

Climate Change Policies

Tools Towards more Gender
Equality?



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Climate Change Policies: Tools Towards more Gender Equality?

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Abbreviations

ccGAP	Climate Change Gender Action Plan
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COP	Conference of Parties
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
EU	European Union
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	GreenHouse Gases
INC	Initial National Communication
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LWPG	Lima Work Programme on Gender
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCCS	National Climate Change Strategy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGCCFP	National Gender Climate Change Focal Point
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations

SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United National Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

The fight against climate change and its devastated impacts are of concerns of all countries, developed and developing, concerning all World citizens. However, vulnerable communities, including women, are the frontline victims. Notably, due to historical, social and cultural structures – women tend to work more with natural resources such that when these natural resources are averted due to climate change – women are at the harsh receiving end. For instance, in rural settings, women are more responsible for fetching water, gathering food, such that in the instant of droughts, women have to take long trips in search of water. Women are heavily overworked, highly impacted by climate change and underrepresented in this regard. This conundrum is shedding light towards more gender-conscious climate policies.

Although not all climate policies expressly highlight the specific impacts of climate change on women, there seems to be a positive move towards including women in climate change policies' texts as well as policy making processes. Such steps are more prominent in developing African countries, which some have included gender considerations and the specific impacts of climate change on women. On the international scene, recommendations have

been put forward by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to ensure gender conscious climate policies, through its Gender Action Plan (GAP). Women should be involved from the developmental stage of the policy to its implementation stage. Although, gender inclusion is not moving at a fast desirable rate, the initial inclusion of women who were once marginalized in climate change talks is a pivotal change. There is however a lot that ought to be done to ensure the relevant involvement of women, as true agents of change, in the climate policy sphere.

This paper will specifically look at (i) how current climate policies are taking gender into consideration? and (ii) how climate policies could better take into account the specific impacts of climate change on women. The findings and recommendations are based on desk research and theoretical analysis through a gender lens of climate policies from both developed and developing countries, from across the Globe.

SECTION 1

Introduction

“Gender inequalities intersect with climate risks and vulnerabilities. Women’s historic disadvantages — their limited access to resources, restricted rights, and a muted voice in shaping decisions — make them highly vulnerable to climate change.”

Human Development Report 2007/08.
Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world

1.1 The specific effects of climate change on women

Across all societies, there are huge disparities in the way in which various human and non-human endeavours affect men and women. Climate change is a planetary phenomenon that will impact all countries, but its effects are being shaped by pervasive and entrenched gender inequality.¹ Climate change is one way in which the gender disparities in the world are being exposed. Women generally suffer the greater amount of effects and climate change has not left women unscathed by its effects. They are affected more by climate change as they primarily rely on natural resources for their survival. Further, women face social, economic and political barriers that make disaster coping mechanisms more difficult to implement.²

Climate change exposes the poor to harsh living conditions. These extreme weather conditions generally affect the poor and 70%

of the world’s poor are women.³ Already operating from a marginalised and disadvantaged point, women suffer more from climate change as they are unable to carry on their day to day human endeavours. The scarcity of natural resources increases the working time of women, makes their living conditions precarious and aggravates inequalities.

Women are responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel for heat and meat. These responsibilities that are borne by women are harder to achieve in the wake of climate change. Extreme weather conditions such as droughts and floods make this social responsibility even more difficult to achieve.⁴ In Senegal, the 35% decline in rainfall has made it harder for women to collect water, resulting in them walking extremely long distances especially in areas where there are no boreholes.⁵ Indian women continuously suffer from skin diseases and reproductive tract infections due to fishing in salty waters, which are a result of climate change.⁶ Hurricane Maria after knocking off

1 Joe McCarthy, “Why Climate Change Disproportionately affects women,” Global Citizen, March 5, 2020 available at <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-climate-change-affects-women/> accessed on 1/11/2020.

2 UNWomenWatch, Fact Sheet, Gender Equality & Climate Change, The UN Internet Gateway on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women available at www.un.org/womenwatch.

3 International Labour Organisation, “Women Swell Ranks of Working Poor, says ILO,” Press Release; 30 July 1996

available at https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_008066/lang--en/index.htm accessed on 1/11/2020.

4 International Union for Conservation of Nature: Issue Brief, “Gender and Climate Change: Strengthening climate action by promoting gender equality,” November 2015

5 Oxfam America, Fact Sheet| Climate Change and Gender

6 Manipadma Jena, “Women in India Face Health Problems & Other Risks as the Rivers Grow Saltier,”

the power systems left women in Puerto Rico struggling to find water as they are the managers of the household.⁷ Sub-Saharan Africa is home for malaria due to the excessive heat, flooding and poor drainage systems, resulting in miscarriages of pregnancies. Finally, in Ethiopia, for example, where climate change is leading to food or water shortages, social norms, especially in rural areas, are worsening malnutrition among girls and women as they eat only after feeding the rest of the family, which often means there is barely any food for them.⁸

To summarize, being a woman worsens the vulnerability to climate shocks and to changes in the environment and the economy, particularly in a rural setting where the livelihoods of women and their families depend largely on natural resources (water, forest products, agriculture), highly dependent on climate hazards. In addition, the resources and options available to women to adapt to climate change are highly limited by the inequalities affecting them: illiteracy is more frequent than among men; limited economic power owing to a lesser access to land ownership and credit. Lastly, they are under-represented in the new technologies sector and careers in engineering everywhere in the world, which limits their participation in the management of innovatory technologies applying to climate change. In short, their adaptation and resilience capacities are greatly constrained by gender social norms.⁹

Climate change also exposes the general lack of human rights enjoyed by women. For example, women in the advent of harsh weather conditions attempt to move from one place to another but they face constraints as their freedom of movement is traditionally largely limited in many developing and least developed countries. Further, an attempt to move from harsh conditions is faced by difficulties of land acquisition as the society is generally patriarchal to the extent that women face difficulties in acquiring land. This forces women to stay in disaster torn environments such that they suffer the rippling effects of climate change.

Whenever there are instabilities in a society, human rights violations are on the rise and women are at the receiving end of these violations. Environmental stressors like droughts and floods have fuelled the rise of organizations that engage in human trafficking and extreme labour conditions for women. Women displaced by droughts in Nigeria have been abducted and trafficked by the infamous Boko Haram; a terrorist organization.¹⁰ Sexual and gender-based violence's are also prevalent in the wake of natural disasters. Already in existence, these abuses are exacerbated in disaster-stricken areas. In an attempt to flee those particular areas, women are physically and sexually abused by smugglers, unfamiliar and familiar men, in relief camps and it is almost impossible for them to have access to family planning

Thomson Reuters Foundation, October 31, 2018, available at <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/women-india-water-saltier/> accessed on 1/11/2020.

⁷ Oxfam, "Hurricane Maria puts disproportionate burden on women," September 17, 2018 available at <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/hurricane-maria-put-a-disproportionate-burden-on-women/> accessed on 1/11/2020.

⁸ Christian Aid, "Climate Justice for All: putting gender justice at the heart of the Paris Climate change agreement", 2015

⁹ Haut Conseil pour l'Egalité, France. Women as actors in addressing climate change", September 2015. Available at https://www.haut-conseil-egalite.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/women_and_climate_advocacy_en-g-2.pdf

¹⁰ (n 1) Joe McCarthy.

solutions or even psychological counselling in these camps.¹¹

Disaster stricken areas always result in food shortages, hazardous living condition such that if affected people do not migrate, they have to live in those areas. The prevalent course of events in these areas are underage girls given away for marriages by their families in an attempt to survive. These girls are married off to help the family find a bit of money to feed the remaining family. Child marriages result in gender-based violence and young pregnancies, with the young children often not receiving ante-nuptial care such that most of them die in child birth or give birth to diseased babies.¹² This toxic cycle has continued and is still in existence despite the shun given to child marriages.

Women are agents of positive change in climate change policies such that their involvement and input in the decision and policy making would result in a desirable change in meeting the climate change goals. The Niger Delta, one of the world's largest natural resource-rich areas was suffering from environmental and human rights abuses including oil spills, gas flaring and resulting destruction of ecosystems. To face that, Nigerian women mobilized themselves at the community level into a social movement to protest against transnational oil companies as part of a world movement to stop the actions of these companies that led to ecological destruction. Most of the natural gas in the region was being used for gas flaring to cut maintenance costs. As a result, more gas was being burnt there than in any other part of the world, contributing to greenhouse gas

emissions greater than in the entire sub-Saharan region. In 2006, these protests led to a ruling by the Nigerian courts that gas flaring violated the constitutional rights of citizens to life and dignity, and the courts ordered an end to the practice.¹³ This example indicates that women can have a voice that can result in positive changes that preserves the ecological system as it is and limits the negative impacts of climate change.

However, women are more than often being left out of (climate) policy at their country level, and are not brought in the decision-making platforms. Thus, if they have a limited say in decision-making and their skills are not fully utilised, half the population is unable to contribute adequately to climate change adaptation, mitigation and overall sustainable development.¹⁴ This results in policies that are one-sided and do not take into account the whole situation on the ground. This is because the men in control of the land and water hardly manage the resources hence their policies are divorced from the actual facts on the ground. This disparity in the role of men and women and the inequality thereof results in women suffering the harsh impact of climate change and not having any power to contribute to the policy making to mitigate such impacts.

1.2 Defining climate change policy and its development process

A climate change policy includes policies formulated at a national, regional or

11 Dana Kirkegaard, Women and Climate Change: How Our Unstable World Affects Sexual and Reproductive Health, available at <https://www.friendsofunfpa.org/women-and-climate-change/> accessed 9/11/2020.

12 Ibid.

13 L Aguilar et al. "Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change." Published by IUCN, UNDP and GGCA. (2009) San Jose: Costa Rica

14 UN Women, Why is Climate Change a Gender Issue? Available at <https://www.uncclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/unwomen704.pdf> accessed 8/11/2020.

international level to cater for the climate change problem.¹⁵ It is a document that outlines the stand point, agreed upon responsibilities and commitment which a country undertakes with regard to climate change. A climate change policy is one that comes in to put across how the country or region shall deal with the effects of a changing climate, it may include operational guidelines, plans and strategies and can be used to interpret laws. Although some policies are propelled by organisations, it is the role of the government to put across its own climate change policy.

The importance of a climate change policy cannot be understated. It has direct benefits namely climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.¹⁶ In the absence of a sound policy, it is almost impossible to implement relevant mitigation and adaptation solutions. Climate change policies also ensure that there is adequate information for policymakers to use to bring about sound decisions that do not harmfully impact the environment, the society and the economy.¹⁷ It plays a pivotal role in ensuring that there is adherence to such policy and provide sanctions for failure by companies, organisations and individuals to adhere to it. Further it aids a country to keep track of its climate impacts. Climate change is projected to have massive negative impacts on the global economy hence climate change policy will have positive impacts on the economy, mitigating and formulating adaptation actions for climate change.

Most national climate change policies are guided by the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The goals and objectives of both the UNFCCC and IPCC are to ‘stabilise Green House Gas (GHG) concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.’¹⁸ To realise this goal, the signatory states have to adhere to certain responsibilities according to their own capacity. Thus, the UNFCCC probes each member state to adopt a national policy that undertakes how the nation will work to combat climate change impacts in its country and globally. Further, each undertaking by a member state is dependent upon its level of responsibility according to its capacity.¹⁹

Following the urging by the UNFCCC to implement policies that address climate change, most countries, both developed and developing, have put in place national policies to address climate change as best as they can within their individual countries’ capabilities and constraints. These broadly fall into two categories; those designed to minimise the extent of climate change – climate change Mitigation – and those intended to minimise risks and seize upon new opportunities – climate change adaptation.

Developed countries have been taking action at regional (i.e. European Union) and national level, in developing policies and laws, taking different forms, to counteract climate change effects. For instance, the United Kingdom has adopted a legislation called the *Climate Change Act* of 2008, which aims to reduce

15 <https://www.nature.com/subjects/climate-change-policy>.
16 OECD, ‘Benefits of Climate Change Policies,’ available at <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/benefitsofclimatechangeolicies.htm> accessed 9/11/2020.

17 *ibid*.
18 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations, 1992, Article 2.
19 *Ibid* Article 4(2)(a).

GHG of 1990 by 100% by 2050.²⁰ In developing this policy the cabinet on Climate Change put it across in unequivocal terms that for the GHG to be reduced, there was a need to promote cleaner energy as electricity and energy are the largest sources of emission in the UK.²¹ To date, the policy is being implemented and the United Kingdom (UK) is progressing rapidly and may achieve their emission goals earlier than expected. Being a developed country, UK hence has stronger coping mechanisms and resources than most developing and least developed countries.

Developing countries are becoming large emitters as their economic development is growing. China, being one of the largest emitters in the world has also joined in the call for measures to combat climate change impacts.²² The government of China eventually came to terms with the fact that economic growth could not continue at the expense of environmental degradation.²³ This led to the *13th Five Year Plan* which lays down the strategy and pathway for China's development for 2016-2020 and includes concrete environmental and efficiency targets. It gives top priority to economic development to reach a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.5-7% per annum, consistent with the goal of becoming a 'moderately prosperous society' by 2020, guided by five key principles of 'innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development'. At the same time, the 13th Five Year Plan sets peak targets for carbon emissions and energy and water consumption, as well as goals for

increasing efficiency of industries and eliminating outdated or overcapacity production facilities, increasing energy production from renewables, and developing green infrastructure.²⁴

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are also working towards the reduction of GHG and attempting to avoid the devastating effects of climate change. The government of Zambia has put in place a policy set to study and understand the impact of climate change. In doing so, Zambia is working towards sustainable use of resources as well as adherence to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).²⁵ The government of Zambia has been quick to point out that due to the economic struggles in the country there is only so much they can do and are limited in their ability.²⁶ This position is also taken by Zimbabwe, which has also implemented a national climate change policy. It aims to enable the country to establish the legal structures to regulate businesses in climate-related matters, and enable them to reduce their GHG emissions. The policy further focuses on adaptation with regard to rural communities and agriculture.²⁷ It is worth noting that, despite these countries having less resources and capabilities, impeding them to fully implement policies and strategies, they are often conscious and willing to work towards improving their climate change policy and strategy at national level; and acknowledging that climate change is a problem that needs cooperation on a national, regional and international level.

20 Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit, 'How is the UK tackling climate change?', available at <https://eciu.net/analysis/briefings/uk-energy-policies-and-prices/how-is-the-uk-tackling-climate-change> accessed 10/11/2020.

21 Ibid.

22 Lisa Williams, 'China's climate change policies: actors & drivers,' Lowy Institute for International Policy, July 2014.

23 Ibid.

24 London School of Economics, "Climate change laws of the world _ China", available at <https://www.climate-laws.org/geographies/china/policies/13th-five-year-plan>

25 Republic of Zambia: Ministry of National Development Planning, 'National Policy on Climate Change,' Ministry of lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, April 2016.

26 Ibid

27 Government of Zimbabwe, 'Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy,' Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate.

New environmental problems need new environmental management tools and policies, as well as implementation mechanisms. Today's global environmental problems, such as climate change, need different approaches to policymaking and implementation. Subnational governments could have a strong role to play, but it should be a different role according to their capacities and needs. A much active participation of civil society, including women groups and gender advocates, as well as integration among the different levels of government, policies and other governance structures are necessary, as well as stronger partnership between public and private sector. New environmental mechanisms, like economic instruments and institutional coordination, can help the new challenges of implementation. Many environmental problems are complex and need complex solutions. Such is the case of climate change. Subnational governments have different features and stakeholders, leading to diverse policy responses and inclusive solutions.²⁸

28 J. de Oliveira, Habitat International. "The implementation of climate change related policies at the subnational level: An analysis of three countries". July

2019, Available at file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/The_implementation_of_climate_change_related_polic.pdf

SECTION 2

Gender consideration in current climate policies around the Globe

2.1 Climate policy analysis towards a gender lens

A theoretical analysis was undertaken of policies of 25 countries across the world, both developed and developing in all continents, to assess as what extent climate change related policies and strategies are inclusive of women and embed gender equality in the policy text. The analysis went a step further to look as to whether the policy when mentioning gender dives into the explicit impacts of climate change on women. The summary table is available in Annex 1.

More than half of the climate policies analysed from the sample of countries do not mention gender or women. When women are mentioned, it is in regards to inclusivity of the policy, overall policy objectives, and to ensure they are put on an equal footing with men. However, in most cases, policies are absent of explicit mention of how women are impacted by climate change and relevant actions to be taken by the governments to ensure that such effects are combated. This illustrates the marginalization of women in climate change policies. Given the effects that climate change has on women as indicated in

the first section of the paper, it is reasonably expected that governments and organisations, in drafting their climate policies will treat women and the gender impacts of climate change in a more holistic and explicit way.

While many developing and developed countries have not embedded gender into their climate policies, the European Union (EU) in its European Parliament Resolution of April 2012, highlighted the need to develop strategies for integrating gender perspective into climate change-related policy-making process, monitoring gender equality in decision-making in the field of climate change and the relevant educational fields on a regular basis by using the developed indicators, taking actions towards increasing women's participation in high-level climate-related decision-making positions, among others.²⁹ (The EU has significant women inclusion in the parliament, with 39% of the Parliament members being women.³⁰)

European Union countries have followed this gender-conscious move at the national level. It was found that Spain's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030 explicitly mentions gender in the 'Overview & Process for Establishing the Plan'. In the establishment of the plan, certain steps were taken and these included "a strong commitment to a gender perspective." The

²⁹European Parliament resolution of 20 April 2012 on women and climate change (2011/2197(INI), 20 April 2012, available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2012-0145_EN.html?redirect Article 8. European Institute

for Gender Equality, Gender Equality and Climate Change: The Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU.

³⁰ Ibid.

Plan notes that the engendering of women in renewable energy jobs is lagging behind. Statistically, women in renewable jobs in the world constitute 32% whilst in Spain it is 26% ³¹, hence the Plan seeks to ensure that women are included in the renewable energy sector.

The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for Austria 2021 – 2030 follows the same ambit as that of the Spanish Plan. In the Overview and Plan Development Process for sustainable development, it states that gender equality is of paramount importance and there is a need to ensure that women have equal footing in all spheres of life as men. The Plan goes on to set out that women ought to be included in all policy- making decisions. ³²

Although both plans are not clearly discussing the impacts of climate change on women, the explicit mention of women in them illustrates a move that the governments intend to engage women in matters that pertain to climate change policies.

However, based on the policy analysis undertaken by CUTS, some developing countries' climate change policies are not lagging behind, with some of them appearing to be on the forefront of illustrating how climate change impacts women specifically. Looking at their policy texts, they seem to be more advanced than developed countries in

developing gender-conscious climate change policies.

Jordan has been appraised for being the first Arabian country to mainstream gender into their climate change policy.³³ The National Strategy for Women in Jordan (NSW 2006-2010) under the Jordanian National Committee for Women Affairs includes environment as a specific sub-area (ninth sub area), with its specific objectives and activities which reads “to enhance women’s role in the conservation of the environment and in its development. Of special importance for the climate change work are some of the measures identified under this objective”³⁴

2.2 A closer look at climate policies in Africa

Whilst the European Union and its members seem to be making efforts in linking climate change and gender into their climate plans and policies, Africa is not lagging behind. In fact, Zambia’s National Policy on Climate Change highlights the importance of gender equality in its policy objectives. One of its specific objectives is to engender climate change programs and activities in order to enhance gender equality and equity in the implementation of climate change related policies.³⁵ To ensure the success of this objective, the Zambian government intends to

³¹ Spain’s Integrated National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2030, 20 January 2020 available at https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/es_final_necp_main_en.pdf, Overview & Process for Establishing the Plan page 22.

³² Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for Austria 2021-2030, page 7 available at https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/at_final_necp_main_en.pdf page 7.

³³ IUCN, Jordan first Arab country to mainstream gender in climate change policy, 08 November 2010,

<https://www.iucn.org/content/jordan-first-arab-country-mainstream-gender-climate-change-policy>.

³⁴ Program for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan, available at https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/programme_for_mainstreaming_gender_in_climate_change_efforts_in_jordan_1.pdf.

³⁵ National Policy on Climate Change for Zambia available at <https://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/National-Policy-on-Climate-Change.pdf>.

promote gender differentiation and implementation of gender specific measures on climate change, improve participation of women in climate change policies as well as promoting gender equity in access to finances.³⁶ Although not referencing clearly to the specific impacts of climate change on women, the intent that gender equality be incorporated in the implementation of climate change programs illustrates that Zambia is not ignorant to the effects that climate change has on women and how these impacts are further intensified by the marginalization of women. Further, the access to finance is a huge move as this is one of the challenges that make women unable to cope with climate change impacts successfully.

Despite being one of the poorest countries, Zimbabwe's climate change policy tackles the gendered impacts of climate in a very coherent and advanced manner. Section 3 of the Policy on "Sector Specific Challenges, Risks & Impacts; Adaptation, Mitigation & Opportunities" captures the demographic data of Zimbabwe's citizens, illustrating that more women than men live in the rural areas where the livelihood is supported by the exploitation of natural resources.³⁷ Thus the effects of climate change which result in dry rivers, lack of rainfall, reduced biodiversity will impact women more than men as their way of life is interrupted. The Policy further explains that due to marginalization and vulnerability of women they face the greatest impacts and are unable to prepare for the negative effects. It is against this background that the policy seeks to ensure gender equality so that women are not negatively impacted by climate change by

enhancing their adaptive capacity as well as mainstreaming climate change policies for the vulnerable groups (which include women)³⁸. Whether what is on paper is being achieved on the ground in Zimbabwe is another topic but the government recognizing the negative impacts of climate on women appears as a big first step in the right direction.

The National Climate Change Framework Policy of Kenya highlights that gender mainstreaming is at the core of their priority. The 'Enabling Regulatory Framework' states that the adoption of a gender mainstreaming approach involves assessing the implications for women and men of any planned climate change action and achieve gender equality at all levels. The Kenyan policymakers are aware that a successful policy targeting gender mainstreaming requires impact assessments.³⁹ The objective of the policy is to adopt intergenerational, special needs and gender mainstreaming approaches across all aspects of Kenya's climate change response. To achieve this objective, public awareness on climate change is supposed to integrate knowledge on cross-cutting policy issues. Therefore, public awareness in the form of education campaigns and knowledge sharing would be crucial in ensuring that the engendered aspect of climate change is successful in Kenya.

Liberia's 2018 Climate Change Plan includes women in their cross-cutting issues that require special attention⁴⁰. The Climate Change Policy intends to mainstream gender in the planning, decision making and implementation of climate change responses

³⁶ Ibid page 16.

³⁷ Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy available at <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/zim169511.pdf> section 3.3.6.

³⁸ Ibid, page 54

³⁹ Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016 on National Climate Change Framework Policy, available at <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/energy>.

⁴⁰ National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change of Liberia available at http://www.epa.gov.lr/sites/default/files/National%20Policy%20and%20Response%20Strategy%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Final%20Document-min_0.pdf 8.3.5 page 38.

across the landscape of Liberia.⁴¹ The Policy also goes a step further in ensuring that there is adequate information on the impacts of climate change on women by requiring that there be research data to highlight the significance and response measures that ought to be taken with regards to gender. Such a move is highly commendable, as without adequate data it is impossible to accurately implement measures that combat specific climate change effects on women. Therefore, the initiative by the Government of Liberia in recognising the implications and looking for ways to aid women affected by climate change is a step forward in the gender inclusivity on climate change discussion.

However, it is important to note that despite the written scripts accounting for gender equality, the same is not always present in the actual development and implementation of the policy, which is even more difficult to assess. In Malawi for instance, in the development of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action, only 5% of the participants were women.⁴²

2.3 Women involvement in climate policy

As illustrated before, climate change impacts on women are more severe as compared to men. It would hence be coherent and fair for policymakers to formulate and implement

climate change policies in a way that is inclusive of women. Although, some policies are at the forefront of mentioning gender and the gendered impacts, the very same women are not included in the development and implementation of such policies. It is important to emphasize that women are not mere helpless victims of climate change – they are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical. The efficacy of combating climate change is dependent on social inclusion, thus there is a need to delve into the development and implementation of national climate change policies and assess the extent to which women are being included.

The generally agreed notion is that women are not sufficiently involved in the development of climate change policies. A research undertaken in 2015 in 69 villages and 18 REDD+ (National Strategy for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases resulting from deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects and 19 sites in Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Tanzania and Vietnam indicates that involvement of women in developing climate related plans and strategies is limited- being only 17%.⁴³ This affects the overall aim of combating climate change. Moreover, despite the gradual recognition in negotiations of the importance of the role of women in NAPA (National Adaptation Programmes of Action), these programmes often find it difficult to integrate the local know-how mainly transmitted by women, and therefore undervalue it in the programming made at national level.⁴⁴ Consequently, women at the

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴² Malawi's National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) available at <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/mwi01.pdf>
Acknowledgements vii.

⁴³ R. K. Ulluwishewa, "Women's indigenous knowledge of water management in Sri Lanka" In: *IK Monitor* Vol. 2(3) page 11.

⁴⁴ Working group on women's empowerment and climate change issues, created on the initiative of the Presidents of the High Council for Gender Equality and of the Delegations for Women's Rights of the National Assembly and of the Senate. "Women as actors in addressing climate change" available at https://www.haut-conseil-egalite.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/women_and_climate_advocacy_en-g-2.pdf.

policy development stage are not fully included and thus impede gender equity in climate change policies and strategies.

Participatory policy making process: the example of Austria

Participation is usually regarded as a good practice in environmental policymaking, but its effects on policy strategies are unclear. Based on literature research, surveys, and interviews with participants, it was assessed whether decisional participation in formulating Austria's National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) was worth the effort. Assessed against the goals of the participation process, it was found that it raised awareness for adaptation and facilitated an exchange among the participants and that it improved the content of the NAS. However, regarding the goal of enhancing the acceptance of and commitment to the NAS, it was clear that this has been achieved among those who participated but not among high-level policymakers who are responsible for implementing the NAS. In summary, based on this case study, participation has its benefits in formulating comprehensive policy strategies but that it is most likely not able to overhaul their well-documented weaknesses, among them weak political commitment and implementation failures.

Source: A. Prutsch, R. Steurer & T. Stickler. "Is the participatory formulation of policy strategies worth the effort? The case of climate change adaptation in Austria", 2017. Available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10113-017-1204-7>

However, some countries have been pioneering gender inclusion in their policy-making processes, including in their implementation plans. This is the case of Mozambique, which has been hailed as a trailblazer in becoming the first country in the world to create a Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in 2010.⁴⁵ Not only are women mentioned in the policy but the plan illustrates a willingness by the government to ensure that women are educated and are at the forefront of climate adaptation and mitigation. The policy ensured the success of gender inclusion by training over 12 000 women in sustainable use and management of natural resources. 36

communities were taught effective methods for preventing and controlling fires, planting crops resistant to drought, and producing and using improved stoves.⁴⁶ Women as the caretakers of the home and the household deserve to be taught on how to adapt to climate change.

Further, the government realising that women were not included in the extractive sector implemented gender mainstreaming actions in this specific sector in 2012.⁴⁷ The programme was designed to ensure that both men and women have equal opportunities and benefits from the Energy and Extractive Sector. Such inclusion was noted to enable

⁴⁵ USAID, Climatelinks, "Mozambique Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) Report" December 2014 available at

<https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/mozambique-climate-change-gender-action-plan-ccgap-report>.

⁴⁶ Mozambique Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) Report, December 2014, available at <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/mozambique-climate-change-gender-action-plan-ccgap-report>.

⁴⁷ Gilda Monjane, UNFCCC, Gender & Climate Change, "In-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation & technology development; The importance and benefits of mainstreaming gender in mitigation action and technology development and transfer; Gender Mainstreaming in the Extractive Sector and Transfer to Empower Rural Women Energy Sector in Mozambique available at https://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/03_monjane_mitigation_action_mozambique.pdf.

women to participate in the community as well as country development process. These included increased awareness of mitigation of the impacts of climate change, and operational plans and activities are now designed to address men and women in the extractive sector. Such knowledge, put in the hands of women will be safeguarded and used to ensure that the harsh impacts of climate change do not devastate these communities. The knowledge transfer to women on how to harness clean energy using solar systems is commendable.⁴⁸ This enables them to ensure they use these natural resources sustainably and also avoid endeavours that may negatively impact them and their communities.

Liberia is ensuring that it meets its 2030 objective under the Sustainable Development Goal 5 of ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed into Liberia's climate change policies, programs and interventions by incorporating women in all climate change endeavours. Some of the actions that have been undertaken by the Republic of Liberia include ensuring women have right to land access and ownership, train and empower women coastal monitors and to develop initiatives to arrange women to use renewable green energy.⁴⁹ Women groups were also included in the drafting of Liberia's Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), such the Rural Women Structure, (a women-group) which was at the forefront of the plan development.⁵⁰ The move by Liberia illustrates a thorough inclusion of women in

the development of their climate change policy and ensuring they are abreast with climate change issues and its fight toward more sustainability.

In Malawi, gender considerations were included in the preparation of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), and also reflected in the choice of the NAPA priorities.⁵¹ With regard to the priorities identified in the NAPA, the empowerment of women through access to microfinance and a rural electrification programme were included to ensure their easier access to both energy and water resources. Furthermore, three out of five priority activities disaggregate beneficiaries by sex, as well as age. The NAPA states that the most vulnerable are rural communities, especially women, children, female-headed households and the elderly. It is reported that during the preparation of the NAPA, women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were consulted, and that gender was used as one of eight criteria for project selection. However, there is an under representation of women in the NAPA Coordination Team which consists of 20 members with only 1 woman.⁵²

Looking at the policy documents developed by the Tanzanian government, the Initial National Communication (INC) and the NAPA produced under the UNFCCC did not incorporate gender considerations. However, the government has developed the National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change in Tanzania as part of the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS).⁵³

⁴⁸ (n 53) Gilda Monjane.

⁴⁹ Liberia Climate Change and Gender Action Plan available at https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2012_IUCN_Climate-Change-Gender-Action-Plan-Liberia_Fact-Sheet.pdf

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Malawi's National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) available at <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/mwi01.pdf> Acknowledgements at page vi.

⁵² Ibid, vii.

⁵³ USAID, Climatlinks, "Tanzania Climate Change Gender Action Plan" December 2013, available at

This move illustrates that true climate change adaptation and mitigation can only come when women are included in the policies. Acknowledging that women are powerful agents for change and their leadership in addressing climate change impacts is crucial, the preparation of the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) was pioneered by Honourable Doctor Terezya Huvisa, a female

Minister in the office of the President.⁵⁴ Although, the ccGAP is an initiative of the UNFCCC, the fact that within Tanzania, the person running point on it is a woman illustrates huge strides towards the involvement of women in development of gender sensitive action towards climate change.⁵⁵

The National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change in Tanzania

The overall objective of the strategy is to ensure that Tanzania mainstreams gender considerations into policies, programs and strategies related to climate change so that both women and men can have access to, participate in, contribute to, and hence benefit from climate change initiatives and efforts, taking into account the diverse needs, roles, and contributions of both men and women in the sustainable development endeavours.

Gender inequality can worsen the impacts of climate change; conversely, taking steps to narrow the gender gap and empower women can also reduce these impacts. Climate change and gender inequality are therefore inextricably linked. By exacerbating inequality overall, climate change slows down progress towards gender equality and henceforth impedes efforts to achieve wider goals such as poverty reduction and sustainable development. Gender inequality also intersects with climate risks and vulnerabilities. “Women’s historic disadvantages –their limited access to resources, restricted rights, and a muted voice in shaping decisions – make them highly vulnerable to climate change. The nature of this vulnerability varies widely, cautioning against generalization. But climate change is likely to magnify existing patterns of gender disadvantage.” Women are, however, powerful agents of change and not just helpless victims. The majority of women spend significant time in the field that makes them good innovators and repositories of critical knowledge, including indigenous knowledge on natural resource management. As they spend significant time with families including raising kids, they have great potential to pass knowledge (e.g. that related to adaptation) on to younger generations. Their leadership is therefore critical.

National Strategy on Gender and Climate Change accessible at https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2013_IUCN_Climate-Change-Gender-Action-Plan-Tanzania.pdf.

<https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/tanzania-climate-change-gender-action-plan>.

⁵⁴Gender and Climate Change Strategy United Republic of Tanzania available at <https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/docum>

ent/2013_IUCN_Climate-Change-Gender-Action-Plan-Tanzania.pdf part 5.

⁵⁵ Division of Environment, National Strategy on Gender and Climate Change, 2013, available at <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/tanzania-climate-change-gender-action-plan> Annex 1.

Zimbabwe has also taken in upon itself to mainstream gender and climate change in all socio-economic sectors. Until women are financially stable, they cannot be able to tackle the climate change impacts. To this end, there was the establishment of Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank whose aim is to include women who have been excluded in financial matters.⁵⁶ The bank ensures that women can attain financial assistance in their various endeavours, mainly for agricultural purposes, leading to sustainable use of land. The government of Zimbabwe is involved in domestic efforts which include the establishment of a robust national gender mechanism, supported by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development (MWAGCD); Gender Focal Persons (GFPs); women's groups; the National Gender Commission; the National Gender Policy; and other institutions and structures promoting gender equality including in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes.⁵⁷ The inclusion of women groups in these programmes ensures that the female point of view is taken on board.

One of the reasons why gender mainstreaming is taking longer than anticipated in developing countries is lack of capacities, including financial resources, to adequately develop and implement gender-conscious policies. Some international organizations and donors have been stepping in to provide support to developing countries.

The United National Development Programme (UNDP) has developed a gender-responsive component as part of its NDC Support Programme and is conducting a pilot in 10 countries (Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Philippines, Uganda and Zambia). These Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs) will promote inclusive and successful outcomes, both for gender equality goals as well as for national sustainable development and climate change objectives. UNDP has also facilitated South-South cooperation through regional knowledge exchange webinars.⁵⁸

Building women's leadership capacity was a common theme in many of United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) -funded Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy (RNRRS) projects, which aimed to draw women into the management process by equipping them with skills like literacy, information and leadership. The Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP), 'Strengthening Social Capital for Improving Policies and Decision-making in Natural Resource Management' had an implicit objective of encouraging more women to take part in management processes. This was achieved by establishing forums and committees in which women participated, and by providing all members of the community with leadership skills training. There were challenges, although women were encouraged to attend project meetings, men

⁵⁶ <https://womensbank.co.zw/>

⁵⁷ Samuel Tarinda, "Gender, Women's Economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion in Zimbabwe, 2019, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and other partners available at https://www.afi-global.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/AFI_BTG_Zim_CS19_AW_digital.pdf

⁵⁸ United Nations Climate Change, Report by the Secretariat, Implementation of the gender action plan: Synthesis Report by the Secretariat, 21 October 2019, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SBI2019_15Ad_d1.pdf page 11.

often prevented them from attending. Men further treated women's meetings about traditionally male dominated-areas, such as resource management, with suspicion.⁵⁹ This points to the need to also engage men in discussions about the benefits of women's involvement in climate-related management processes.

UN Women is actively involved in ensuring that women are included in negotiations. In 2018 and 2019, they supported the

participation of 30 female experts and delegates in UNFCCC meetings and other climate change meetings.⁶⁰ Australia and Canada provided travel funds combined with negotiation and leadership training to boost the voices of women from the Pacific, Caribbean and francophone Africa in UNFCCC negotiations.⁶¹ Support being provided to ensure there is gender balance in climate-related policy making processes at all levels should continue, and be reinforced.

A closer look at efforts undertaken by UN Women

UN Women has carried out several capacity-building strategies around the globe, such as training government officials in Bangladesh, mainstreaming gender in climate change adaptation in the Caribbean, and strengthening the capacity of government, civil society and United Nations experts in gender-responsive post-disaster needs assessment in 11 African countries. UN Women has organized training and workshops in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam for government officials on implementing gender-responsive climate change policy, as well as a regional knowledge exchange under the Regional Climate Finance Learning Network, and supported the development and implementation of the regional Association of Southeast Asian Nations strategy on gender mainstreaming in climate change. Serbia has received support from UN Women for a variety of purposes, from organizing outreach events and study visits to developing training handbooks, aiming to strengthen the capacity of its different ministries in gender-responsive climate planning. Furthermore, in the context of women's economic empowerment, UN Women has developed a variety of training and guidelines on gender and climate change, such as training in gender-responsive climate smart agriculture, a practical manual on integrating gender equality into climate change interventions, and a guidance note on sustainable energy.

Source: Subsidiary Body for Implementation, 51st session Santiago, 2–9 December 2019, Synthesis report on Implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, Item 17 of the provisional agenda

⁵⁹ S. Turrall, "Learning from the Renewable Natural Resources Strategy (summary of paper by Bennett, E., (2005), Gender and the DFID RNRSS: A Synthesis), UK: DFID

www.research4development.info/thematicSummaries/Gender_synthesis_study_P1.pdf

⁶⁰ (n 58) Report by the Secretariat, page 10.

⁶¹ Ibid.

2.4 Gender in UNFCCC negotiations and existing frameworks

The issue of gender in climate talks appeared at the 7th Conference of Parties (COP) in Marrakech held from the 29th of October to the 10th of November 2001. The language put forward at the 7th COP in Marrakech was weak and not strong enough to capture the intent of the goal to ratify the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. A step further was taken in Doha in 2012 with a decision entitled “Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women”, and mentioning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Lima work programme on gender (LWPG) adopted at the COP 14 held in Lima, Peru from the 1st to the 12th of December 2014 moves further in adopting a global approach and covers several strands of work (political and technical). It decides anew, two years after Doha, to ‘enhance the implementation of prior decisions to advance ‘gender balance’ and call for ‘additional efforts’ as regards to participation’ of women.⁶²

Looking more closely at the Lima Work Programme and its GAP was established which sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the

UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels; as well as women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.⁶³ The five priority areas are:

Area A. Capacity building, knowledge management and communication

The main objective of this priority area is to ensure the systematic integration of women into climate policy and action. The UNFCCC website is updated occasionally to improve knowledge on gender related issues, all public can access such data. Recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNFCCC is progressing with their capacity building by undertaking virtual workshops on gender and climate change. The workshops were concerned with strengthening the skills of National Gender Climate Change Focal Points on the one hand, and integrating gender into national climate policies, plans and actions on the other.⁶⁴

Some of the parties to the LWPG have illustrated the initiatives being undertaken in their countries. Ethiopia highlighted the importance of capacity-building for promoting gender-responsive climate action. There has been targeted training to the relevant stakeholders namely representatives of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission and NGOs in the country. The national TV in Ethiopia has supported

⁶² United Nations Climate Change, ‘The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender’ available at <https://newsroom.unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-gender>.

⁶³ United Nations Climate Change, “The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender” available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction->

[to-gender-and-climate-change/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-gender#eq-3](https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-gender#eq-3).

⁶⁴ UN Climate Change Supports Efforts to Mainstream Gender Into National Climate Actions, 19 November 2020, available at [UN Climate Change Supports Efforts to Mainstream Gender Into National Climate Actions | UNFCCC](https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-supports-efforts-to-mainstream-gender-into-national-climate-actions)

awareness by broadcasting a programme on climate adaptation with a gender focus.⁶⁵ Chile is involved in knowledge-sharing via a peer-to-peer event with Ecuador and Peru to exchange experience in relation to gender and climate change. The Chilean Inter-ministerial Technical Team on climate change has since 2017 incorporated the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity thus boosting the integration of gender. The EU ensured capacity building by delivering online training through the European Institute for Gender Equality which provides a toolkit for gender equality competence development. A highlight for Uganda in 2019 was the Climate Change Symposium on gender and climate change, in which representatives of line ministries, private sector, civil society and United Nations agencies participated. The breakout sessions allowed for knowledge-sharing on gender and climate change programming. Uganda has progressed at the national level in elaborating a gender strategy for NDC implementation in priority areas (agriculture, waste and energy) and mainstreaming gender in the national greenhouse gas inventory system.⁶⁶ These are only a few of the efforts that have been undertaken by members.

Area B. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

The main objective under this area is to achieve and sustain the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process. A report was compiled that

illustrates the gender composition and gender balance: the conundrum persists even in the consultative bodies averaging 33% female representation and the lowest being 10% in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board.⁶⁷ The lack of gender-balance in decision-making is proving to be a problem, however the UNFCCC is seeking to bridge this gap. Bridging this gap at the international platform will also contribute to national actions following the same suit.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP), created under the LWPG, aims to advance equal participation of women, promote gender-responsive climate policy and mainstream gender in the UNFCCC process. The GAP and the LWPG will both be under review during the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference COP 25. Discussions during pre-COP in Costa Rica have demonstrated willingness by Parties to extend the GAP and the LWPG with an enhanced framework that would underpin the work being done on gender balance across the UNFCCC.⁶⁸

Area C: Coherence

The main objective of this area is to ensure integration of gender considerations within the work of UNFCCC constituted bodies, the secretariat and other United Nations entities and stakeholders towards the consistent implementation of gender-related mandates and activities.⁶⁹ There is need for more coherence within the UNFCCC, so that the measures they seek to put at international level are also being followed by the bodies of the organisation. Mexico recognized the importance of the coherence of gender

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ United Nations Climate Change, Report by the Secretariat, Implementation of the gender action plan: Synthesis Report by the Secretariat, 21 October 2019, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SBI2019_15Ad_d1.pdf page 9.

⁶⁷ (n 78) United Nations Climate Change.

⁶⁸ United Nations Climate Change, Women Still Underrepresented on Decision-making on Climate Issues under the UN, November 2019, available at <https://unfccc.int/news/women-still-underrepresented-in-decision-making-on-climate-issues-under-the-un>.

⁶⁹ (n 28) "The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender."

mainstreaming in international, national and local climate policy instruments. Kenya made recommendations for its own country for improving coherence within the United Nations system and among Parties⁷⁰. The EU shared its advances in policy coherence, such as the European Pact for Gender Equality 2011–2020 and the Gender Equality Strategy, reported as a framework for ensuring consistency in approach and overall policy coherence in Europe.⁷¹

Area D: Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation

There is a need to ensure that gender equality and empowerment of women are respected, promoted and considered in the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.⁷² Development of a policy is important but without implementation, there would be a set of legal instruments without adherence and they would soon become redundant. In recognizing that knowledge on climate change matters is limited to a few organizations, the UNFCCC together with academia concluded that there is need to actively work on knowledge sharing about the importance of gender mainstreaming.⁷³ Of crucial importance, finance was realised to play a major role in gender-responsive implementation such that there are calls to include finance-budgeting for that aim. The

Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) has yet to organize a dialogue on the implementation of its commitment to integrate gender considerations into its work, emphasizing the relevance of gender responsive access to finance in the implementation of climate action; although it has taken steps towards integrating gender considerations into its meetings and events, such as the 2019 SCF Forum.⁷⁴ Such a move on financing gender responsive actions by the UNFCCC is at the cornerstone of strategic partnering.

Area E: Monitoring and Reporting

To effectively ensure the success of a plan and programme, there is need to monitor the progress and submission of reports across the world on the effectiveness of the plan and whether it is adequately being implemented. There is need to improve tracking of the implementation of and reporting on gender-related mandates under the LWPG and its gender action plan.⁷⁵ The “In-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer” illustrates that the UNFCCC is concerned with the implementation and gender mainstreaming in national policies.⁷⁶ They constantly keep track of these policies by calling for reports from the member states and keeping tabs on the implementation of the policy. At the Subsidiary Bodies 50th

⁷⁰ (n 58) Report by the Secretariat, page 17.

⁷¹ *ibid*

⁷² (n 28) “The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender”

⁷³ Report of the Expert Group Meeting, Implementation of Gender-Responsive Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development, Bonn Germany, 14-16 October 2015, available at https://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/egmreport.pdf.

⁷⁴ United Nations Climate Change, ‘Climate Finance and Sustainable Cities’ 12-13 December 2019, available at

<https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/scf-forum/climate-finance-and-sustainable-cities>.

⁷⁵ (n 28) “The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender.”

⁷⁶ United Nations Climate Change, ‘In-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer’ 8-9 June 2015, Bonn Germany available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/in-session-workshop-on-gender-responsive-climate-policy-with-a-focus-on-mitigation-action-and->

meeting, gender workshop, stakeholders presented their efforts to design and implement gender-responsive climate policy and action: The NDC Partnership showcased the NDC knowledge portal.⁷⁷ It can be used by Parties and organizations looking to design and implement gender-responsive climate policy and action. Resources on gender and climate change can be easily identified thanks to the portal's tagging structure, and an interactive map. Financial comparison tool and database with resources in different languages are also featured.⁷⁸

In the annexe to the Paris agreement reached in 2015, Parties acknowledged that "climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity"⁷⁹ Gender mainstreaming in climate change is clearly visible in the Paris Agreement.

More recently, the Bonn Conference of 2017 set up the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) and called Parties, observers and organizations to provide submissions on how gender is being mainstreamed by the respective governments.⁸⁰ The ccGAP is an enhanced gender action plan that sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate

action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process. In Tanzania, the list of participants that are involved in the development of the NCCS illustrates that women were highly represented as women groups like Tanzania Media Women Association and Zanzibar Gender Coalition were involved.

Following the LWPG Priority Area 5 of monitoring and reporting, in 2018 in Katowice Climate Change Conference, Decision 18/CP.20 reported on the progress in enhancing the representation of women in constituted bodies.⁸¹ They further went on to request an assessment of the work carried out under the LWPG and the gender action plan, including progress made. The COP encouraged Parties, constituted bodies and observers to consult in 2019, including via meetings, to move the gender action plan forward.⁸² The progress has continued in 2020 with virtual meetings looking at how the gender issue is being considered in the COVID-19 era. The workshops were continent and region specific and were organized on different occasions.⁸³

⁷⁷ NDC Partnership, 'Knowledge Portal' available at <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal>.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ United Nations Climate Change, "Chronology of Gender in the Intergovernmental Process," available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/chronology-of-gender-in-the-intergovernmental-process#eq-5>

⁸¹ (n 75) Report of the Expert Group.

⁸² (n 78) In Session Workshop on Gender Responsive Climate Policy with a focus on Mitigation.

⁸³ United Nations Climate Change, 'Virtual workshops - Gender integration into national climate actions' available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/virtual-workshops-gender-integration-into-national-climate-actions#eq-1>.

UN Climate Change Supports Efforts to Mainstream Gender Into National Climate Actions

UN Climate Change News, 19 November 2020 - UN Climate Change has significantly boosted support efforts around the nexus of gender and climate change in two series of virtual workshops conducted in the second half of 2020. This targeted support concerns strengthening the skills of National Gender Climate Change Focal Points on the one hand, and integrating gender into national climate policies, plans and actions on the other. Specifically, the virtual workshops facilitated peer exchange and learning under the five-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan. Regarding National Gender Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFP), UN Climate Change's gender team delivered six workshops dedicated to assisting with focal points' capacity needs such as: networking and sharing knowledge; effective verbal communications; systems thinking approach; and cross-sectoral engagement and relationships building. [...] The discussion is expected to continue so that specific recommendations on the role of NGCCFP may be developed. As the year draws to a close, 81 countries have already appointed a NGCCFP, indicating a growing awareness of the importance of gender responsive climate action at international, national and subnational levels. “

Source: UNFCCC, **19 November 2020**. UN Climate Change Supports Efforts to Mainstream Gender Into National Climate Actions

SECTION 3

Move towards gender-conscious climate policies

3.1 Pre-requirements for developing a gender-conscious climate policy

A gender-conscious climate policy requires strategic approach to ensure that gender is continuously included in the policy. This requires that the development of a climate policy be gender centric. Gender-consciousness in a policy can be achieved in 4 stages, namely:

Gender inclusion in policy development

One of the ways to ensure that there is gender-consciousness in the development of a policy is involving women and men equally in decision-making and implementation from local to national and international levels and taking into account their different needs and capacities.⁸⁴ Currently, men and women are not equally represented in decision-making bodies. Men are more represented than women, and women even when they are included, are often not in a position to impact change. Looking at the proportion of women in fields relevant to climate change policies and decision-making in the 10 European

cities (from Germany, Finland, Italy and Sweden) involved in the 'Climate for Change' project reveals that, women make up around 30 % of all staff in fields relevant to climate change policies (except in Naples and Venice, where the proportion is less), while in executive positions their proportion is even lower, varying between 0 % in Frankfurt (Germany) to 34 % in Ferrara (Italy).⁸⁵

Women are underrepresented in decision-making at all levels, in both public entities and the private sphere. One of the consequences of this imbalance is a male bias in planning and decision-making, resulting in a failure to consider the different needs of women which stem from their socially defined roles and responsibilities. Depending on the cultural setting, women also tend to have less influence on decisions at household level.⁸⁶ The inclusion of women in the decision-making arena will ensure that climate change policies are gender-conscious as women will be able to highlight their interests in such platforms.

Gender inclusion cannot be underestimated. There is need to improve the gender balance in positions of power. The team of people tasked by UNFCCC with coordinating the global climate change negotiations for the COP26 in 2021, consists entirely of men.

⁸⁴ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, 'Gender & Urban Climate Policy: Gender Sensitive Policies Make a Difference' available at https://gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/dokumente/8_Resouces/Publications/Guidebook_Gender_and_Urban_Climate_Policy_June_2015.pdf.

⁸⁵ European Institute for Gender Equality, Review of the Implementation in the EU of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Environment Gender Equality and Climate Change, 2012.

⁸⁶ (n 84) Gender & Urban Climate Policy: Gender Sensitive Policies.

While not surprising to many feminists in this space, this blatant disregard of gender diversity and women's perspectives in climate policy space is all too common. And it reflects broader ignorance of how gender and climate change intersect.⁸⁷ This gender imbalance is strikingly occurring in 2020 at an instant where the gender and climate change synergy should become the norm.

Gender balance and equal participation alone are however not sufficient. Specific gender expertise is necessary to integrate a gender-sensitive approach in urban climate policy processes like participation, impact assessments and financing. Therefore, when policy is being developed, key questions must be asked. Who is not present in the data informing the actions? And what communities should be consulted to ensure the most positive outcomes? And what can policymakers do to address disparate impacts before they occur?⁸⁸ These questions are pertinent to the success of a well-developed policy that is gender centric.

Ensure genuine community participation in climate policy

One of the greatest challenges with climate change is its intangibility. The scope is just too large to grasp, and many of the most noticeable impacts are still too far removed from human daily lives. For some, climate change becomes either overwhelmingly challenging or abstract enough that it is easy to ignore, more so the impacts of climate change on women. For this reason, there is a

need to ensure there is genuine community participation in climate policy at all levels.

Gender dimensions of climate change must simultaneously be integrated into the planning of local and national actions at the community level.⁸⁹ Genuine participation may ensure that the concerns of women, especially in vulnerable communities, are taken note of and they are integrated in the development of climate change policies. It is argued that the perspectives and biases of academics can obscure from the experience, expertise, concerns, and values of those living in the communities they study.⁹⁰ This is particularly the case in instances where the individuals being studied belong to groups that have been marginalized. Women, being historically marginalized suffer the most from this. Such a circumstance can be overcome by genuine community participation. Genuine community participation can be achieved by involving all stakeholders in the preparation of the policy, undertaking surveys, and ensuring the communities are well educated so that they can participate adequately.

'Cross-mainstreaming' of climate change and gender is an ongoing task of utmost importance for all actors involved in climate politics. The adaption of climate governance and its procedures will certainly require a learning process for public bodies and institutions. Community participation has to be at the local, national and international level.

⁸⁷ M. Dolan, J. Olson, "Integrate Gender when Designing Climate Policy" 2 November 2020 available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/74486>.

⁸⁸ Ibid, 'Integrate Gender When Designing Climate Policy'

⁸⁹ Ibid page 15.

⁹⁰ C. Loo, "The Role of Community Participation in Climate Change Assessment & Research, J Agric Environ Ethics available at https://www.academia.edu/8272765/The_Role_of_Community_Participation_in_Climate_Change_Assessment_and_Research.

Conduct gender impact assessments

A gender impact assessment is defined as an *'estimation of the different effects (positive, negative or neutral) of any policy or activity implemented to specific items in terms of gender equality.'*⁹¹ Gender impact assessments are important as they allow knowledge dispensation on the effects of climate change on women, both negative and positive. These have been done in various countries (for example, Sweden, Finland and Denmark) although not in regards to climate change. The model can still be adopted in the climate change realm.

In the initial development stages of a climate policy, it is crucial that gender impact assessments are conducted. The gender impact assessments assist the policymakers in knowing the exact conditions that women might be going through and in the formulation of such policy address the issues that may have figured in the said impact assessments.

The European Institute for Gender Equality provides a Guide to Gender Assessment which highlights the stages that ought to be undertaken, and these are: defining the policy purpose, checking the gender relevance of the policy, conducting a gender-sensitive analysis, weighing gender impact and findings, and proposals for improvement.⁹² This guide can be adopted by policymakers to ensure there is gender mainstreaming of their climate related policies.

⁹¹ European Institute of Gender Equality, 'Gender Impact Assessment' available at <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-impact-assessment/what-gender-impact-assessment#:~:text=The%20European%20Commission%20defines%20gender%20impact%20assessment%20as,resulting%20from%20the%20introduction%20of%20the%20proposed%20policy.%E2%80%9D>.

⁹² European Institute for Gender Equality, 'Gender Impact Assessment' available at <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-impact-assessment/guide-gender-impact-assessment>.

Institute climate finance and gender budgeting

Climate change comes with a big price tag; such costs require financing hence there is need for more gender-conscious climate financing. Presently only 0.01 percent of all worldwide funding supports projects address both climate change and women's rights.⁹³ In order to ensure the success of community participation and gender impact assessments there ought to be finances dedicated to the cause. A gender perspective needs to be taken into account when developing resource mobilization strategies, applying climate finance instruments, and ensuring equal participation in the deployment of financial resources, particularly at the local level.⁹⁴ Marginalization of women has resulted in them being the world's poorest most vulnerable to climate impacts and with very limited access to financial assistance. Therefore, finance and budget schemes designed to assist women in climate change ought to be included in the development of climate policies that are gender centric.

The financing of gender conscious projects will ensure that impact assessments, capacity building and knowledge management are all undertaken and carried out inclusively and coherently. Equitable climate finance can enhance the climate response efforts while simultaneously promoting achievement of the 17 SDGs, including SDG5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.⁹⁵ There are global initiatives targeted at climate financing. These include the Green Climate Fund (GCF),

[mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-impact-assessment/guide-gender-impact-assessment](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-impact-assessment/guide-gender-impact-assessment).

⁹³ UNDP, Gender & Climate Change: Gender and Climate Finance available at

<https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library.PDF>

⁹⁴ United Nations Climate Change, "Gender & Climate Change Finance" available at

<https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/gender-and-unfccc-topics/gender-and-climate-change-finance>.

⁹⁵ (n 10).

which was set up in 2010 to help support the transition to low-emission and climate resilient development. The GCF has incorporated gender into its governing instrument and has a Gender Policy and Action Plan. Similarly, the Clean Investment Funds (CIF), a set of financing instruments to support the transition towards climate-smart development in developing countries, has a Gender Action Plan that was approved in 2014. These gender policy and action plans' objective is to advance gender equality through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions; and minimize social, gender-related and climate-related risks in all climate change actions.⁹⁶ These initiatives are ensuring that women have access to finance to enable them to tackle climate change. There is need to ensure that these global initiatives do not end as mere initiatives but continue to aid gender equality in climate change policies' development and implementation.

3.2 Pre-requisites for a climate policy to remain gender conscious

To ensure climate policy remains gender conscious, there is need to continue the efforts made in its developmental stage. Consistency is key with regards to ensuring that climate change policies are maintained and kept gender conscious. The policymakers have to be consistent in their approach to include women in their climate policy implementing planning. The stages already highlighted in

the development stage above need to be reinforced in the implementation stage. Women should be empowered to be on the same level as men in executive positions related to climate change. There is also a need to continue with engendering climate change policy response, to ensure that new circumstances that may arise are constantly addressed.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is one organisation at the forefront of supporting women in participating in climate change policy making processes. It is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations.⁹⁷ IUCN works across a wide range of themes related to conservation, environmental and ecological issues, gender is amongst these themes.⁹⁸ The IUCN champions gender-responsible approach across its programmes portfolio, identifying and overcoming gender gaps across all sectors and at all levels to enable better natural resource governance and conservation outcomes.⁹⁹ In promoting gender, the IUCN does publications, issue briefs, studies and reports that are gender centred and designed to ensure that women have a footing in climate change related matters.

A specific example of the work done by the IUCN together with the WWF-Guyana is to address issues of gender and social inclusion in sustainable ecosystem management in Guyana. They have organised a gender-environment training which gave the locals an opportunity to view their work through gender lens.¹⁰⁰ The joint initiative by the IUCN and

⁹⁶ Green Climate Fund, Gender Policy available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-gender-policy.pdf>.

⁹⁷ IUCN, 'About' available at <https://www.iucn.org/about>.

⁹⁸ IUCN, 'Theme' available at <https://www.iucn.org/theme>.

⁹⁹ IUCN, 'Theme-Gender' available at <https://www.iucn.org/theme/gender>.

¹⁰⁰ IUCN, Addressing issues of gender and social inclusion in sustainable ecosystem management in Guyana available at

others indicates a deep interest in ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into climate policy of Guyana. One action that the training was aimed at is influencing national decision makers to integrate cross-cutting principles of gender and environment into national policies.

As highlighted in section 2, the UNFCCC member states are working on implementing the LWPG's five priority areas of capacity building, monitoring and reporting. Strict adherence to the LWPG may assist in ensuring that climate policies remain gender conscious in their implementation.

In Mexico, the initiative taken by the Alliance Mexico REDD+ in cooperation with the IUCN and the UNDP has strengthened national capacities with regards to gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector and allowed it to be integrated in the framework of the Mexican political instruments and environmental laws related to REDD+. This was achieved in particular by analysing the legal and social barriers encountered by women, mobilising women's and environmental organisations, and setting in place a multiple-partner national consultation which makes operational recommendations. This process has been successful and has integrated operational work axes on women and gender equality in the National Climate Change Programme 2014-2018 and in the National REDD+ strategy.¹⁰¹

Continued education ensures that climate policies remain gender conscious. Education need not be for women only but men ought to

be educated on the importance of including women in the decision-making roles as women are agents of change. Community engagement post-development of the climate policy is essential. It is crucial to keep in touch with communities so that policymakers remain in touch with developing situations at hand.

3.3 Some success stories of gender mainstreaming in climate change policy

As part of Finland's Presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2011, an electronic portal about climate change and gender was created.¹⁰² The Nordic gender equality ministers have been working to include a gender equality perspective into solutions targeted towards mitigation and adaptation work and to disseminate information on gender equality in climate change and sustainable development. The portal collects knowledge about climate and gender from a number of different perspectives including transport, consumption, food and energy. It also contains information about gender-aware climate work in the Nordic countries as well as the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland and also on global level. Furthermore, it contains information about activities, reports and political decision-making regarding gender equality and climate change as well as portrays practical examples about how women and men, and girls and boys, are affected, and how they in turn affect climate change through their lifestyles and behaviour

<https://www.iucn.org/news/gender/202006/addressing-issues-gender-and-social-inclusion-sustainable-ecosystem-management-guyana>.

¹⁰¹ IUCN, 'M-REDD: Mainstreaming Gender in Policies and Laws Related to Climate Change and REDD+ in Mexico: A National, Policy-Level Initiative, 2015' available at <https://genderandenvironment.org/m-redd-mainstreaming->

[gender-in-policies-and-laws-related-to-climate-change-and-redd-in-mexico-a-national-policy-level-initiative/](https://www.iucn.org/news/gender/202006/addressing-issues-gender-and-social-inclusion-sustainable-ecosystem-management-guyana).

¹⁰² European Institute for Gender Equality, 'Environment and Gender' available at <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/environment-and-climate-change>.

patterns.¹⁰³ The move by Finland illustrates a success story that needs mentioning as such data is crucial in understanding the gender dynamics in the country, and to develop and take gender-conscious policy actions.

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) is working with the Government to pursue the impact of a gender perspective in research and promote equality between men and women. Formas annually reports on its work on, among other things, the distribution of women and men in its drafting groups and in applications received and approved. The actions by both Sweden and Finland are in line with the LWPG's priority area E on *Monitoring and Reporting*, which is commendable.

The Austrian government is also implementing the LWPG successfully by their capacity building, knowledge management and sharing. In fact, the integration of gender-related concerns and gender perspectives in sustainable development policies and programmes is realised through the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency (OEZA). In this context, the OEZA recognises the UN's environmental conventions, the principles of EU policies and the OECD Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in the Inter-Ministerial Strategic Guideline on Environment and Development (Strategischer Leitfaden Umwelt & Entwicklung) which was adopted by the Cabinet in September 2009. Furthermore, in December 2012 the Austrian Foreign Ministry organised the Vienna Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality in cooperation with UNDESA and UN Women. The event, '*Advancing*

gender equality and women's empowerment in development cooperation and the post-2015 development' agenda, was mainly aimed at preparing the fourth Development Cooperation Forum of the UN Economic and Social Council in 2014. The subjects discussed were, first and foremost, how gender equality and women's empowerment can be positioned in the global environmental development agenda of the future.¹⁰⁴

The European Parliament Resolution of 20 April 2012 on women and climate change highlights guidance for the EU countries that they should follow in implementing their climate policy to such ends that they are gender centric. Article 7 of the European Parliament Resolution of 20 April 2012 lobbies for female representation, Article 8 calls for country-specific gender-disaggregated data when planning, implementing and evaluating climate policies.¹⁰⁵ Female representation is crucial to ensure that the gender is at the forefront of the climate change issue. The policies being put up by the EU highlights the commitment of the European countries and paves a way for the countries to initiate gender mainstreaming in climate change. The entire resolution is gender centric as it is constantly addressing the issues regarding the inter-relationship between climate change and gender and how to include gender into climate change talks within EU countries.

¹⁰³ European Institute for Gender Equality, "Environment & Climate Change" available at <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/environment-and-climate-change>.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ European Parliament resolution of 20 April 2012 on women and climate change (2011/2197(INI)), 20 April 2012, available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2012-0145_EN.html?redirect.

SECTION 4

Conclusion

The move towards more gender conscious climate change policies is one that is crucial and pivotal if climate change is to be combated sustainably. Women at the forefront of climate change can enable responsive change within the communities they live in as they are mostly concerned with using natural resources. The UNFCCC's GAP helps policymakers as well as international organizations on best practices to ensure that there is gender inclusivity. There is a steady gradual growth towards the realization of this gender conscious goal, although not as fast as desired.

Despite the UNFCCC's pleas to include women in the development and implementation of climate change policy, women are still underrepresented. Various workshops and initiatives are being undertaken by groups such as UN Women and IUCN to encourage inclusion of women in the area of climate change. The initiatives are commendable and there is steady growth as highlighted before. One of the most important things in ensuring that climate change is gender conscious and remains so is to ensure that there is genuine community participation. Such participation at the highest levels ensures that women's concerns are taken account of and policymakers take steps to ensure these concerns are addressed. One other issue is that there ought to be gender-response finance for climate change for implementation of gender-related programmes as these cannot be undertaken in the absence of adequate finance.

Lastly, looking at the climate policies of the studied African countries, it is clear to note

that these developing countries have included gender equality in their policies and are working towards ensuring that the progress in text is also achieved in reality. African countries are achieving this through the use of the UNFCCC's GAP as well as financial assistance from developed countries. To ensure that climate change is and remains gender conscious, policymakers and concerned stakeholders need to be intentional about their action as well as follow the steps outlined by GAP. The role of gender-response climate finance cannot be understated, there ought to be finances to ensure the success of the implementation of the programmes. Thus, budgets targeted at gender-climate response ought to become a norm. UN Women has developed a climate change and gender-responsive budgeting toolkit for parliamentarians in the Caribbean and provided relevant training to government officials from Morocco. This action could be leveraged in other countries also in the near future.

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Annex 1: Table compiled by CUTS of analysis of climate policies through a gender lens

Country	Policy Title	Objective of the Policy	Mention of gender	Where is it mentioned in the policy?	Considerations of the specific gender impacts of CC	Link to the policy
Austria	Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for Austria	The aim is to achieve equality between women and men by keeping the gender perspective in mind in all areas and at all levels of policy making and corresponding action.	Yes	Page 7, the pre-requisites of SDGs	N/A	https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/at_final_necp_main_en.pdf .
China	13th Five Year Plan	To understand, and guide the new normal in economic development, and comprehensively advance innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development so as to ensure that a moderately prosperous society is established in all respects.	Yes	Chapter 66	Land rights are being given to women	https://www.unpage.org/files/public/china_five_year_plan.pdf .
Ecuador	National Climate Change Plan 2015-2018	To guarantee the rights of nature and promote environmental, sustainability globally	No	N/A	N/A	https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Ecuador/1/Ecuador%20INDC%2001-10-2015%20-%20english%20unofficial%20translation.pdf .
Egypt	Egypt's National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	To increase the flexibility of the Egyptian community when dealing with the risks and disasters that might be caused by climate change and its impact on different sectors and activities. It also aims at strengthening the capacity to absorb and reduce the risks and disasters to be caused by such changes.	No	N/A	N/A	http://www.climasouth.eu/docs/Adaptation011%20StrategyEgypt.pdf .
European Union	Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the	To enable the achievement of the objectives of the Energy Union and in particular the targets of the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy, in	No	N/A	N/A	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri

	Energy Union and Climate Action	the field of GHG emission reduction, energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency.				=CELEX:32018R1999&from=EN.
Finland	Finland's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022	Aim: The Finnish society has the capacity to manage the risks associated with climate change and adapt to changes in the climate.	No	N/A	N/A	https://mmm.fi/document/s/1410837/0/Finland_s_National_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_2022+%281%29.pdf/2a775cac-66fd-fdcf-2e64-69996832c4bb/Finland_s_National_Climate_Change_Adaptation_Plan_2022+%281%29.pdf?t=1594883773425 .
France	Stratégie d'adaptation au changement climatique (2007), et Plan national d'adaptation au changement climatique (2017)	Stratégie d'adaptation au changement climatique (2007), et Plan national d'adaptation au changement climatique (2017)	No	N/A	N/A	https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/ONERC_Rapport_2006_Strategie_Nationale_WEB.pdf .
Iceland	Iceland's Climate Action Plan for 2018-2030	intended to boost efforts in cutting net emissions to meet its Paris Agreement targets for 2030 and reach the government's ambitious aim to make Iceland carbon neutral before 2040.	No	N/A	N/A	https://www.government.is/library/Files/Iceland%20new%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20for%202018%202030.pdf .
Jordan	National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change	To achieve a pro-active risk resilient Jordan and low carbon economy	Yes	8.1 Jordan's Position on Vulnerable Groups (with Emphasis on the Poor) and Gender	Yes, a move to mainstream gender in all policies as well as bring Jordan to date with the commitments that bind them under their international agreements	https://globalnaps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/climate-change-policy-of-jordan.pdf .
Kenya	Climate Change Act, and Action Plan	To ensure the integration of climate change considerations into development planning, budgeting and implementation in all sectors and at all levels of government	Yes	3.2 (vii) Objectives of the Policy	Yes, highlights that women are impacted more by climate change than men	https://bit.ly/376V06o

Liberia	National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change	To tackle the impacts of climate change	Yes	8.3.5 Interventions	Yes, move to research data on impacts of CC on women	https://bit.ly/343TaS9
Malawi	National Climate Change Management Policy	To assist the country achieve its long-term goal for climate change management which is to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of adverse effects of climatic change	Yes	Guiding Principle 3	Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and are more vulnerable to its impacts. Gender equality must therefore be promoted as a response both in terms of mainstreaming as well as through specific focused interventions;	https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NCCM-Policy-Final-06-11-2016.pdf .
Netherlands	National Climate Agreement	The main goal of the National Climate Agreement is to achieve a 49% reduction in national greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.	No	N/A	N/A	https://www.government.nl/topics/climate-change/climate-policy .
New Zealand	Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act (amending the Climate Change Response Act 2002)	To provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies	No	N/A	N/A	http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0040/latest/DLM158584.html?search=ts_act_climate+change+response+act_resel&p=1&sr=1 .
Rwanda	Law N°48/2018 on the environment	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	https://waterportal.rwb.rw/sites/default/files/2018-10/Water%20law%20gazetted%2C2018.pdf .
Singapore	Climate Action Plan: Take Action Today, For a Carbon-Efficient Singapore	for carbon efficiency and improved energy efficiency	No	N/A	N/A	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1545Climate_Action_Plan_Publication_Part_1.pdf .

Spain	Spain's integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030	it is aimed at maintaining the global average temperature increase below 2 °C compared to pre-industrial levels, and to make efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C	Yes	page 22, establishment of the Plan	N/A	https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/es_final_necp_main_en.pdf .
Tanzania	National Climate Change Strategy	to enable Tanzania to participate in global efforts to mitigate climate change and achieve sustainable economic growth	No, however, following the NCCS, a gender policy on climate change was put together	N/A	N/A	https://www.climate-links.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2013_IUCN_Climate-Cha_nge-Gender-Action-Plan-Tanzania.pdf
Thailand	National Climate Change Master Plan 2012-2050	To serve as a framework and mechanism for solving the nation's climate change problem	No	N/A	N/A	https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/thailand/documents/thailand_eu_coop/environment_energry/onep_climate_policy_en.pdf .
United Kingdom	Climate Change Act, 2008, it has had revisions, but none include mention of gender	To set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions; to provide for a system of carbon budgeting; to establish a Committee on Climate Change; [...]	No	N/A	N/A	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents .
Zambia	National Policy on Climate Change	to provide a framework for coordinating climate change programs in order to ensure climate resilient and low carbon development	Yes	Policy objectives	Not quite, the inclusion of climate finance suggests the gvt is aware of impacts on women	https://www.pmrzambia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/National-Policy-on-Climate-Change.pdf .
Zimbabwe	National Climate Change Response Strategy	To provide a framework for coordinating climate change programs in order to ensure climate resilient and low carbon development	Yes	Section 3: Sector Specific Challenges, Risks and Impacts; Adaptation, Mitigation and Opportunities	Yes, illustrates that due to marginalization women suffer from climate change more than men	http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/zim169511.pdf

