



Defending the Future

GENDER, CONFLICT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE

i. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ii. ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS

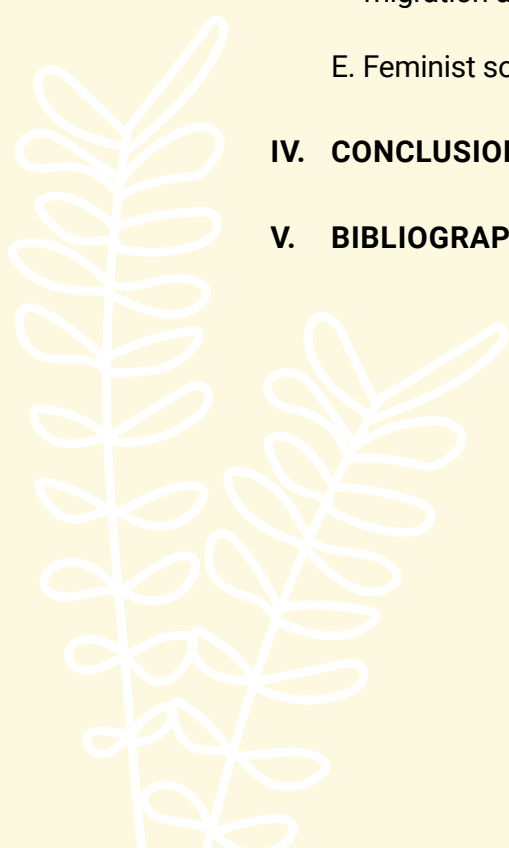
The Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC), formerly Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), is a feminist organisation with over 25 years' experience advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, working with partners in conflict and post-conflict to catalyse women's power for peace and to tackle the impact of conflict through research, documentation, skills and movement building, advocacy as well as healing. Since 1996, WIPC has researched and documented the critical yet often neglected experiences and perspectives of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Through their research and documentation, WIPC adds to the body of existing feminist knowledge on women, conflict and peacebuilding, and use the findings to lobby key stakeholders to change norms, policies and practices that perpetuate gender inequality in conflict and post conflict settings.

Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) is the UK's Women, Peace and Security civil society network. GAPS is a membership organisation of NGOs and experts in the field of development, human rights, humanitarian response and peacebuilding. GAPS was founded to progress the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The role of GAPS is to promote and hold the UK government to account on its international commitments to women and girls in conflict areas worldwide.

The LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security is an academic space for scholars, practitioners, activists, policy-makers and students to develop strategies to promote justice, human rights and participation of women in conflict-affected situations around the world. Through innovative research, teaching, and multi-sectoral engagement, the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security aims to promote gender equality and enhance women's economic, social and political participation and security. This research forms part of the *Feminist International Law of Peace and Security* project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

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Climate change is thus seen as a risk multiplier, as part of a complex matrix of peoples' lives in conflict and post-conflict contexts and is inherently gendered.



Executive Summary

This report focuses on the gendered impact of climate change and how this intersects with women and girls' right to peace.¹ At the time of writing this report, there is a growing recognition of the need for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda to take into account how the climate crisis poses risks to women and girls' peace and security, particularly in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Food security, water insecurity and displacement are issues affecting women and girls due to extreme weather and the climate emergency. The intersection of WPS, climate change, ecological destruction and conflict or post-conflict situations thus raises a myriad of issues. As the recent UN Report on Gender, Climate and Security put it: "There is therefore an urgent need for better analysis and concrete, immediate actions to address the linkages between climate change and conflict from a gender perspective".²

This report is based on interviews with practitioners, experts, academics and activists. Together with a roundtable held in London in January and four focus group discussions which took place in Uganda in 2020, the project involved 126 participants in total. The participants were asked a number of questions including what they saw as the intersections between gender, peace and the environment as well as feminist solutions they knew were being employed to work towards gender equity and environmental peace.

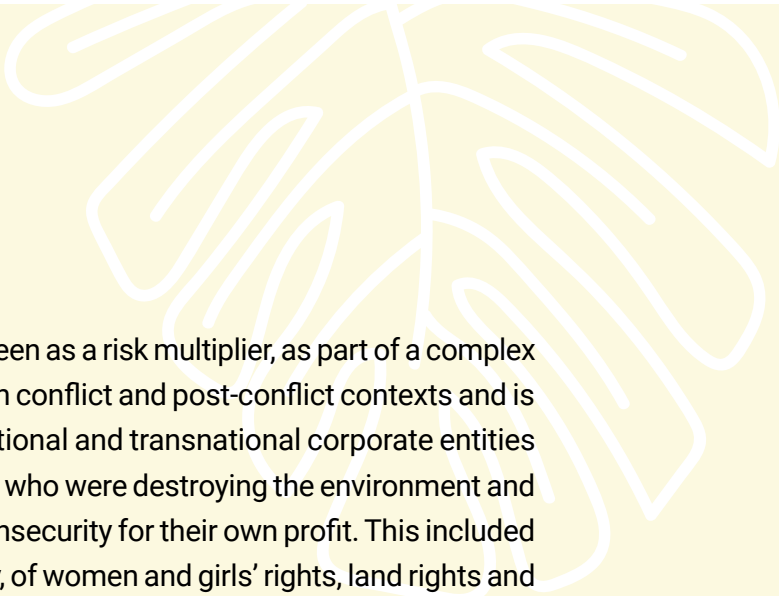
1. Article 10 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Statement of the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change, adopted at the 44th session of CEDAW, 20th July to 7 August 2009. Climate change is defined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Article 1 as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods." United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (adopted 9 May 1992, entered into force 19 June 1993) 1771 UNTS 107 (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC is a *lex specialis*. Its relationship to human rights is comprehensively explored in Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, *State Responsibility, Climate Change and Human Rights under International Law* (Hart Publishing: 2018).

2. UN Environment Programme, UN Women, DPPA and UN Development Programme. 2020. *Gender Climate & Security: Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change*, (2020) p3. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32638/GCS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Most of the interviewees spoke of a 'gap' in relation to the intersection of gender, peace and the environment in practice and in policy. This is largely due to the lack of mechanisms to ensure women and girls' participation and leadership in environmental governance, climate policy and peace processes. Equal or indeed any participation cannot be taken for granted. Nor should women and girls' involvement be confined to issues relating to women's economic empowerment or gender-based violence. Instead, women and girls' participation must be guaranteed in relation to all decision and policy-making related to environmental protection in order to ensure an intersectional and gendered approach to this issue.

There are many organisations working on WPS but few explicitly engage with issues of socio-environmental conflicts, climate change and land rights. Environmental rights groups and women's rights groups often have many common aims and objectives and face many similar challenges and yet are seen as working on separate agendas. However, the organisations working on WPS are well aware of the challenges that women and girls face due to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. Many experts in these organisations told us of the risks that climate change poses to women and girls' security: food security, water security and their own physical security.

Many participants spoke of the need for intersectional and integrated analysis to ensure that gender is included in climate insecurity work and in studying conflict dynamics. It seemed that when gender was included in this work, this was due in large part to an individual with gender expertise insisting on the inclusion of this perspective. The lack of a gender perspective fails to appreciate, for example, how women and girls in some regions or countries are not able to own land. This means they are then excluded from participating in decisions relating to environmental governance or mediations relating to the environment. This was especially the case in relation to the impact of mining, large infrastructure projects and exploration.



Climate change is thus seen as a risk multiplier, as part of a complex matrix of peoples' lives in conflict and post-conflict contexts and is inherently gendered. National and transnational corporate entities were identified as actors who were destroying the environment and raising levels of human insecurity for their own profit. This included the security, or insecurity, of women and girls' rights, land rights and protections for environmental activists.

At the same time, we heard of courageous work to resist and defend the environment and women and girls' rights. Participants outlined collective organising, networks of women's human rights and environmental defenders, training including the establishment of women's resilience clubs, tree planting initiatives and sustainability schools. We heard about eco-feminist exchanges between districts and the importance of supporting movements on women's and girls' rights and environmental rights which are attentive to their intersections. These exchanges were also occurring between countries with participants discussing strategies for how communities can resist corporate activities that violate human, environmental, and cultural rights.

As one participant, Sostine Namanya from the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) stated, African women and girls are in large part not responsible for climate change issues yet they are disproportionately facing the burden of its impacts. She continued that, in identifying solutions, it is important to remember that these will not come from the same places that have exported economic models of environmental degradation. Instead, she called for the centring of local practices and ensuring that these are weaved into platforms where women and girls, including rural women and girls, can advocate and are listened to on solutions to gender inequality, climate change and conflict.



I. Key Recommendations

1

ENSURE WOMEN AND GIRLS' PARTICIPATION

All actors – NGOs, international NGOs, inter-governmental organisations, states and international institutions – should ensure women and girls participate equally and meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives. Women and adolescent girls should be acknowledged as technical experts in climate change, on the environment, in conflict and peacebuilding and be able to participate in decision-making spaces on climate change and the environment. Where necessary, all actors should support women and adolescent girls' capacity to engage in current technical dialogue; without this, key decisions will not meet the rights, needs and experiences of women and girls. For example, in peace agreements, references to land ownership and access to natural resources should ensure a gender perspective that delivers for women and girls and acknowledges the impact that climate change is having on them.

2

UNDERTAKE PARTICIPATORY GENDER-CONFLICT-ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

All actors engaged in peacebuilding and conflict resolution should ensure that all conflict and peacebuilding projects, programmes, policy and research are based on participatory, intersectional gender-conflict-environmental analysis that includes assessments of and responses to: environmental and climate change; structural and root causes of conflict and gender inequality; power, including corporate power; and colonial histories. This requires them to work with women and girls and to engage with the work women and girls' are already doing, to assess the gendered impact of climate change and ensure that solutions are developed with – not 'for' – them.

3

DELIVER WOMEN AND GIRLS' HUMAN RIGHTS

All actors should ensure women and girls' human rights are at the centre of all responses to climate, peace, conflict and gender which: address the diverse rights, needs and experiences of displaced women and girls; acknowledges women and girls' right to land – which goes beyond ownership to the historical and ancestral relationship with the land; supports women and girls' economic empowerment and justice; addresses systematic violations of women and girls' rights, including VAWG; and also ensures reparations. Governments should also implement the recommendations set out in General Recommendation No. 37 (2018) of the CEDAW Committee.³

3. General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change: CEDAW/C/GC/37, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_37_8642_E.pdf

4

ADDRESS INTERSECTIONALITY

All actors should ensure work in conflict contexts integrates perspectives on gender and the environment through conflict, security and peacebuilding projects, programmes, policy, peace processes and research, which are intersectional in their design, implementation and evaluation. This should result in an increase in funding for women and girls' rights programmes as well as gender aspects of broader programmes. Such programmes need be designed to ensure they deliver for all women and girls and their intersecting identities, including gender, race, ethnicity, disability, class, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, and social-economic status. They should at least address: VAWG, food security, education, economic rights and justice, climate-related displacement and migration, environmental justice and environmental-conflict management. Such projects, programmes, policies, peace processes and research should have specific gendered indicators to track and measure progress. Such work should also ensure that protection of the environment is considered in the design of all programming to ensure that responses that are meant to address both inequality and the environment do not further exacerbate climate change, environmental degradation and gender inequality.

5

ENSURE INCLUSION

States, inter-governmental bodies and international institutions should recognise and support traditional solutions to environmental management by Indigenous groups and recognise Indigenous rights and their special connection to the land.

6

SUPPORT AND FUND NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS

States, inter-governmental and international institutions should formally acknowledge the threats to women human rights defenders (WHRDs), environmental defenders and women's rights organisations working on peace, the environment and gender equality. They should support networks of WHRDs and organisations, including funding for their self-defined priorities which enables them to work on strategies for addressing the systemic and structural attacks on rights and the environment, as well as responses to climate, gender inequality and peace. Such support should extend to grassroots women's movements to enable women and girls to develop strategies that are based on their experiences and needs.

7

DEFEND WHRDs AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

The international community should support and fund protection mechanisms for WHRDs and environmental defenders which are based on a sound protection strategy, use organisational privilege to take on and redistribute risk and space and include an emergency protection fund. This should acknowledge and support the wellbeing needs of WHRDs and environmental defenders and advocates. Donors should allow funding applications to include budget lines for the wellbeing of organisations operating in hostile environments.

8

ADDRESS AND CHALLENGE CORPORATE POWER

The international community should acknowledge and reverse the negative impacts of corporate power on women and girls' rights and the environment. Governments and multilateral agencies should ensure that the rights, needs and experiences of those affected by climate insecurity and climate-related conflict is not outweighed by the power of corporations. This includes ensuring that "climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes address the structural barriers faced by women in accessing their rights will increase gender-based inequalities and intersectional forms of discrimination", as outlined in CEDAW General Recommendation 37. It also requires governments to ensure they mandate participatory environmental impact assessments in line with their obligations under international environmental law and that gender equality is taken into account in any climate mitigation or adaptation projects. This requires governments and corporate entities to budget for and implement the gendered aspects of mitigation plans. Governments and agencies that are self-declared as 'feminist' should, at least, address the use of corporate power of organisations headquartered in their countries, particularly in relation to extractive industries.

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9

DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WPS actors should have a greater focus on the environment and environmental actors should have a greater focus on gender equality. An integrated approach to plans for gender equality and the environment is essential, with a view to developing combined WPS and environmental action plans. Governments should develop, design, implement and monitor National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS that are inclusive of climate-related conflict and insecurity. National Adaptation Plans should be developed with the participation of women and girls' most affected by the climate crisis to ensure they are gendered and meet the rights, needs and experiences of women and girls.

10

BUILD THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The international community – including governments, donors, multilateral agencies and international non-government organisations (INGOs) – should invest in building their own capacity to implement these recommendations to move towards a more equal world that addresses climate change, conflict and gender inequality. This should ensure that their staff are trained and that their structures strengthen coordination of these agendas to support the delivery of these recommendations and their existing commitments to women and girls' rights, climate change, peace and conflict prevention. In building its own capacity, these actors should recognise the expertise of women's rights organisations, environmental defenders, WHRDs and youth groups, and work with them.

II. Introduction

The starting point for this report is that while over the last 20 years the Security Council's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework has developed, including through the adoption of a further nine resolutions building on Resolution 1325, the right to peace and feminist conceptions of peace continue to be marginalised within policy and practice. The WPS agenda is a global policy and political framework which requires states, civil society organisations, donors and multilateral organisations to respect the rights of women and girls and to address their particular needs and experiences in conflict. The agenda provides a framework for action based on four inter-linking thematic strands – participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery – to enable all relevant actors to fulfil their responsibilities towards women and girls. Despite this holistic framework, states and multilateral agencies have interpreted the agenda narrowly to focus on sexual violence and, by adopting a securitised lens, have confined the agenda to only militarised conflict.⁴ Women's rights organisations, peacebuilders, academics and activists have called for the agenda to be interpreted more expansively as it reaches its 20th birthday.

Significantly, there have been growing calls for the WPS agenda to embrace environmental protection.⁵ The environment is not entirely absent from the WPS agenda, although its appearance is limited to Resolution 2242 which mentions climate change. Within the WPS literature, greater attention is being directed to the differential and disproportionate impact that environmental degradation has on women and girls' lives.⁶ The twentieth anniversary of resolution 1325 presents states with an opportunity to embrace a progressive agenda and one committed to securing a gender-just peace which is inclusive of the protection of the environment. It is an opportunity to ensure that conflicts and the associated violence due to scarcity, and which result in the destruction of ecosystems on which peoples' lives depend, are prevented. It is also an opportunity to ensure that feminist solutions are at the heart of measures that aim to ensure environmental and sustainable peace.

4. See for example, Gina Heathcote and Dianne Otto, "Rethinking Peacekeeping, Gender Inequality and Collective Security: An Introduction" in *Rethinking Peacekeeping, Gender Inequality and Collective Security*, ed. Gina Heathcote and Dianne Otto (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014): 1–22.

5. Elizabeth Seymour Smith. "Climate Change in Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans". *SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security* No. 2020/7. Stockholm: SIPRI, 2020.
Jacqui True. "Women, Peace and Security in Asia Pacific: Emerging Issues in National Action Plans for Women, Peace and Security". UN Women Discussion Paper (2016).

6. Keina Yoshida "The Protection of the Environment: A Gendered Analysis". *Goettingen Journal of International Law*, Vol 10, No 1, (2020) pp. 285-305.

III. Methodology

This research collated primary data through in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). In total, we interviewed practitioners, experts, academics and activists whose main focus of work is in the region of East Africa. Together with a roundtable held in London in January and the FGDs, the project involved 126 participants in total. The interview participants came from diverse backgrounds, including teachers, journalists, lawyers, women and girls' rights activists, politicians, academics, independent consultants, UN officials, and representatives of international NGOs. Some participants were specialised in the environment, whether in areas such as forestry, land rights, land tenure or conflict analysis. Others were experts in gender equality and the WPS agenda.

The FGDs, led by WIPC, took place in two districts – Yumbe and Adjumani – in Uganda.⁷ Four FGDs involved 90 women and girls in rural communities and refugee settings where WIPC have existing projects. Within these groups, there were specific FGDs for young women and girls and women with disabilities. The FGDs were conducted in Madi, Lubgara, Aringa, Arabic and English languages to suite the different ethnic groups.

Some participants have preferred to remain anonymous. Where this is the case, the interviewee is referred to by a randomly generated number in order to preserve their anonymity.

7. FGDs are often used to gain in-depth understanding of social issues; they aim to collect information from a purposely selected group of individuals. See: Nyumba, et al, 2018. The use of focus group discussion methodology: Insights from two decades of application in conservation. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. British Ecological Society.

IV. Themes

IN THIS SECTION, WE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE KEY THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE FGDS AND INTERVIEWS. THESE THEMES HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR MORE CONCERTED WORK ON THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER, PEACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS GROUNDED IN THE REALITIES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS' LIVES AND BASED ON THE SOLUTIONS THAT THEY, AS EXPERTS, ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP.⁸

- A. Gendered impacts of climate and environmental insecurity
- B. WPS and environmental peacebuilding
- C. 'Defending the resistance': environmental and women rights defenders
- D. Climate and environment related migration and displacement
- E. Feminist solutions for environmental peace

8. Environmental conflicts are social conflicts related to the environment. They commonly involve conflict over access to and power over natural resources. Typically, such conflicts have a variety of negative impacts, such as a loss of livelihood, which in turn causes conflict at varying levels, which affects or impacts all members of society differently. In the case of loss of livelihood due to a scarcity in resources, applying a gender analysis reveals how women and girls are often the group who adversely suffer due to unequal access to power and decision-making, and discriminatory laws or customs, for example in relation to land and property ownership. Exploitation of environmental resources that results in conflict impacts women and girls differently. There is also evidence that women and girls face higher levels of sexual violence within mining contexts, with trafficking becoming a part of the post-conflict matrix.



A. THE GENDERED IMPACT OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INSECURITY

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The majority of the women we are working with, one way or another, have been affected by environmental factors, that led to the conflict or the destruction of their livelihood.

HALA AL KARIB, STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN
IN THE HORN OF AFRICA (SIHA)

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Environmental conflicts lead to high prices of food stuff in the market, especially June is the climax of the hunger season. Food prices have gone up because of scarcity yet we also don't have money to buy food for our families, we are stuck yet we do not expect good yields since our gardens are no longer fertile and are often affected by climatic changes.

ADJUMANI FGD PARTICIPANT

A. THE GENDERED IMPACT OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INSECURITY

Many participants noted changes within the region or within countries due to extreme weather patterns and climate change and the impact that this was having on women and girls. The issue of lack of land rights for women and underlying gender inequality has meant that the effects of climate change has multiplied the risks to women and girls. As Victor Odero of International Rescue Committee noted, in the East Africa region the consequences of climate change are affecting women and girls “who are already at a disadvantage”. This disadvantage is thus compounded by the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Participants drew attention to increasing and sustained hazards and disasters such as floods, torrential rains, landslides and droughts. Participants 42 and 43, for example, noted that in Kaabong, a town in the Northern region of Uganda, there are long droughts followed by too much rain which links directly to making girls vulnerable during the periods of associated hardship. They stated that girls are given away in exchange for livestock or even for food in times of disaster. Other participants drew attention to the issue of waste, including toxic waste and plastic waste, and how this degrades the environment.

Many participants placed emphasis on the centrality of gender norms and the social roles and expectations on women and girls. Focusing on the African continent, the participants drew attention to the differential gender expectations within the household and the community in rural settings. This can include expectations on women and girls to obtain firewood for fuel and water. Climate change has also shifted the roles that men and women are playing. For example,

Mary Nayasimi noted that traditionally, women used to grow vegetables in Kiambu County, Kisii County Nyamira County, Trans Nzoia County and Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. However, men have taken up growing vegetables since tea plantations have been affected by the change of weather. Hailstones have ruined tea leaves meaning that men are shifting away from plantation farming to growing vegetables and crops, thus displacing women. As Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi explained:

In an African setting, people still subsist, or they depend for their livelihood on the environment. It is a matter of life and death. It is what they have to survive. It becomes very critical, because when the environment is destabilised, it destabilises their entire life cycle and livelihood of the community. It is so interrelated. For an African, the environment is the supermarket, that is where you get everything. It is an issue of survival. In most cases, once the environment is tampered with, people's survival is threatened, peace is compromised and of course women are still expected to ensure that their families survive in that unstable environment.

Or as another participant in the FGD from Adjumani stated:

The floods are often followed by too much sunshine which drains all the waters from our gardens and the crops wilt. If we get [a] poor harvest at the end of it all it is the women who suffer. Your husband will not mind if the weather changes and abandon family responsibilities on you. Women must feed the families irrespective of the climatic conditions.

Climate change and environmental degradation have profoundly affected women and girls' safety as deforestation has meant that they have to go further distances to obtain fuel and often water. Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura, an independent consultant, explained that women and girls are sometimes walking for 10 miles to obtain natural resources for sustenance and in this process they face many risks: fatigue, sexual violence and theft, for example. The higher prevalence and risks of sexual violence were raised by many of the participants. Participant 44 noted that in the Karamoja region of Uganda young women are at greater risk of rape due to changes in the environment as their mothers go in search of food. She also noted that girls sometimes drop out of school or are married off young as families struggle to survive:

When we invest our time and resources in farming and we don't get good yields because of climatic change, we are blamed by our spouses of stealing the food and taking [it] to our parents, yet it is the yields that are poor. This leads to conflicts in homes.

Participants described higher levels of food insecurity due to water scarcity, which in turn results in higher levels of gender-based violence within the household. One FGD participant from Yumbe District stated that “During dry season the water levels go down and there is crowding at the water point...when women delay at the water point they are punished by their husbands and girls suffer the same abuse from parents when they delay at the water point.” Water insecurity has both a profound impact on the individual lives of women and

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girls who experience gender-based violence and the communities in which they live. It can, for example, lead to conflicts as water becomes scarcer, as well as to migration or displacement as people ultimately have to move simply to survive.

Participants stressed the importance of looking at women and girls' lives in an intersectional manner and how different factors can compound existing disadvantage. Participants 42 and 43 drew attention to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the lives of widows and orphans, who are stigmatised in their communities, while the participants in the FGDs raised the situation of single mothers as a big challenge for women who need to cut grass and trees for cooking. The young women and girls who participated in the FGDs in Adjumani emphasised how climate change and environmental stressors are affecting their access to education:

Since our parents depend on the environment to raise school fees, girls are left out because the environment is already depleted. Parents are raising very little and more preference is now on the boys.

This shows how climate change as a risk multiplier affects multiple human rights including the right to education and reproductive rights. Participants further outlined the impact that gender inequality and conflict has depending on location. For example, environmental change has a distinct impact on pastoralist communities, urban women and girls and refugee women.

Despite the clear differential and disproportionate impact that climate and environmental insecurity has on women and girls' lives, many participants reported that climate change programmes and policies, including the nationally determined contributions to climate change, do not include gender. Mary Nayasimi, of Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Africa, noted that in Kenya this is currently being revised and that their organisation is working in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to incorporate gender. She noted the need to ensure that funding for climate change issues include an intersectional and gender perspective and explained that when a country has different agroclimatic zones and cultural differences, it is important for governments to carry out gender and vulnerability climate risk profiling.

Many participants stated that, while it was clear that climate change had an impact on women and girls' lives, there was a lack of data to capture this reality. It is therefore important to ensure that gender dimensions are integrated into environmental data collection. Despite the efforts to document the links between climate insecurity and the impact on women and girls, Felogene Anumo emphasised how "gendered perspectives are always on the backburner mostly because, and for a lack of a better word, they [CSOs and policymakers] think it's a soft issue. So a lot of the analysis is devoid of a strong perspective and gender perspective."

One of the responses many participants called for was to ensure greater inclusion of women in the energy field and climate security space. Vane Amiga of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) noted how the voices of girls and boys from Fridays for the Future should be integrated into energy and climate spaces to also ensure the participation of youth.¹⁰

10. The school strike for climate.



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I have been observing that women and young people are always left out in the matter that comes in decision making and yet they are the ones that suffer more in times of conflicts. So, I would also expect to see that girls are given space in peacebuilding processes.

BRIAN OKULLO, YOUTH PEACE ACTIVIST

B. WPS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

The WPS agenda and the practice of environmental peacebuilding have developed separately. The WPS agenda has largely overlooked how environmental degradation, climate change and energy resources affect women and girls' lives in conflict and post-conflict situations and how the environment can form part of the peace process, forming solutions to conflicts. Maria Tanyag's research in Kenya, Cambodia and Vanuatu has drawn out how climate change, conflicts and gender inequalities are layered and interconnecting.¹¹ Conflicts are usually caused by a range of factors including conflict over natural resources and land which is increasingly aggravated by climate insecurity. As Silja Halle, from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) explained, the UN has been working on the environmental dynamics and drivers of conflict, including the environmental footprints of their operations and ensuring a sustainable recovery in the post conflict context. But she adds:

It was quite evident to me in all the work we had done, it became clear that we really had not looked at the gender dimensions of this equation at all and conversely, it was apparent to me that despite 10+ years of focus on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, there was basically no focus on environment, climate and natural resources of any kind, which was obviously very shocking given the role that women typically play in management and decision making around natural resources in general and in managing the environment.

This led UNEP to join with UN Women, UNDP and PBSO/DPPA to develop a Joint UN Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace. Despite this work, many participants felt that the WPS agenda does not adequately take into account how women and girls are disproportionately impacted by environmental conflicts. We heard how WPS programming has focused on National Action Plans and ad hoc gender sensitisation, but that the interventions have focused on one area or another without integrating these interactions. Other participants also advocated for the need to ensure emerging issues are included in NAPs and that budgets provide adequate resources for implementation through government line ministries.

The need for a holistic approach was advocated by a number of participants. Victor Odero stated that women's participation in peace processes remained tokenistic and that it was necessary to ensure women's meaningful participation including in the areas of development, climate change and environmental governance:

Rightfully, there is a lot of emphasis on gender-based violence and economic empowerment – but there is a lot of room to make more meaningful investments in women's leadership and participation in development, climatic shocks, environmental governance.

Victor Odero noted that despite resolution 1325 placing less emphasis on the environment, at the 20th anniversary of the resolution there was law and practice to show that the environment is a key component of peacebuilding. He stated that we "need to point to a body of work to show what the priorities are, environmental and climate shocks are a part of

11. Maria Tanyag and Jacqui True, "Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change: A Global Research Report," Monash University; Australian Aid; Arise; ActionAid (2019) <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Monash-GRACC-Report-Global-.pdf>. Accessed: 24 March 2020. Maria Tanyag and Jacqui True, "Gender responsive alternatives to climate change: A country report on Kenya", (Melbourne: 2019), <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Monash-GRACC-Report-Kenya.pdf> Accessed: 24 March 2020.

12. "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." Audre Lorde quotation cited by Maria Tanyag.

the conflict.” These issues led some participants to suggest that the WPS agenda should include the issue of access to land, but also ensure that trainings and consultations on WPS make sure that the primary needs of women and girls are taken into account (for example, that creche services are provided or that meetings are held in places and times that are accessible for women). As a result, there should be more focus on helping women with their livelihoods in conflict and post-conflict settings. It means ensuring that women and girls can participate in formulating solutions, including measures to ensure a sustainable peace.

The separation of WPS and environmental peacebuilding in practice seems partly due to organisational structures which has meant that the two issues are considered separately rather than holistically. As Vane Aminga of SIPRI explained:

In my organisation, we have not had someone/a team that specifically works towards strengthening gender mainstreaming strategies in our projects. Talks have been underway on the importance of having such a team for a balanced gender representation in our projects beyond mere mentions of

women, girls, or intersectionality, etc. For our climate change and related risks work, a new colleague with a gender background recently joined the team and looks through reports to ensure that gender dynamics are brought out comprehensively.

Similarly, Hala Al Karib, regional director of Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) explained:

[We are] learning how to integrate environmental impact into our work, we want to do it in a very genuine way. We don't want to destroy another recipe in the cooking pot, oh the environment let's add it, oh gender, let's add it. We are really trying to learn about that. We believe in intersectionality and don't want to put things in several boxes, especially in this region. There is a need for a lot of learning.

Another reason is that funders continue to see issues as ‘single issues’.¹² Maria Tanyag explained that although climate change, WPS and conflict are interlinked, immediate responses and the nature of the system mean women and girls’ movements often have to prioritise and segregate these issues. She reminded us, however, that women have mobilised throughout history, including through the Beijing Platform

for Action, to implement them separately but recognising that they are interconnected. Maria also drew attention to how crisis can be an opportunity window, but that this is not translating into real material changes in the everyday lives of women, since the system and the rules of the game continue to prioritise very specific notions of governance and security, and masculine conceptions of climate prevention.

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There is hardly any gender in climate security spaces. There is a need for an integrated analysis with respect to climate, gender, social inclusion and conflict dynamics.

CHITRA NAGARAJAN



C. 'DEFENDING THE RESISTANCE': ENVIRONMENTAL AND WOMEN RIGHTS

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Women and girls are the custodians of the land, but they do not own the land meaning that women and girls are often left behind from any solutions proposed.

FELOGENE ANUMO, AWID

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The exploitation of women and the environment is very visible for profiteering rather than based on thinking about human rights or sustainability.

SOSTINE NAMANYA, NAPE

C. 'DEFENDING THE RESISTANCE': ENVIRONMENTAL AND WOMEN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

According to the organisation Global Witness, in 2019, 212 land and environmental defenders were killed defending land and the environment.¹³ Many of these activists opposed extractive industries that are destroying the environment and the rights of nature.¹⁴ The activities of corporate entities have led to displacement of local populations due to land-grabbing, pollution of rivers and other natural entities, with Indigenous communities disproportionately affected in this regard. One FGD participant from the Adjumani host community spoke of corporate power hindering development in the communities as they stop people from accessing water. In this section, we first set out the explanation provided by the participants on why resistance is necessary in the first place, with the latter part of this section focusing on examples of resistance.

There is evidence that the activities of mining companies create environments which has led to increased levels of trafficking in women and girls. Hala Al Karib drew attention to the linkages with sexual and gender-based violence:

Mining companies in Sudan are using armed militia of tribal men who then assault girls in their communities. Especially with the growing influence of mining companies from different parts of the world, there are very dodgy deals happening. Human rights and women's rights have become commercialised. This has to be challenged so private companies are accountable. There is no genuine support for alternative solutions and the environment by these corporates and mining companies. They are putting their

energy into undermining women and environmental organisations.

A consistent theme that emerged was the issue of land rights, with participants noting how women and girls do not or cannot own land in many countries in the region. This means that they are often left out of consultations. As one participant noted, Black, rural and Indigenous women and girls are the most affected by colonial histories and remain the most unrepresented in decision making processes. We heard again and again during the interviews that women and girls' inability to own land means they are excluded from participation in relation to dispossession of lands. As Raphael Kweyu explained, this leaves women vulnerable to becoming victims of a range of rights violations and thwarts their empowerment and ability to participate in mediation or environmental governance processes:

If you look at land ownership, or tenure, you will find in Kenya, in most communities, land is owned by men. So, if a man marries a woman, the property is registered in a man's name. If for instance the two get divorced, traditionally the woman goes away empty handed and has to start her life from scratch. This places men at an advantage. The second thing is if you look at violent conflict, in the media you see women and children, trying to cross borders in search of refuge, because maybe the men are busy involved in the fighting. And if you look at climate related pandemics, like droughts, women are the ones tasked with looking for water. It has to do with history, culture and social orientation although this is changing with time. And in Africa,

13. Global Witness, "Defending Tomorrow: the climate crisis and threats against land and environmental defenders", Global Witness July 29 2020 <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defending-tomorrow/#:~:text=As%20it%20escalates%2C%20it%20serves,and%20impacts%20of%20climate%20breakdown>

14. For example the Harmony with Nature framework before the General Assembly. David R. Boyd, *The rights of nature: A legal revolution that could save the world* (Toronto, ON: ECW Press, 2017).



LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS WERE KILLED

in 2019 defending land and the environment

governments are enacting laws for equality and equity. But it will take time to realize empowerment of women and other groups.

According to Vane Amiga from SIPRI, sometimes land is considered by governments and corporate entities to be 'empty' (due to a lack of title for example) and yet that land is vital to women and girls' collection of biomass for fuel. She drew attention to women and girls' resulting exclusion from corporate social responsibility projects and that jobs which are created by large energy projects are unbalanced and often benefit men.

The participants noted that because women and girls do not own land they are often excluded or left behind in the solutions proposed. As Felogene Anumo explained:

For example, reparations are often considered a 'solution'. This is based on land ownership – for example where a community is displaced because of extractivism or natural disaster. Reparations policies look for evidence of land ownership; not


owning property affects reparations for women and girls. AWID [Association for Women's Rights in Development] therefore suggests a 'bouquet of remedies' – a range of remedies that go beyond private property ownership.

Participants emphasised women and girls' exclusion more generally from conversations about their environment. Patience Muramuzi of National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD) drew attention to the problem of a lack of information in relation to environmental impacts and that women and girls were often excluded from community dialogues. She stated:

Women are not considered for land compensation nor involved in the negotiations for oil mining and plantation work which need huge chunks of land; this in turn leads to their displacement. In addition, government also often sides with the corporates which brings in an intersecting issue of corruption.



C. 'DEFENDING THE RESISTANCE': ENVIRONMENTAL AND WOMEN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



One leading lawyer in the field told us that this signalled a need to ensure that local communities have access to education about land rights, compensation, and training workshops and meaningful dialogue. There was a need to train in different languages and to identify diverse community leaders. Separate training for women and girls in the community is crucial to explain the difference between their legal rights vis-à-vis gendered social norms. Topics such as the situation of widows and single mothers could be addressed and women could feel they had an opportunity to ask questions about their rights. The lawyer also noted the need to train judges not only on women and girls' rights but also on the issue of environmental law and Indigenous rights. One major area of concern remained access to justice for women, girls and communities against corporate entities. This concern for environmental justice was also mentioned by another participant who drew our attention to the establishment of mobile legal aid clinics.

Participants raised a plethora of issues for communities attempting to resist corporate power, in particular the targeting and harassment of environmental and land defenders. As Hala Al Karib explained:

I have seen a rise in environmental rights defenders, especially young women. They face a lot of risk – some of them who challenge government end up detained, tortured and disappeared. Some are subject to character assassinations; they are portrayed as problematic and evil. We work with women's rights defenders who needed serious protection. There is also the other layer of fundamental religious leaders who target women and incidents of women

who are killed in Somalia, in Sudan women were sexually assaulted.

Hala Al Karib thus drew attention to the gendered targeting of environmental defenders or women and girls who both defend women and girls' rights and environmental rights. Beyond the danger to individual activists, participants also alerted us to the repression of environmental advocacy more generally. As Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi explains:

Governments side with investors at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of the citizens. Because the citizens have a diminutive voice, then NGOs come out to help citizens who are being subdued by powerful corporates. The NGOs are then branded the agents of foreign interests and are branded as economic saboteurs – those who try to highlight environmental abuses of foreign corporations. This has resulted in restricted NGO status to speak about the issues of the environment.

The detrimental effects of corporate actions on the environment and on the livelihoods of local communities was a concern repeatedly expressed by participants. As Patience Muramuzi explained, "families who have settled around national parks are affected by the wildlife: they live with the animals but when oil mining begins in the area the associated noise affects the animals, thus affecting livelihoods and the previous harmony." Participants 42 and 43 on the other hand drew attention to the impact of gold mining in Kaboong and how it attracted sex work and various related commercial activities into the area. They noted the exploitation of the local community who work for long hours and are paid

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We heard again and again during the interviews that women and girls’ inability to own land means they are excluded from participation in relation to dispossession of lands.

5000Shs (\$1.5 USD) per day. Another participant explained that in the vicinity of mining industries, women and girls face high levels of sexual violence. For example, men who control weighing machines for gold or who operate the mines sometimes demand sex from women and girls.

Other participants noted the need to ‘defend the resistance’ and how women and girls’ rights and environmental rights defenders are often targeted in post-conflict contexts. Sostine Namanya noted that women who resist land grabs and structural violence have demanded accountability and that this has led to violence directed towards them. Despite the dangers, participants noted that women continue to fight battles “which one would have thought was too big to fight”:

[It is] not a safe or easy endeavour to challenge corporate power. [The] trick is to improve the understanding of policy makers and why it is important to preserve the environment. It takes a lot of courage.

Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura

Participants spoke of women and girls carrying out protests to protect land and the environment in many different ways including by camping against corporate entities to halt projects in certain regions of Uganda (Patience Muramuzi). Many participants reported that these activities were the last response, after attempts to engage with transnational corporations through negotiation had failed.





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National borders, created by colonial powers, are a big disincentive to environmental protection. Sometimes when I am at the borders, I think that they are imaginary and then think about continental initiatives – one mistake in one country affects another. COVID 19 is an environmental disaster. Once an epidemic breaks out or an environmental disaster happens it does not respect borders.

SHEILA KAWAMARA-MISHAMBI, EASSI

D. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT RELATED MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

One of the themes that emerged from the interviews was the issue of displacement and migration due to the changing climate and environmental conflicts. Both natural disasters due to climate change and environmental conflicts have forced people to leave their homes. IDMC's data shows that in 2019, nearly 25-million people were forcibly displaced due to weather related and natural disasters. Whether the migration or displacement is due to disasters or violent conflict, this process is experienced differently for women and girls. The disproportionate impact that climate change and environmental conflicts has on women and girls does not end with the forced displacement. Rather, women and girls are continuously subject to the impact of environmental change and gender inequality.

An important theme that emerged from our research was the extent to which the border compounds pre-existing risks confronted by women and girls. As Hala Al Karib explained:

Women are always subject to exploitation at the border. They are subject to the military, the guards, abuse. Methods of crossing border[s], women are way more vulnerable to exploitation of the smugglers. They ask for very dangerous things from the women to do to help them cross the borders. Sometimes they are also victimised by male companions on the migration route. Women take their vulnerability and subordination within them when they migrate. During movement, they become even more... The numbers are increasing due to climate change.

Some participants drew attention to how this movement could also lead to tensions with local communities particularly where local communities felt that refugee camps had greater access to natural resources such as water. Participants felt that there was a lack of focus on gender within this context and that refugee women and girls were given limited opportunities to participate in environmental governance, and that water points constructed to bring host and refugee communities together have often caused a rise in tensions over ownership and access to water. As Victor Odero explained:

There is a need to help policy makers understand the linkages between climate shocks and displacements and where gender comes into that. We must be able to empower and support women [to] become empowered and influence decisions in relation to climate change – where they are. For displaced communities it means being away from home, such as considering what investments can be made away from home to ensure they can retain a level of resilience despite the fact that they are displaced. [We] need to maintain their voice in development decisions – usually something that is stripped from refugees – they are absent from governance decisions.

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Adjumani is greatly affected by the floods which have displaced women from their business premises especially at Syninyanya landing site and areas.

FELOGENE ANUMO, AWID

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We tend to minimise change of livelihoods and instability that minor movements in the search for sustainable livelihoods causes and the impacts that this has on women and girls.

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PEOPLE WERE FORCIBLY DISPLACED

...due to weather related and natural disasters.

Similarly, Hala Al Karib noted the need for meaningful representation and participation of women.

The situation in Ethiopia is that massive numbers of women [are] crossing borders, trying to go to the Gulf countries, and we have seen women trying to cross the Mediterranean sea – refugees and migrants – most of the people who are trying to cross borders, without protection, underage girls alone from many parts of rural Ethiopia where there is impoverishment connected to access to land, and inherited patterns of land which are not there anymore due to climate change. They have been pushed to find other ways of living, including through migration.

Independent Consultant Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura also noted the importance of recognising that movement and migration also happens within borders:

A critical thing to keep in mind is that migration does not need to be a thousand miles, it can be a mile or a few miles: mini movements with people moving to access natural resources. Example of Maasai, pastoralists, because of looking for food for animals and for survival they have had to

migrate within Kenya. You also see the movement of animals in very dry seasons walking in the streets in towns, they walk long distances for food, shelter, water. We tend to minimise change of livelihoods and instability that minor movements in the search for sustainable livelihoods causes and the impacts that this has on women and girls.

Similarly, other participants drew attention to the dispossession of lands due to energy infrastructure projects. This has resulted in grievances which then have to be resolved either through the courts or through other processes such as mediation. Raphael Kweyu, an academic expert on environmental governance, gave an example of the use of mediation in Kenya following the relocation of the Maasai community due to geothermal exploration in Olkaria in the Rift Valley of Kenya. The Maasai community felt that they were unfairly treated and not compensated sufficiently, so that their lives could continue normally. This resulted in a mediation process. Raphael Kweyu explained the importance of relocation sites being suitable and the need to ensure that there are sufficient amenities. He explained that the main thrust of mediation should be to remove power imbalances and to be heard. This should include a gender perspective, otherwise women and

their needs are often excluded from mediation processes. Raphael Kweyu emphasised the need to ensure that the voice of women, youth, minority groups and people whose livelihoods depend on the forest, for example, are heard. Gender, he explained, needs to be part of the conversation when it comes to the environmental governance discourse. He drew attention to how women from minority groups form the bulk of the victims of rights violations, including from environmental injustice, and yet they are often the least empowered to speak.





E. FEMINIST SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

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Feminist realities are the living breathing examples of the feminist world we are creating and this could be: meaningful labour and care for ourselves and enjoying autonomy; and peace is more than the absence of war. At the moment the onus is on us to shed a light on what is possible beyond resisting oppressive systems.

FELOGENE ANUMO

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All our work is underpinned by a feminist approach which means looking at opportunities but also looking at the underlying structures of inequality. Building capacity of women's groups and women's leadership – and participation. Ensuring there are adequate resources to allow women to challenge the structural barriers.

VICTOR ODERO

E. FEMINIST SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

At the end of each interview we asked the participants to share examples of feminist solutions to advance environmental peacebuilding. We were told again and again that “women take the matter into their own hands”, for example, by building women or youth movements or planting trees on community land (Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi). Participants emphasised the importance of bottom-up approaches and working with communities for equitable and sustainable conditions for women and girls and for the environment. These solutions included giving local organisations space for their voices; supporting and building women’s movements around the issue of land and the environment; supporting the agency of women and girls to be able to speak out; and recognising the expertise of those most affected by gender inequality, environmental degradation and environmental conflicts. As Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, the Executive Director of EASSI, explained:

My great grandparents passed on knowledge for me to survive in my own environment and we should promote it in communities to survive – why are we being told to follow Cambodian best practices, for example, and best practices from other places?

Some participants felt that international organisations were pushing solutions that were developed in other parts of the world and other regions which did not take into account the specificities of their context and environment. Others felt that women and girls from impacted communities were absent from the international sphere and that their lived realities, experiences and associated expertise were not

being taken into account. This means that solutions are often reduced to increasing women and girls’ participation in parliament and ending gender-based violence:

...all women should work on political participation in parliament, all women should work on gender-based violence – that’s what the donor money goes to, it is very limiting. Young women are being treated as victims, everyone is assuming that their biggest problem is FGM [female genital mutilation], no one even talks to them about their challenges. [They are] victimised by the international community, who generates a lot of resources under their names and they are never consulted on how those resources are spent. Then they are victimised again by more local organisations that implements the international agenda. Young girls are seen as a way to extract resources.

Hala Al Karib

One participant explained that since environmental conflicts are about power and structural inequalities, it is important to have solutions that address those root causes. The ways of addressing them vary and include community capacity building, class actions, litigation and movement building. Sostine Namanya described her work in building an eco-feminist movement. This included eco-feminist exchanges between communities and also cross-district exchanges to share planting and storage methods and sustainable methods of farming. Sostine Namanya also drew attention to cross border exchanges between women from communities in Uganda and Liberia. Other initiatives included Women’s Resilience Clubs – which

17. AWID “Bring on the Binding Treaty: It’s time for corporate accountability”, AWID, 14 March 2018, <https://www.awid.org/resources/introducing-binding-treaty>

18. AWID Justice not “special attention”: Feminists Visions for the Binding Treaty”, AWID, 17 August 2018, <https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/justice-not-special-attention-feminist-visions-binding-treaty>

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You need to have contextualised solutions – what works in Northern Kenyan does not work in Eastern Uganda. Cookie cut solutions do not work – [we] need better environmental assessments. Careful understanding of issues and stresses and challenges and opportunities are important – [this] include issues of culture and norms – not one solution for Africa or for the world. Solutions have to be implementable and sustainable.

EVELYN NAMUBIRU-MWAURA

provide a space for women to meet, discuss and find solutions to issues such as land grabs by large companies, mono-culture plantations and other issues affecting their environment – and Sustainability Schools to provide education on sustainable farming.

One of the major challenges relates to the issue of corporate power and how communities can hold companies, including transnational corporations, to account for deforestation, releasing gases/other pollutants or acting in ways which negatively affect women and girls' livelihoods and rights. Sostine Namanya reminded us of the huge amount of effort that it takes to confront these powerful forces and suggested the need to invest in wellbeing activities for the mind and body of women and girls in areas affected by mining and by environmental degradation. The organisation AWID are pushing for a binding treaty on business and human rights given the “increasing evidence of the gendered impacts of corporate abuse” that “make it

imperative for feminists, women human rights defenders (WHRD's) and Women's Rights Organizations challenging corporate power on the ground...”¹⁷ Such a treaty would challenge the impunity that corporate actors have in many countries and ensure they comply with international human rights norms. Felogene Anumo and Inna Michaeli have explained that “[a] feminist approach that challenges the current economic model, which promises growth and progress yet favours huge multinational corporations and concentrates wealth in the hands of a few global elites, is needed now more than ever to push for economic and gender justice”.¹⁸ To this we might also add environmental justice.



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Donors, CSOs, government should have a gendered lens in every aspect; therefore, if we talk about it every day so it should be part and parcel of our lives.

MARY NAYASIMI

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My great grandparents passed on knowledge for me to survive in my own environment and we should promote it in communities to survive – why are we being told to follow Cambodian best practices, for example, and best practices from other places?

The participants suggested a myriad of feminist solutions, which have been integrated into the recommendations in this report. Feminist solutions included the need to:

1

Strengthen access to justice for communities so that they can challenge toxic waste, environmental degradation, dispossession, displacement or a lack of environmental impact assessment in their areas (see recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10);

2

Ensure an intersectional analysis where age, disability, race and coloniality are considered and addressed, and that data includes women and girls' lived realities (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10);

3

Plant trees to conserve the environment (see recommendations 1, 6, 7, and 9);

4

Support movement building and women and girls' networks and empower communities to monitor the companies that are having an environmental impact (see recommendations 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10);

5

Increase women, girls and youth participation in decision-making and encouraging people to speak for themselves about their environments, including refugees and IDPs who have moved to new areas (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10);

6

Ensure science and technology addresses the needs of women and girls – rather than being science and technology led (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10);

7

Guarantee that women, and where appropriate girls, are given a place at the table right from the start of any intervention for peacebuilding and given space to express themselves (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10).

8

Not to assume what is affecting women and girls but listen to them (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10);

9

Ensure the presence of women and girls most impacted by conflict and environmental degradation at the international level, within international organisations and institutions, and to support grassroots innovations (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10);.

10

Train women on peace and environmental conflict management. Provide information and ensure that women and girls are aware of their rights, including in relation to compensation for environmental damage by corporate entities (see recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10).



IV. Conclusion

The impact of climate change and environmental conflicts is gendered. It follows that the approach to environmental peacebuilding will also differ based on gendered experiences. Feminist solutions will have women and girls' voices and perspectives at the centre of all approaches as well as be cognisant of histories of oppression and exploitation locally and globally. They will not only address gender inequality but should be intersectional and acknowledge existing unequal systems which affect women and girls differently. Feminist solutions to environmental peacebuilding includes the activism and community building work done by women and girls which is often not framed as environmental peacebuilding work. Ultimately, as women and girls, especially those in fragile and conflict affected contexts, are adversely affected by climate change and environmental conflicts any approach that does not have affected women and girls at the centre cannot analyse the issue holistically and provide transformative solutions to gender inequality, climate insecurity and environmental conflicts.



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