reimagined Through Human Security and Post-Modern Ecological Feminism: A Neglected Perspective on Climate Change**, Fordham International Law Journal, Vol. 38 (2015)

⁷¹ Leah Rodriguez, **The Faces of Ecofeminism: Women Promoting Gender Equality and Climate Justice Worldwide**, Global Citizen, April 2022

⁷² **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Can Unlock Climate Solution**, UNCC, 2015

5. **This goes hand in hand with the push towards conservation and biodiversity protection.** Prioritizing conservation and protection of biodiversity can enhance ecosystem resilience and mitigate climate change impacts.⁷³ Ecofeminism recognizes the intrinsic value of nature and the interconnectedness of all living beings and focuses on prompting this way of being. This is antithetical to current economic models, and ecofeminism critiques consumerism and advocates for reducing overconsumption.⁷⁴ Encouraging mindful consumption and sustainable production practices that decrease greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation is essential to the need to undo the lasting effects of this extractive system.

6. **Restorative Justice and reparations is a key aspect of eco-feminism and solutions towards climate change.**

It centers calls for restorative justice and reparations for communities that have been disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental degradation. This includes recognizing and compensating for historical injustices, many of which are still largely ignored or trivialized by Western countries. The burdens of climate change disproportionately impact those who have so been rendered vulnerable by the lasting impacts of Western coloniality and imperialism. Global political and economic system developed by the history of global racial empire cannot be seen as capable of delivering the necessary justice to undo its ills.⁷⁵ Reparations are perhaps a necessary and important part of climate financing, which have the power to return the power back to those from who it was taken, replacing the industry of aid and unfair debt policies, with actually something that works.⁷⁶



Ecofeminism advocates for transitioning away from fossil fuels and supporting renewable energy sources. As has been named and evidenced severally, minimizing carbon pollution is central to combatting climate change.

73 Promoting Synergies Between Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity, UNFCCC.

74 Johanna Oksala, *Feminism, Capitalism, and Ecology*, Cambridge University Press, Jan. 2020.

75 Twasiima P. Bigirwa, *Decolonization Cannot Be Cosmetic, Moving the Development Industry Beyond Rhetoric, Shift The Power*, August 2022.

76 Read, Olúfẹ́mi O. Táiwò, *Reconsidering Reparations*, Oxford University Press, 2022.



Conclusion

The climate crisis is intrinsically linked to lasting historical and current injustices. It is important to once again that while African countries like Uganda did not create this problem, they set to inherit its effects.⁷⁷ Unfortunately, we continue to see language, narratives and actions that contradict the truth of how we got here and even more so, how we remedy this.⁷⁸ Unless we recognize the fundamental humanity of all people, particularly African people in all their diversities and acknowledge our right to live a life of full dignity, the solutions that are peddled will continue to exceptionalise western countries and stigmatize African ones.⁷⁹

We must move beyond the climate rhetoric gap, and address the structural causes of the climate crisis, quickly. For African countries like Uganda specifically, this includes addressing the residual legacies of colonialism that further cemented gendered, economic and otherwise hierarchies in our countries. This includes addressing how gender, sex, class and age are weaponized in ways that have created these great imbalances. That also means we must address how the wealth of the now wealthy countries vs. the Global South came to be which ties directly to colonialism, the industrial revolution and how that has influenced the core fabric of our societies.

All proposed strategies to be effective must be gender-differentiated in their perception and adoption. But that in itself would simply be the bear minimum. The strategies must further be rooted in demands of equity. It is equally important to stress that women are not a minority, and these are groups that are minoritized deliberately by systems that have been put in place. It comes down to power, and the analysis of how it manifests in our societies.

Additionally, at state and collective levels, there needs to be more focus at halting fossil fuel extraction; the effects of corporate greed and the mass extractivism and depletion of natural resources; the politics of hunger and how food, water and basic necessities for human survival are being commodified and how African farmers are feeding the continent continue to have huge taxes levied upon them, while the big multinational industrial farmers, they are the ones getting tax breaks.⁸⁰

77 Nadja Popovich and Brad Plumer, **Who Has The Most Historical Responsibility for Climate Change?**, New York Times, Nov. 2021

Watch also, **Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados at the Opening of the #COP26 World Leaders Summit**, 2022.

78 Karen McVeigh, **West accused of 'climate hypocrisy' as emissions dwarf those of poor countries**, The Guardian, Jan 2022

79 Vanessa Nakate: **Climate change is about the people**, UN, Jan 2022.

80 Million Belay, Bridget Mugambe, **Bill Gates: Stop Telling Africans What Kind of Agriculture Africans Need Among other things, we might simply not agree**, Scientific Africa, July 6, 2021.



Equal attention needs to be challenging international trade systems which dictate that the global South countries like Uganda cannot adequately invest in those who feed us, resisting private property rights around seeds that are being pushed by big corporations. We must center the voices and aspirations of those on the frontlines of the crisis and allow for the self-determination of communities that have been so extracted upon.

Who accesses funding, the strings attached to it and how that money is utilized has a big role to play in all this.⁸¹ We must put local communities at the forefront of determining which solutions are contextually applicable. The solutions lie beyond the short-term calculations that tend to be unable to think beyond the next financial report and pleasing donors, refusing to challenge the status quo, if the earth as we know it is, is to survive.

For us on the continent, our solutions must reclaim African indigenous knowledge that centers community. This means that those who work and till the land, grow our food, fight to protect our natural resources, understand the balances of nature and human must also be protected. These are women, particularly indigenous, poor, rural-based women, children and others that are often not given the acknowledgement, protection and support they deserve. We should be stressing renewable community owned energy, solutions like agroecology, food sovereignty and resisting solutions that allow states, corporations and global powers to evade accountability. This requires that we also work to transform the structural inequalities that dictate, whose voice is erased and ultimately, who suffers the most.



For us on the continent, our solutions must reclaim African indigenous knowledge that centers community. This means that those who work and till the land, grow our food, fight to protect our natural resources, understand the balances of nature and human must also be protected.

⁸¹ Read, **Money is Political**, FRIDA: The Young Feminist Fund, March 2023
Read also, Katie Tobin & Abigail Aguilar, **Beyond GDP: Alternatives to capitalism already exist**, Greenpeace July 2022.



Annexes

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