

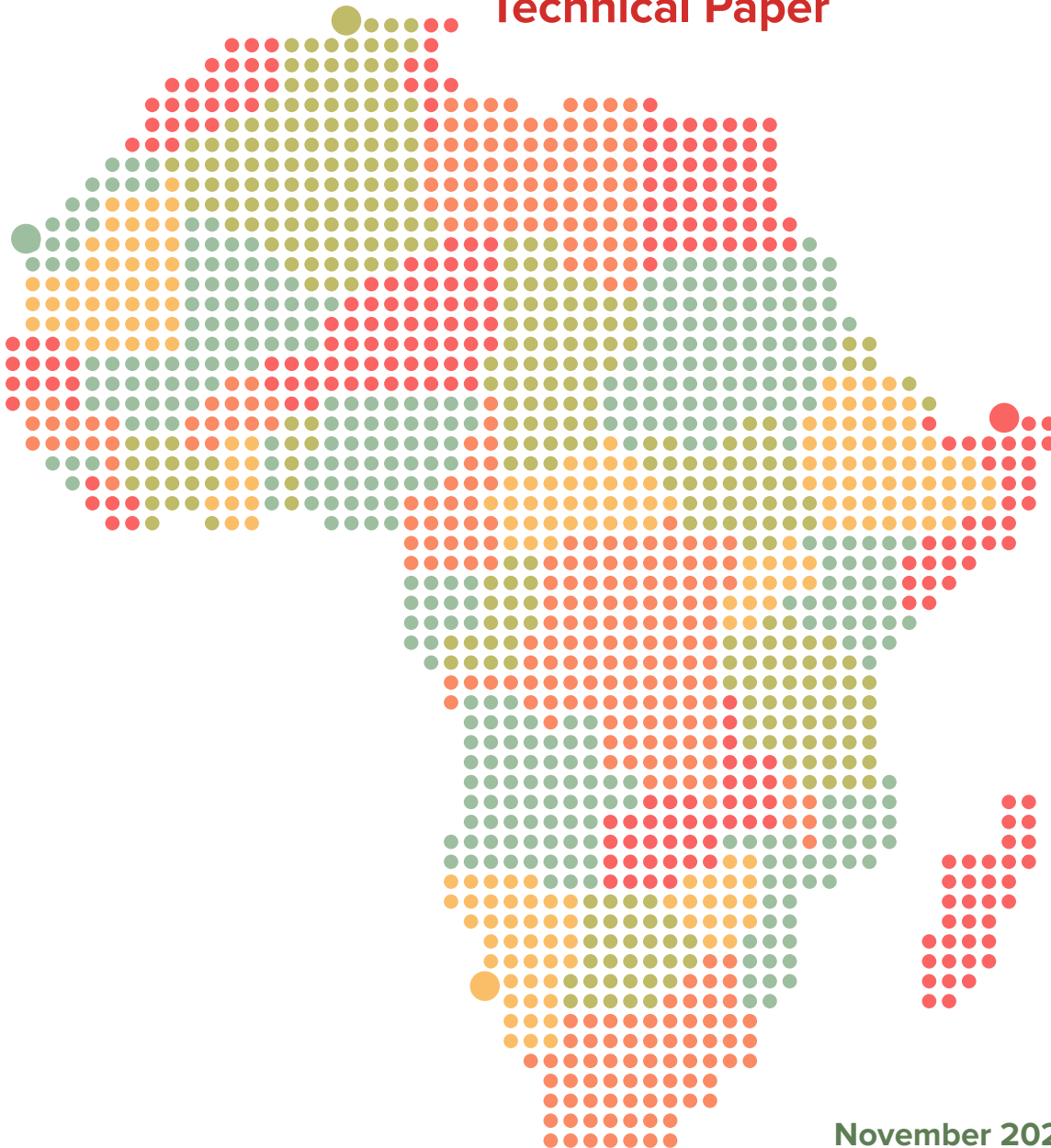


African Group of Negotiators



# GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS IN AFRICA

Technical Paper



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Mr. Ephraim Mwepya Shitima

Chair of the African Group of Negotiators

# Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector
AGN	African Group of Negotiators
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ILM	Integrated Land Management
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy
LWPG	Lima Work Programme on Gender
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

# Executive summary

The paper explores gender commitments pertinent to African nations, the necessary conditions supporting gender-responsive climate actions, and the implementation of gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation measures across various sectors. It underscores the capacity strengthening of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) members and showcases examples of successful gender-responsive climate actions undertaken by African countries.



## Key findings and analysis

The paper focuses on the transition from policy to action. It offers a comprehensive analysis of conditions required for implementing gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation actions on the ground. It also highlights best practices from African countries that emphasize the development and execution of gender-responsive climate policies and strategies, specifically Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The study features case studies and lessons learned from the efforts of African nations in the implementation of gender-responsive climate change actions.



## Methodology

The analysis draws on a thorough examination of existing literature and primary data collected from 13 selected countries. The countries were chosen based on criteria such as their integration of gender considerations into key climate policies, national commitments, and climate financing approaches. Primary data includes a survey of young African negotiators' experiences and capacity, as well as consultations and expert interviews with representatives from governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), development partners, and relevant ministries.

A total of 21 young African negotiators participated in an online survey, while 31 expert interviews were conducted across the 13 selected countries.



## Key conclusions and recommendations

The paper offers significant conclusions and recommendations for enhancing gender-responsive climate action in Africa:

- **Capacity-building:** Successful gender-responsive climate change action require capacity-building for policymakers, institutions, and stakeholders. Regular training, mentoring, and collaboration with CSOs and universities are essential. Appointing climate change gender specialists within related sectors can also strengthen capacity.
- **African monitoring and peer review framework:** Proposing an African monitoring and peer review framework is essential. This initiative would involve sub-regional groups consisting of academics, CSOs, and government agencies. The framework would periodically review gender issues in (NDC) and advise on policy improvements.
- **Comprehensive gender analysis:** Prioritizing comprehensive gender analysis is crucial. Beyond counting affected individuals, a deeper understanding of power dynamics, resource access, and decision-making disparities is necessary for effective interventions.

- **Integration of gender into climate projects:** Gender considerations must be integrated into project outcomes, activities, and indicators. Gender-specific activities, outcomes, and indicators should be defined during project planning to measure integration progress.
- **Gender-responsive budgeting:** Allocating dedicated funds for gender-responsive activities within ministries and agencies is recommended. Clear guidelines should be provided to ensure strategic targeting of all population groups.
- **Sex-disaggregated data collection:** Enhancing collection, analysis, and reporting of sex-disaggregated data is vital for measuring gender-related progress. Gender elements should be integrated into monitoring and evaluation processes.
- **Coordination and synergy:** Strengthening collaboration and coordination across ministries, agencies, and UNFCCC gender focal points is important to ensure effective implementation.
- **Capacity-building for young negotiators:** Enhancing the capacity of young African negotiators and supporting their participation in COP and climate negotiations is essential. This will bolster their role in the AGN and promote diverse representation.

This technical paper underscores the importance of gender-responsive climate action in Africa and provides valuable insights and recommendations to bridge gender gaps in climate policies and strategies. The paper emphasizes capacity-building, comprehensive analysis, integration of gender considerations, and collaborative efforts across sectors for achieving meaningful progress in gender-responsive climate change action across the continent.



# Section 1: Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This paper analyzes gender commitments relevant to African countries, enabling conditions that support the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions, and the gender-responsiveness of adaptation and mitigation actions in different sectors. It also looks at the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) members' capacity strengthening and support system, and highlights examples of gender-responsive climate actions implemented by African countries that contribute to the achievement of Africa's climate goals and commitments, as well as the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP).

The paper also focuses on how countries are moving from policy to action. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the enabling conditions required to implement gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation actions on the ground, while also identifying best practices in the development and implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and strategies. The findings, case studies, and lessons featured reflect the efforts of African countries in implementing gender-responsive climate action. Based on the results, recommendations are made on how to address the persistent gender gaps in climate action in Africa.

## 1.2 Methodology

This paper draws on an in-depth review of the literature and primary data collected in 13 countries (See Map 1). The countries were purposefully selected based on their national Gender Actions Plans (GAPs), and/or articulation and integration of gender equality considerations in their updated NDCs and other key climate policies and planning instruments, such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), and climate finance/gender responsive budgeting. Some countries that are very active on gender mainstreaming across policies and decision-making, but not very well known or adequately reported, were also selected. These include countries that submitted the mid-term review to the UNFCCC as mandated by the Glasgow Climate Pact<sup>1</sup>. Based on these criteria, countries were selected through in consultation with UNDP and the African Group of Negotiators.

Primary data consists of a survey of young African negotiators to understand their experiences and capacities. It also consists of consultations and key expert interviews with representatives of governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), development partners, UNFCCC Gender and National Focal Points, Ministries for Gender and Women Affairs, and Ministries for Agriculture and Water Resources. A total of 21 young African negotiators completed the survey, which was issued online and completed by the respondents. The expert interviews explored broader country-level capacity, experience, and commitment to the implementation of gender-responsive climate action. A total of 31 interviews were conducted across the 13 countries. It is pertinent to note that while 15 African countries were initially selected, only 13 submitted a response, completed the process, and granted key expert interviews.

1. Nations adopted the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) that seeks to turn the 2020s into a decade of climate action and support.

Map 1: African countries covered in the study



# Section 2: Gender equality and climate change in Africa

## 2.1 Overview of climate change impacts

At a macro level, the socio-economic development of African countries has continued to face significant challenges as a result of climate change, largely due to heavy dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, such as forestry and agriculture, and low adaptive capacities. Meanwhile at the local level, millions of households reliant on rain-fed agricultural systems for

their livelihood are also left extremely vulnerable.

With the impacts of climate change only accelerating, momentum for climate action is growing, with African governments, development organizations, and civil society among those calling for – and driving – scaled-up support and solutions.

## 2.2 Gender and climate change

Climate change and gender inequality are complex challenges that are increasingly understood as interconnected. They require an integrated approach that builds resilience while also promoting human rights and justice, particularly for already marginalized people.

Men and women are impacted by climate change differently considering their varied roles and responsibilities at the household and community levels. Women are mostly treated as victims of climate change and suffer disproportionately from its effects because they are less able to adapt. Their vulnerability is partly attributed to their high representation in informal employment or economic activities based on natural resources or agriculture, as well as lower educational attainment. Women also experience greater financial and resource constraints, lower levels of access to information, and less decision-making authority in their homes and community (Ganle et al., 2015; Demirgüç-Kunt, et al. 2018; Ilesanmi, 2018; African Union, 2020; Seidu et al., 2022).

Nonetheless, women possess considerable local knowledge that is pertinent to climate change adaptation and mitigation. In fact, in relation to climate action and sustainable development, women's local, cultural, and environmental knowledge and survival strategies are major ingredients for recovery and resilience (UNDP, 2016; Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria, 2021).

Climate change is expected to worsen poverty and inequalities, with women and men affected in different ways, that often leave women more

vulnerable due to differences in sociocultural and economic roles and responsibilities that have been described. Both UNDP and UN Women emphasize that gender inequalities intersect with climate risks and vulnerabilities, and this could contribute to exacerbating existing patterns of gender disadvantage.

Thus, at the same time that women and men are affected differently by climate change, they also contribute differently to climate action.

Women and men experience different levels of exposure, vulnerability and resilience to climate risk and climate change impacts because of gender differences in rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Women are more vulnerable to climate change due to their “historic disadvantages, their limited access to and control over decision-making, environmental and economic resources, and restricted rights” (Antwi-Agyei et al., 2021). They experience differing vulnerabilities due to differences in workloads, access to and control over productive assets and resources, and participation in household decision-making and access to information and technology.

It should also be noted that various forms of gender-based violence suffered by women and girls tend to rise in crisis and conflict situations due to the exacerbation of extreme inequalities and vulnerabilities (Desai and Mandal, 2021). In North Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, UNICEF (2022) reports that “girls as young as twelve are being forced into child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) at ‘alarming rates’ in the Horn of Africa, as the most severe drought in forty years

pushes families to the edge”<sup>2</sup>. In Liberia, climate change was noted to have a greater impact on women because they are the group that relies most on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as landslides, floods, and erosion. Despite this, sufficient effort has not been made to tackle some of these challenges and implement the Gender Action Plan at the national level.

Women’s vulnerability in Africa is determined not just by gender, but also ethnicity, religion, class, location, age, and sexual orientation. Rural women are at high risk due to the nature of their domestic responsibilities, increased agricultural work resulting from climate impacts, and male migration with consequences for family nutrition, childcare, and education. Women in fragile states in sub-Saharan Africa particularly face greater challenges due to limited state capacity to respond to the impact of

## 2.3 A window of opportunity

African countries have demonstrated some levels of commitment towards promoting gender equality and have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The African Union also developed its ‘[Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa](#)’, ratified by more than half the continent’s countries. The African Union also declared 2010–2020 as the [African Women’s Decade](#).

At the grassroots, UNESCO (2017, p.10) observes that women “perform the majority of agricultural activities, own a third of all firms and are key to the welfare of their families and the life prospects of their children”, yet they continue to “face an array of barriers to achieving their full potential, from restrictive cultural practices to discriminatory laws and highly segmented labour markets.” Schalatek (2022) notes that sub-Saharan African women remain the primary producers as far as agriculture is concerned, accounting for about 80 percent of sub-Saharan Africa’s food production.

It is noteworthy that many countries in Africa have attained gender parity in primary education, and that there is an increasing percentage of women in some countries’ parliaments. (International IDEA, 2021; Madsen, 2021). However, in practice, gender inequality remains high in Africa, and progress toward gender parity is uneven. Much of African women’s

climate shocks and mounting temperatures (Maina and Enrullahu, 2022).

African countries have supported and continue to support climate actions that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups. With support from international organizations, governments and civil society actors have strengthened their national policies and institutional mechanisms. They have planned gender-responsive climate actions, and enhanced national capacities as well, making efforts to incorporate gender equality across the board. Countries have also developed climate change and gender action plans (for example, Nigeria, Kenya, The Gambia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). More than twenty African countries have integrated gender considerations, at different levels, into their updated NDCs and support gender-responsive programmes related to climate-smart agriculture and clean energy.

work is unpaid and underpaid, with women working twice as long as their male counterparts while the pay gap remains very wide (African Development Bank, 2016; ILO, 2018). In 2018, the International Labour Organization (ILO) noted that 68 percent of sub-Saharan Africa’s community health workers were women, among which 59 percent had only primary education. Furthermore, the majority of them were doing unpaid work, including about 43 percent that were receiving non-monetary incentives. The report also notes that African women were up to 3.4 times more involved in unpaid care work than men. Moreover, if unpaid care work is added to paid work, women work more hours, with the ratio of total work (paid and unpaid) at around 1:19, men-women (ILO, 2018).

It has also been observed that African women were among the first to experience the effects of climate change on agricultural processes and production. As a result of their dependence on natural resources, women in rural areas have experienced the greater effects of seasonal changes that make them the most vulnerable to climate change. In this regard, their pivotal role in the promotion and acceleration of adaptation and mitigation are indisputable (Steady, 2014).

To strengthen women’s contribution and adaptive capacity, funding needs to be scaled-up for adaptation projects and programmes in rural areas.

2. See [Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies](#)

Thus, it is critical to address issues around food security and agricultural development needs with particular consideration given to gender dynamics of food production and distribution at the household, community, and market levels (Schalatek, 2022).

Further, it is crucial to apply a gender-responsive lens to climate financing instruments delivering adaptation funding, without which existing tendencies that discriminate against women may be exacerbated, threatening their rights (Schalatek, 2022).

## Section 3: From policy to action

Addressing climate change issues in a meaningful way is a complex process requiring long-term planning and coordination across global, national, and local levels. The aim of climate policy is to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to increase climate resilience, through complementary adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Integrating gender equality into climate action requires understanding the dimensions and differential impacts of climate change, making conscious and relevant policy provisions for them, and ensuring that plans and budgets are provided, including the clear identification, prioritization, and costing of measures.

### 3.1 Gender equality considerations in second generation NDCs

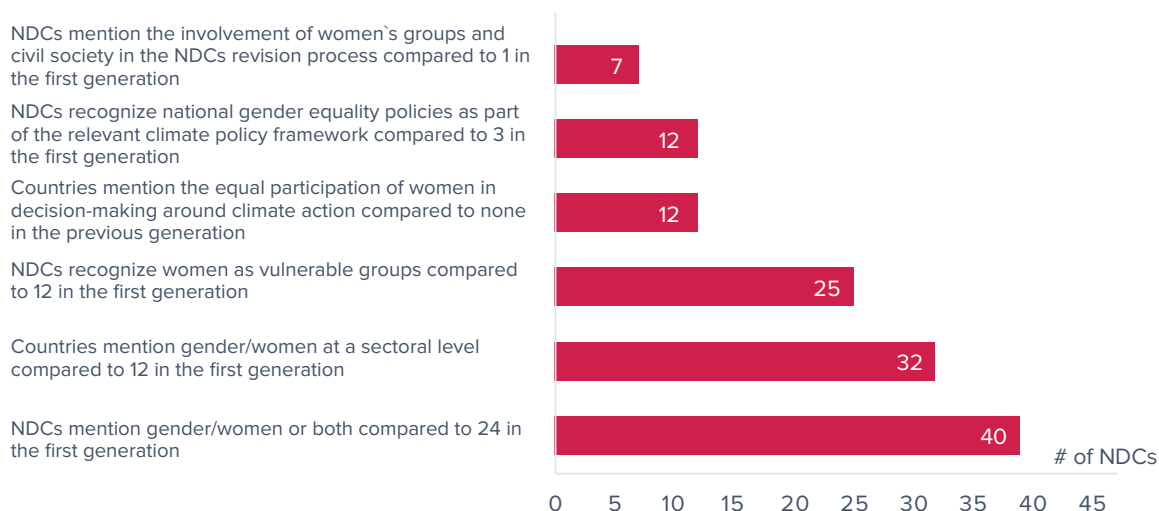
#### Gender integration in NDCs: Africa paving the way

This section outlines the current trends and gender considerations in the most recent, revised (NDC) submitted by African countries to the UNFCCC.

Since 2015, African countries have initiated the integration of gender equality initiatives into climate action, at different levels of engagement. Data collected by UNDP finds that in Africa, gender is better integrated into the revised NDCs as compared to the first submissions.

Internal UNDP analysis of the NDCs of African countries indicates that many of the revised submissions have shown a positive engagement with gender issues. As summarized in Figure 1, 40 out of 41 African countries that submitted their updated NDC by 1 August 2023 included gender considerations, with 34 including gender considerations in relation to adaptation and 27 referring to gender in relation to mitigation. Specific actions that seek to empower women through access to resources, training, and skills were observed in the revised NDCs of 21 countries.

**Figure 1: Gender in African countries' revised NDCs**



## Gender dimensions and elements

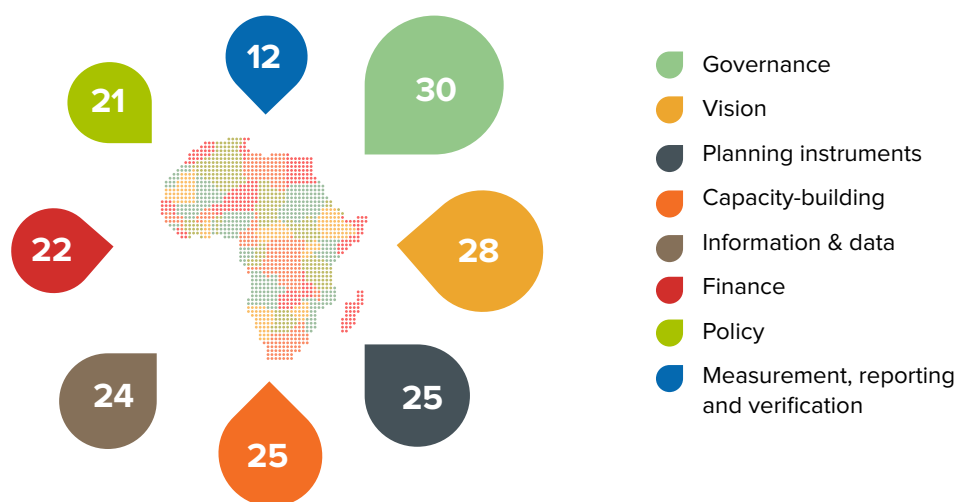
Analysis found that the consideration of gender in the second generation of African countries' NDCs is a positive sign of change, although NDCs are just the beginning of a journey.

As seen in Figure 2, gender issues have been addressed in multiple NDC sections. Gender has not only been considered as a principle or cross-cutting issue, but many NDCs have also included actions to

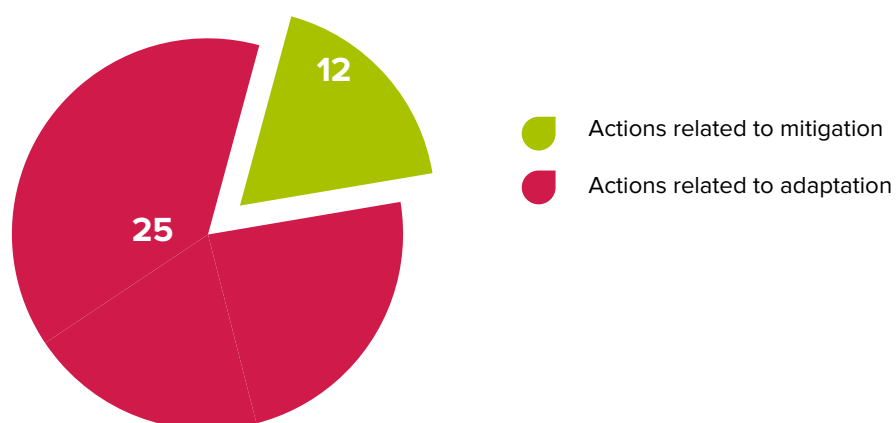
promote gender equality in NDC implementation (for example, in relation to governance, planning, capacity-building, and finance).

A total of 25 countries included gender-responsive actions or measures/responses related to adaptation, while 12 included gender-responsive actions or / measures/responses related to mitigation Figure 3.

**Figure 2: Number of African countries that include gender considerations in different sections of NDCs**



**Figure 3: Number of African countries that include gender-responsive actions related to adaptation and to mitigation**



Analysis also found that five African countries' have recognized the differentiated contributions of men and women to emissions reductions in their NDCs. In turn, these NDCs propose actions to highlight and promote such contributions.

While seven NDCs recognize the differentiated contributions of men and women to resilience and

propose actions to promote them; 11 NDCs recognize the differentiated vulnerabilities of men and women and propose actions to reduce them.

Five other NDCs include climate targets that aim to reduce gender inequalities, or to increase women's empowerment, along with actions to promote this change.

## Gender in sectors in African NDCs

Some interesting trends have emerged as part of the analysis of African NDCs supported by global UNDP Climate Promise initiative.

An increasing number of NDCs have highlighted the importance of incorporating gender-responsive climate action in specific sectors, including:

- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Energy
- Food security
- Freshwater resources
- Human health
- Water
- Livestock and fisheries
- Biodiversity and ecosystem
- Land use and forestry
- Disaster risk reduction
- Waste

### Examples of actions to promote gender equality, implemented during the review of NDCs

- **Kenya** developed gender-responsive actions in the six NDC priority areas of forestry, water, transport, waste, energy, and agriculture.
- **Malawi's** Ministry of Gender is implementing gender equality in agriculture and climate action projects, with particular attention to women's needs and concerns, afforestation, and GHG reduction. It is also promoting greater inclusion, with women representing 60 percent of project beneficiaries.
- **Nigeria** established Gender Desks in all the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) in the country. They deliver regular training and information on gender issues to grassroots groups.
- **The Gambia** established the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. It has also implemented trainings to raise awareness of the relationship between gender and vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change, as well as the adaptation strategies and ecosystem-based management activities being implemented in various regions.
- **Uganda** is using a gender and equity certificate framework to guide its budget process. To secure funding, the proposer for each activity in the budget must present a certificate that shows the extent to which the proposed activity is gender and social inclusion compliant.
- **Zambia's** water sector has a gender division, which collaborates with other development agencies on NDC targets that relate to gender and climate change. The division builds the capacity of other sectoral actors to enhance understanding of how they can practically mainstream gender into climate action.

The stated timeframe for most of the revised NDCs from African countries is 2021 to 2030. Table 1 summarizes the state of gender equality in revised African NDCs.

**Table 1: The state of gender in revised African NDCs**

Country	Time-frame	Consultation process	How gender is included in the revised NDC
<b>Central Africa</b>			
<b>Cameroon</b>	2016 – 2030	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes Cameroon’s adaptation vision for 2035 which aims to build the resilience and capacity of women, children, and vulnerable groups to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Notes adaptation of the national gender policy and reduction of women’s vulnerability to climate change.</li> <li>• Notes Ministry for Women’s Empowerment and the Family as an actor to support implementation.</li> <li>• References role of women and civil society in supporting implementation and monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	2021 – 2030	Supervised by government, including data collection and wide stakeholder consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes gender equity and participation of young people and indigenous peoples as key elements in implementation.</li> <li>• Ministry of Gender will support closing the gender gap in adaptation and climate change mitigation activities.</li> <li>• Describes national gender policy framework.</li> <li>• MRV system considers social impacts including the integration of gender dimensions.</li> <li>• Provides a couple of gender responsive/sensitive measures, with some indicators attached.</li> </ul>
<b>East Africa</b>			
<b>Kenya</b>	2021 – 2030	Applied a whole-of-government, sector-wide approach involving key ministries, departments, agencies and local governments. Special consultations were conducted for young people and civil society with the private sector. Representatives of women groups and indigenous peoples also consulted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes that gender groups have different vulnerabilities to climate change, but also capacities to contribute to climate action.</li> <li>• Notes that national gender equality laws, and adaptation and mitigation measures are to be implemented in a gender-responsive way across sectors and down to the local level.</li> <li>• Highlights importance of gender in adaptation and proposes actions surrounding safety nets in climate change funds, strengthening access to climate finance, and promoting gender-responsive technology transfer.</li> </ul>



Country	Time-frame	Consultation process	How gender is included in the revised NDC
<b>Uganda</b>	2021 – 2030	Also applied a whole-of-government, sector-wide approach, with special consultations with young people, civil society, and the private sector. Sectoral consultations were structured into four groups: AFOLU and Wetlands; Energy and Transport, Waste and IPPU; and Water, Health, Cities, and Disaster Risk Reduction. Representatives of women groups and Indigenous Peoples also consulted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporates gender sensitivity in the selection and prioritization of adaptation and mitigation measures and actions. Gender also elaborated and mainstreamed in the revised implementation plan.</li> <li>• Comprises adaptation and mitigation actions with gender equality taken into consideration.</li> <li>• Highlights the financial support required for implementing the NDC's actions and measures across all sectors up to 2030, including capacity-building, technology development, transfer requirements, and gender equity.</li> <li>• Gender analysis carried out to highlight the different roles of women and men, the challenges they face in light of climate change, and priorities for climate action, particularly in improving resilience and adaptation.</li> <li>• Finds women and girls, particularly those living in poverty, to be at greater risk of climate change impacts. This is partly attributed to unequal land rights and the exclusion of women from decision-making, thus limiting their access to technologies and practices which would enable them to adapt.</li> </ul>
<b>North Africa</b>			
<b>Tunisia</b>	2021 – 2030	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender is one of three new transversal areas.</li> <li>• Notes women's participation in NDC governance/implementation.</li> <li>• Notes women's vulnerability to climate change. However also highlights Tunisia as a pioneer of women's human rights among Arab countries.</li> <li>• Articulates adaptation needs in a "Star of Resilience", defined by five domains: food, water, social, territorial, and economic. Under the social domain there are ten priority areas; all include dozens of measures that directly address gender/target women.</li> <li>• Emphasizes women's access to training/ skills development and constraints to entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Recognizes that strengthening the role of women in a low-carbon transition will accelerate achieving the NDC, especially in renewable energies, the green economy, and AFOLU.</li> <li>• Notes strengthening institutional capacity in gender and climate change.</li> </ul>

Country	Time-frame	Consultation process	How gender is included in the revised NDC
<b>Egypt</b>	2015 – 2030	NDC update is aligned with the country's developmental and climate change policies. It includes the Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Egypt's Vision 2030'; the emerging Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy 2050 (LT-LEDS); the National Climate Change Strategy 2050 (NCCS); National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030; and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopts the equity principle, differentiated responsibilities in accordance with respective national capabilities and in accordance with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.</li> <li>Gender mentioned only once.</li> </ul>
<b>South Africa</b>			
<b>Malawi</b>	2020 – 2040	Developed via a consultative process designed in relation to the country's national development priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References the National Climate Change Management Policy (NCCMP) that provides strategic direction to priorities for climate change interventions – 'Cross-cutting issues' (including gender considerations) is one of six priority areas.</li> <li>Provides an implementation plan for both adaptation and mitigation. Under adaptation, numerous measures are listed to contribute to SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Under mitigation, one measure related to electricity generation is noted.</li> <li>Comes with an improved monitoring and evaluation framework that is aligned with the UN SDGs through linkages to SDG indicators, and to the national vision. The framework includes specific indicators capable of tracking the extent of gender and vulnerability integration across sectors.</li> <li>In relation to adaptation and mitigation, notes specific capacity and national needs. They include actively mainstreaming gender considerations within climate change measures, and where relevant, to track climate change issues and indicators according to gender and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Zambia</b>	2015 – 2030	Gender-balanced stakeholder support including from civil society, the private sector, and subnational stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes Zambia's Climate Change Gender Action Plan which ensures that climate processes mainstream gender considerations to guarantee that women and men can have access to, participate in, and benefit equally from climate initiatives.</li> </ul>

Country	Time-frame	Consultation process	How gender is included in the revised NDC
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	2021 – 2030	Developed through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach ensuring the participation of a wide range of stakeholder/s.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes that gender equality is central to climate action.</li> <li>• Indicates National Gender Policy has a thematic area on gender and climate change and the country has a Climate Change Gender Action Plan.</li> <li>• Notes that gender will be mainstreamed throughout the implementation of all adaptation measures.</li> <li>• Women are seen as a vulnerable group but also as key stakeholders in achieving the revised NDC.</li> <li>• Describes women’s vulnerability in five areas: Human Capital, Physical Capital, Natural Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital. Measures can directly target gender inequality as a factor of vulnerability to climate change.</li> <li>• Gender consideration and participation were part of revision process.</li> <li>• Gender institutions are part of NDC implementation.</li> <li>• Links SDG 5 to NDC.</li> </ul>
<b>West Africa</b>			
<b>The Gambia</b>	2021 – 2030	Development of INDC informed by national stakeholder consultations / workshops, including NGOs and the private sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes under adaptation that livelihood opportunities under renewable energy, waste management, and urban agriculture will be supported, particularly for women.</li> <li>• Integrates cross-cutting focus areas of gender, youth, health, tourism and DRR into project components.</li> <li>• Mitigation measures validated through gender-responsive consultations that included women’s organizations.</li> <li>• Identifies women seen as a highly vulnerable group to climate change due to limited adaptive capacity.</li> <li>• Notes national gender equality policies that support gender mainstreaming in climate change.</li> </ul>

Country	Time-frame	Consultation process	How gender is included in the revised NDC
Liberia	2021 – 2030	Whole-of-government and whole-of-society participatory approach with gender dialogues part of the process. Stakeholders included sectoral line ministries and agencies of government, the private sector, CSOs, youth and women groups, national experts, and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains gender-responsive measures under adaptation agriculture, fisheries, and cross-sectoral.</li> <li>• Commits to mainstream climate actions, capacity-building, climate finance, and gender and youth concerns into every sector activity by 2025.</li> <li>• Ministry of Gender and Children Protection was part of regional validation workshops.</li> <li>• National Gender Dialogue, under the theme “Women leading for climate action”, hosted to support NDC revision.</li> </ul>
Nigeria	2021 – 2030	Whole-of-society approach adopted in engagement with the private sector (through the NDC Business Roundtables), youth, women groups, and sub-national authorities and CSOs with link to grassroots communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aimed to mainstream gender across all sectors.</li> <li>• Notes that the Federal Executive Council in 2020 approved the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate.</li> <li>• Highlights the importance of women’s access to finance such as providing loans to engage in waste management projects.</li> </ul>

## 3.2 Enabling conditions for gender-responsive climate action

**The implementation of gender-responsive climate action requires that countries invest in the enabling conditions to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and long-term sustainability of these actions.**

Meaningful gender-responsive climate action implies a holistic approach that aims to overcome silos and gaps that impede design, implementation, and monitoring.

When the enabling conditions for gender-responsive action are accomplished, each lays the groundwork for accomplishing the next one. For example, if a

gender analysis is carried out in the initial planning stage, it generates the information required to identify gender considerations relevant to a specific sectoral intervention.

At the same time, it allows the identification of areas for improvement – for example, related to policies, planning instruments, and governance – that will be needed to ensure the proper implementation of this gender-responsive sectoral initiative. Table 2 summarizes the findings from the analysis of the enabling conditions.

**Table 2: Overview of enabling conditions that support gender-responsive climate action in Africa.**

Enabling conditions	Rationale	Examples
<p><b>Political will</b></p>	<p>Strong coordinating institutions that provide leadership are needed to effectively coordinate gender-responsive climate actions and ensure responsible project implementation in line with NDC targets.</p>	<p><b>Central Africa:</b> Cameroon has created the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family and appointed a National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point. Gender Focal Points have also been appointed in different sectoral ministries. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, initiatives like “PANA AFE” have been created to strengthen women’s resilience.</p> <p><b>East Africa:</b> Efforts to mainstream gender across sectors are visible through the appointment of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points. Rwanda’s Vision 2050 highlights gender and family promotion as one of its cross-cutting areas. The Ugandan government supports women’s leadership and career development, and several top positions in the country are led by women. Uganda also has a Gender Monitoring Office, which is responsible for analyzing and tracking, documenting, and updating gender data across to guide enhanced accountability to gender equality and empowerment.</p> <p><b>North Africa:</b> Tunisia has a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2020-2030); a National Low-emission Development Strategy; a National Strategy for The Green Economy (2015); a National Strategy for The Integrated Management of Coastal Zones; a National Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands (2015-2024); and an energy security strategy for 2030. Tunisia has also developed a Gender and Climate Change Plan according to the reinforced Lima Plan that was adopted on 13 August 2022 on the occasion of National Women’s Day. Egypt has a National Strategy for Women’s Empowerment 2030, launched by its National Council for Women in 2017, as well as several other recent initiatives aimed at fostering rural women’s empowerment in Egypt’s complex climate-security context.</p> <p><b>South Africa:</b> Malawi launched the Women in Climate Action Network in 2021 and has also developed various policies which suggest some level of political commitment. Zimbabwe has developed and promoted resilient water resources management adaptation actions with gender integrated in the design and planning process.</p> <p><b>West Africa:</b> Like many countries studied, Liberia has set up a gender desk linked to its NDC, to minimize the effects of climate change in the country. The country has a National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change and had its first gender-responsive national budget in 2021.</p>

Enabling conditions	Rationale	Examples
<p><b>Inclusive policy frameworks</b></p>	<p>An inclusive policy framework is required to advance a sense of belonging among different population segments, to promote cooperative and mutually benefiting climate action, and to achieve greater outcomes.</p>	<p><b>Central Africa:</b> Cameroon’s National Gender Policy requires at least 30 percent of women in the elective lists for the parliament. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a family code that seeks to improve women’s conditions and to address previous conditions that prevented women from working or operating a bank account without a husband’s authorization.</p> <p><b>East Africa:</b> Kenya has a gender-responsive Climate Change Act. Rwanda has a National Gender Policy (2010) and sectoral gender mainstreaming strategies. In Uganda, one of its climate change policy priorities in 2015 was to ensure gender integration into adaptation and mitigation actions, to reduce the vulnerabilities of women and children to climate change.</p> <p><b>South Africa:</b> Zambia developed a Climate Change Gender Action Plan (2018) that seeks to ensure that its climate change processes are gender-transformative. It aims to guarantee that women and men can have access to, participate in, and benefit equally from climate change initiatives. Zimbabwe’s revised National Gender Policy and Implementation Plan has an embedded thematic area that highlights gender and climate change and the mainstreaming of gender in environmental and climate change policies and strategies.</p> <p><b>West Africa:</b> Nigeria has a revised National Gender Policy (2022), a National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change, a revised National Climate Change Policy (2021), an Adaptation Communication (2021), and a Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access National Action Plan.</p>

Enabling conditions	Rationale	Examples
<p><b>Inclusive governance structures</b></p>	<p>An inclusive governance structure aims to ensure gender equality and social inclusion in governance and adequate representation of marginalized groups in governance and policymaking processes.</p>	<p><b>Central Africa:</b> Cameroon has established a number of institutions and structures as part of its inclusive governance strategies, namely, the Centre for the Promotion of Women; the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Environment; project steering and monitoring committees; departmental and regional Crisis Management Committees; technical working groups; scientific committees; and regional councils. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, every ministry has a gender focal point and there is a coordinating platform for gender focal points that is relevant for the implementation of the GAP under the Lima work programme.</p> <p><b>East Africa:</b> Rwanda has a National Gender Machinery as part of its governance framework.</p> <p><b>North Africa:</b> Tunisia, through government decree (No. 626-2016) has established an advisory body known as the Council of Peers for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women. Gender equality is also of primary concern to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. Policy guidelines for the Egyptian Environmental Policy Framework call for “...A holistic, gender-sensitive and participatory approach.” A Gender Unit has already been established in the Environmental Affairs Agency with the objective “to mainstream gender issues, particularly the rights of women to access employment opportunities and get a proper education, through good governance and adopting democracy and popular participation.”</p> <p><b>South Africa:</b> Malawi has a National Technical Committee on Climate Change and a Steering Committee on Climate Change in which the Ministry of Gender is represented. In Zimbabwe, there are several entities that focus on gender including the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises. The Climate Change Management Department also has a Gender Focal Point.</p> <p><b>West Africa:</b> The Gambia has established climate change departments mandated to ensure gender mainstreaming across climate change sectors and gender policies. Nigeria has a Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, a Federal Ministry of Environment (UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point), an Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, a National Centre for Women Development, and a National Council on Women Societies, among others.</p>

Enabling conditions	Rationale	Examples
<p><b>Climate financing and gender-responsive budgeting</b></p>	<p>The allocation of adequate financial resources is key to the achievement of gender-responsive climate action. Gender budgeting in climate change activities involves including gender lines in all related budgets. It can take the form of either the integration of a targeted budget for gender or women-focused activities, or the establishment of a separate budget to address gender priorities and activities.</p> <p>With functional gender-responsive budgeting systems, countries are able to promote fiscal and gender justice, which is essential for effective gender-responsive climate action.</p>	<p><b>Central Africa:</b> In Cameroon, effort has been made to include gender in state budgeting and in the planning of projects and programmes. Cross-cutting aspects such as gender are taken into account.</p> <p><b>East Africa:</b> Rwanda institutionalized Gender Responsive Budgeting through the 2013 Organic Law on State Finances and Property. Uganda has national funds and credit mechanisms for financing climate change projects. The Public Finance Act requires gender and equity compliance for any programme to be funded, which contributes to ensuring that budgets are gender-responsive.</p> <p><b>North Africa:</b> Gender and climate change were introduced in the 2022 budget note for Tunisia.</p> <p><b>West Africa:</b> Liberia, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, has developed a tool for mainstreaming gender into climate change in the budgeting process. In 2021, Nigeria had its first gender-responsive national budgeting for gender-related projects and programmes in climate change.</p>
<p><b>International development partnership</b></p>	<p>International development partnerships are critical for supporting practical and effective design and implementation of climate change co-operation principles. They contribute to ensuring mutual accountability and sustainability of overall development efforts.</p>	<p>Across Africa, development partners including UN Women, UNDP, the World Bank, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), USAID, OXFAM, ActionAid, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Global Water Partnership have invested immensely in gender-responsive climate action and are supporting state and non-state actors.</p>



Enabling conditions	Rationale	Examples
Active civil society	An active civil society is necessary for holding public institutions and people's representatives to account, at all levels, in their efforts to integrate gender in climate action planning, financing, implementation, and policymaking. An active civil society also helps monitor processes and outcomes and serves as alternative sources of evidence on climate change issues.	<p>Active civil society was reported in most countries assessed, some playing critical roles in pushing governments to take policy and programmatic action. For example, in Nigeria, the National Council of Women's Societies and Women's Environment Programme have been very active and contributed to building the capacity of public, private, and civil society actors in climate change. They are also playing lead roles in interventions and in advocacy.</p> <p>There are also some unique engagements observed in some countries. For example, the Government of Uganda is collaborating with civil society organizations under its Public-Private Partnership Plan (the PPP is referenced in Uganda's third National Development Plan and the INDC). In Liberia, a stakeholder mapping exercise identified different stakeholders and highlighted CSOs actively working on climate issues.</p>
Gender analysis and evidence	Gender is an important dimension of vulnerability, and analysis is an important step towards effective gender integration into policies, action plans, and sustainable development goals, particularly climate change. Systematic gender analyses provide the guidance necessary for policies and interventions. They also indicate where policies and interventions should be implemented and where resources should be spent.	<p><b>Central Africa:</b> Cameroon has employed gender analysis tools and a gender analysis report in the water and climate change sectors.</p> <p><b>East Africa:</b> Uganda has conducted a gender analysis of the NDC's priority areas of agriculture, waste, and energy. An integrated landscape management and improved livelihoods and ecosystems resilience project in the Mt. Elgon region has conducted a gender analysis and produced a gender action plan for the project.</p> <p><b>West Africa:</b> Liberia has applied a gender-responsive climate vulnerability risk assessment model in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector. It has also conducted a climate vulnerability risk assessment in the health and coastal sectors, taking into consideration interpersonal risk and gender, and has contributed to climate change adaptation plans and strategies in different sectors.</p>
Enabling cultural practices	While negative cultural practices persist in many African countries, there are also some important cultural values and practices that promote both environmental protection and women's inclusion and empowerment. Such cultural values and practices need to be amplified.	<p><b>East Africa:</b> In Kenya, there has been some disaggregation of men's and women's cultural roles in relation to the management of natural resources, which has enhanced investment in sensitizing women to climate change and the promotion of clean cooking solutions in rural areas.</p> <p>In Uganda, there are folklore practices that educate different genders about violence, sexual reproductive health, and being responsible citizens. Furthermore, respect for women in the family and community in decision-making is improving, though the traditional justice system remains male-dominated.</p>

### 3.3 Analysis of effective governance, integrated policies, and inclusive planning for gender-responsive climate action

#### Fulfilling gender commitments: Overview of how gender equality can be mainstreamed in a systematic and comprehensive way at different levels: governance, planning and policy.

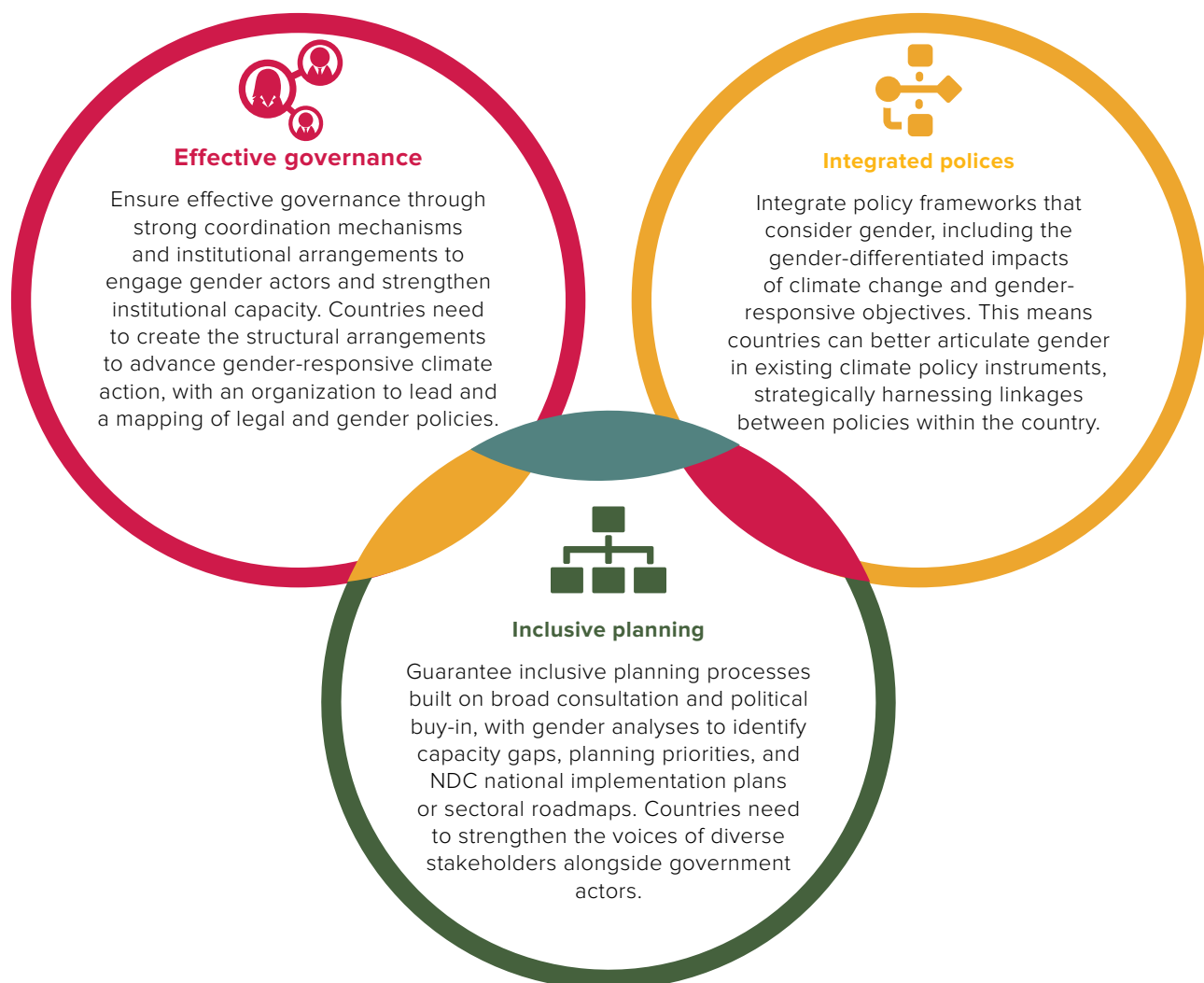
To ensure gender-responsive implementation of national climate agendas, African countries should ensure that gender equality is considered systematically and in a mutually reinforcing way.

To guide this effort, UNDP has developed a three-pronged approach to ensure that gender equality is considered in a country's policy, governance, and planning processes (Figure 4). African countries

can complement and build upon existing efforts to systematically mainstream gender by using this three-pronged approach. Based on the approach, Table 4 analyses the state of effective governance, integrated policies, and inclusive planning for gender-responsive climate action.

However, while many African countries are demonstrating degrees of policy commitment towards gender mainstreaming and gender equality – and implementation of related recommendations and action plans – barriers and limitations continue to exist. These are also summarized in Table 4.

Figure 4: UNDP's approach to gender mainstreaming



### 3.4 The challenges

Parties to the UNFCCC understand the importance of deep-seated gender mainstreaming and gender equality in UNFCCC processes. The UNFCCC itself acknowledges the importance of implementing gender-related recommendations and action plans, as well as the development and implementation of countries' climate policies. Various barriers and limitations, however, do remain.

While the enabling conditions outlined in the previous section are crucial for effective gender-responsive climate action, this section outlines some of the challenges that have been found in African countries when mainstreaming gender into climate action. These challenges relate to effective governance, inclusive planning, and integrated policy frameworks, as summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3: Analysis of effective governance, integrated policies and inclusive planning for gender-responsive climate action in Africa**

Effective governance	Inclusive planning	Integrated policy frameworks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Political will but limited capacity to implement:</b>            Some level of political will is reflected in African countries' NDCs and other policies but limited capacity and expertise constitute a major drawback.         </li> </ul> <p>In <b>Cameroon</b>, for example, limited knowledge on gender issues by decision-makers was reported as a factor that is affecting the effective integration of gender into adaptation and mitigation actions.</p> <p>In <b>Nigeria</b>, inadequate staff capacity on gender has been reported at the sub-regional level and this tends to hinder the implementation of gender-responsive climate action.</p> <p><b>Kenya</b> has a policy framework for gender and climate actions, but implementation is sometimes limited by insufficient institutional capacity to implement the policies and planned actions, and weak inter-agency cooperation, technical capacity, and gender expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Limited evidence-based planning:</b> In addition to a country's NDC, there are national and sectoral plans which need to integrate gender. Yet many countries lack evidence-based plans and strong gender analyses. In the majority of African countries examined, there is limited research on best practices, use of technology, and requisite evidence to support negotiations and development of gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation actions.         </li> </ul> <p>In <b>Cameroon</b>, for example, inadequate analysis of climate vulnerability in relation to gender has limited the effective preparation of a gender-sensitive national adaptation plan. This gap in evidence-based planning is also noted in some NDCs. For example, in Zambia, a gender analysis was not conducted before the drafting of the revised NDC, and gender was mentioned only briefly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Need for inclusive policy frameworks:</b> While inclusive policies, and institutional and implementation frameworks exist in many of the countries studied, there is a need for many to promote an inclusive policy network.         </li> </ul> <p>In <b>Zambia</b>, there has been a limited presence of gender-sensitive policies within the water sector, and there appears to be a need for increased attention and engagement from the sector in addressing this issue.</p> <p>In <b>The Gambia</b>, limited consideration of gender in the NDC's mitigation component is observed; this is particularly seen in issues around emissions reduction in the country's Forestry, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, and Waste Management sectors. With regards to the adaptation component, the country's document calls for alignment of climate systems with other policies, including gender, climate investment programmes and the country's project implementation strategies.</p>

Effective governance	Inclusive planning	Integrated policy frameworks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limited institutional coordination:</b> A good number of implementing and coordinating agencies were observed in different countries pointing to political will, however in some countries their coordination was observed to be limited.</li> </ul> <p>For example, in the <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>, there is weak inter-agency cooperation between the sectors that relate to climate change and gender.</p> <p>In <b>Cameroon</b>, weak institutional coordination and communication among different key sectors and actors were observed.</p> <p>In <b>The Gambia</b>, the UNFCCC Focal Point and the Gender Focal Point are not fully in charge of coordinating with the Ministry of Gender on gender issues at all levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gaps in Gender Action Plans and policies:</b> There is noticeable progress in terms of the design of inclusive policies, as noted in Section 3.3. However, gaps are also noted in some countries in relation to the depth of their action plans.</li> </ul> <p>In <b>Cameroon</b>, there is a National Gender Policy, but it does not take into consideration climate change; the National Development Strategy 2030 does have some strategic points focusing on gender. The Democratic Republic of the Congo does not have clearly defined policies on gender and climate change issues. Also, it does not appear to have thematic and departmental structures for implementing gender and climate policies; while budgets and policies are centrally lumped into the Ministry of Gender.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limited funding to implement proclaimed policy actions:</b> Limited funding is a major barrier to the implementation of policies and plans in the majority of countries examined.</li> </ul> <p>For example, in <b>Liberia</b> limited financial support is a leading factor undermining the implementation of gender-responsive climate action plans. Insufficient budgetary support from the national government and other partners to the principal institutions and organizations that support the fight against climate change was reported.</p> <p>Similarly, in <b>Cameroon</b>, implementation of the country's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and Gender Action Plan have been limited by insufficient funding.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weak stakeholder coordination:</b> Stakeholder coordination in the implementation of diverse and multi-sectoral activities is weak in many countries. While some countries mentioned the contribution of, and cooperation with, CSOs as part of their strengths, many do not have an effective capacity and coordination framework. Some focal points do not have reasonable information on the activities of CSOs that are funded by international donor agencies.</li> </ul> <p>For example, in the <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b> women's organizations around the country implement different kinds of projects not coordinated or adequately reported at country-level, hence they are not well captured in harmonized country reports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limitations in monitoring, evaluation and reporting:</b> African countries need support to strengthen meaningful monitoring, evaluation and reporting of gender and climate issues. In almost all of the African countries examined, limited information exists on interventions designed to track progress towards achieving gender targets. Many interventions' log frames were without specific gender outputs and outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>For example, in the <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>, it was reported that while budget has been allocated for the Gender Focal Point to drive implementation of the Lima Work Plan, very limited work has been done due in part to poor monitoring. There is a general need to mainstream gender elements in M&amp;E of climate action and improve systems for gender-disaggregated data collection and management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shortfall in capacity to implement policies:</b> Many African countries have policies and strategies useful for advancing meaningful gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation. A great deal of capacity-building and awareness-raising is required in countries such as Cameroon, Liberia, Tunisia, and Nigeria, to harness these opportunities. This includes strengthening technical capacities, training key actors, and increasing sensitization among stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>In <b>Tunisia</b>, for example, it was noted that some stakeholders seemed unfamiliar with the issues surrounding gender and climate change. Significant awareness campaigns are needed, then, to ensure first line ministries and stakeholders understand and support the climate action agenda.</p>

## Section 4: Country examples

This section summarizes examples of practices, interventions, and lessons from African countries arranged according to the priority areas of the Lima Framework.

### Examples of interventions in Central Africa

<b>Capacity development, effective participation and women's leadership</b>	
<b>Title of initiative</b>	'Gender and Cameroon's REDD+ road map'
<b>Project year/s</b>	2015-2018
<b>Funding source/s</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), World Bank, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Planning, International Union of Conservation Network (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ); Commission of Central African Forests; Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)
<b>Implementing partners</b>	IUCN, WWF, local NGOs, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), and gender and forests task force
<b>Intervention</b>	<p>This initiative was based on the principles of the REDD+ process which has the potential to benefit women in terms of access to forest resources. As it stands, however, gender inequalities restrict women's access to and control of productive resources, especially land, and they do not participate in/are not consulted in decision-making processes. They also have limited access to and/or control of information, technology and tools, and control of income generated from forest activities. Gender-blind policies are also limiting. This limits them from benefitting from REDD+.</p> <p>This initiative aimed to mainstream gender considerations into the Cameroon's forestry sector and climate change initiatives. It identified women and gender-focused organizations, including representatives of Indigenous Peoples and grassroots-based organizations, and built their capacity for gender mainstreaming. It also conducted a gender-sensitive REDD+ awareness campaign using a variety of online and offline women's rights platforms. Women received training in forestry and REDD+ issues across five ecological regions of the country.</p>
<b>Gender impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender and forest task force in place and functional.</li> <li>• Women represented in major decision-making bodies and processes.</li> <li>• At least 50,000 people (60 percent women) sensitized on REDD+ and gender issues.</li> <li>• Data generated on gender-differentiated use of, access to, and control of forest/natural resources in each region.</li> <li>• Gender-sensitive REDD+ strategies and a pilot project developed in different regions.</li> <li>• Capacity of women's networks and groups in advocating for gender mainstreaming in forest governance strengthened.</li> <li>• Land rights secured for women.</li> <li>• Women's awareness of their rights increased.</li> <li>• Gender-sensitive REDD+ strategies and a pilot project developed in different regions.</li> </ul>

Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiative contributed to adaptation and mitigation efforts through:</li> <li>• Increased understanding of the ecological function of forests in relation to the carbon cycle.</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of the state of the forests in Cameroon and recognition of women's roles in the forest sector.</li> <li>• Increased understanding of climate change and its differentiated impacts on women and men; and</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of REDD+ and its relationship to climate change.</li> </ul>
Key lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiative yielded a number of lessons including:</li> <li>• The mapping and strengthening of women's networks promote women's representation in major decisions-making processes.</li> <li>• Building women's capacity for their rights increases local women's awareness of their rights and local grievances mechanism.</li> <li>• There is a need for institutional collaboration and capacity-building to ensure women and men are recognized as potential contributors and beneficiaries of forest resources.</li> <li>• Securing land rights for women is important in promoting women's access to and control over natural resources.</li> <li>• Government ministries, agencies and implementing partners of REDD+ initiatives need support and capacity in integrating gender in REDD+ Projects.</li> </ul>
Challenges	There is no data available to identify good practices and produce guidelines for other REDD+ initiatives.
Scalability	The strategies used by the initiative to engage grassroots, indigenous, and women's organizations could be replicated in other African countries. In addition, the methodology used for developing data on differentiated use of, access to, and control of forests could be used by other African countries.
Title of initiative	'Capacity Development, Effective Participation and Women Leadership': Advocacy for women's rights to land ownership with national authorities and customary leaders.
Project year/s	2017-ongoing
Funding source/s	NGOs
Implementing partners	Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (CFLEDD)
Intervention	<p>The project advocates for national authorities and customary leaders to recognize the rights of women in relation to land and forest titles in four regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also included women's participation in climate action.</p> <p>The initiative is based on a study conducted by CFLEDD which revealed that about 70 percent of women in DRC lack access to land and forest rights and are not involved in decision-making processes related to forest governance.</p>
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National authorities and customary courts recognized women's role in forest management and community development. Adoption of two provincial edicts on women's rights to land</li> <li>• Allocation of land to women for agroforestry</li> <li>• Increase in women's access to and ownership of land</li> <li>• National regulations requesting all national ministries to establish a Gender Focal Point</li> <li>• Increase in indigenous women's active participation in forest governance and policies for climate action</li> </ul>

Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts	The initiative results in increased participation and knowledge of women in adaptation and mitigation action across regions (Central Congo, Bandundu, Equator and South Kivu). As the primary users of the forest, increasing women's participation in forest governance is key to enhancing their preservation.
Key lessons	Two key lessons can be taken from this initiative: There is a need to develop advocacy tools for dialogues between local and national authorities on women's rights to land and forest resources; and, securing women's rights to land will increase their participation in forest governance and policies for climate action.
Challenges	A key challenge was the inadequacy of finance to scale-up the initiative to other parts of the country.
Scalability	The approach of peaceful dialogues as an advocacy tool championed by female leadership is a sound model. The methodology can be replicated in many other African countries where women are facing similar challenges in terms of access to and ownership of land and forest titles.

### Examples of interventions in Eastern Africa

Gender analysis	
Title of the initiative	'Kenya Gender Analysis'
Project year/s	2016-2020
Funding source/s	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMU), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union, Government of Spain
Implementing partners	UNDP Kenya
Intervention	This gender analysis explored gender inequalities in relation to access to, control of, and use of resources in Kenya, and the participation of and benefits to women and men. It also examined the extent to which gender issues are mainstreamed in Kenya's climate-related policies, legal and institutional frameworks and their suitability for supporting gender-responsive climate action.
Outcome	Strategic recommendations were provided for integrating gender into governance, planning, and policies, with a view to strengthening gender equality into NDC planning and implementation.
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	Gender-responsive climate actions were identified in key NDC sectors of Agriculture, Energy and Water. The highlighted actions were planned, budgeted for, and implemented as part of mainstreaming gender into Kenya's NDC.
Key lessons	This initiative highlighted the importance of an in-depth gender analysis to inform gender-responsive NDC implementation. The gender analysis indicated the level of capacity, financial and human resource gaps in governance Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and drew attention to gender gaps in specific sector policies.
Challenges	Besides limited financial resources, there was a limited number of gender experts to undertake an in-depth gender analysis. The unavailability of sex-disaggregated data in some key NDC sectors/ministries was also noted.
Scalability	The analysis provided a baseline and recommended entry points for integrating gender into NDCs and other gender-responsive climate actions.
Effective participation and women's leadership	
Title of initiative	'Women In Rwandan Energy (WIRE)'
Project year/s	2020-ongoing
Funding source/s	USAID and Power Africa



Implementing partners	Government of Rwanda and private sector partners
Intervention	<p>This initiative focuses on carrying out an analysis of gender gaps in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Studies clearly indicate that a wide gender gap remains in the energy sector globally, but particularly in Africa where the workforce remains male-dominated with very few women.</p> <p>Experts, however, recognize that promoting women's participation in decision-making roles in the energy sector can expand inclusive economic growth, profitability, and sustainability.</p> <p>The WIRE initiative collaborates with Rwandan energy companies on a three-month mentorship and on-the-job training for 115 female graduates from universities and technical colleges, equipping them with the skills and experience to launch careers in the energy sector.</p>
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased women's participation in the traditionally male-dominated energy sector</li> <li>• Women gained experience and skills in the energy sector</li> <li>• Increased companies' and communities' beliefs that women are capable of working in the energy sector</li> <li>• Increased employment opportunities for women</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	The initiative builds women's resilience through the creation of alternative jobs, reducing their dependence on natural resources for their livelihoods.
Key lessons	Building the skills and capacity of women in traditionally male-dominated sectors can break gender barriers and pave the way for future opportunities for women.
Scalability	The methodological approach can be replicated in many African countries where women are lagging behind in the energy sector.
<b>Gender inclusive participation</b>	
Title of initiative	'Improve women's income and resilience to climate change in Uganda'
Project year/s	2019-ongoing
Funding Source	European Union
Implementing partners	Ugandan Climate Change Department, FAO, and the District/Local Government
Intervention	Scaling up agriculture of a women's group from small scale subsistence agriculture to large scale. Twezimbe women's group is one of the several farmers' groups that were supported under the GCCA project. 90 percent of the group members were women while 10 percent were men. Farmers were previously growing vegetables on scattered pieces of small land. This project enabled them to grow tomatoes on a large piece of land. The farmer's group was sensitized on good farming practices and provided with solar irrigation.
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of vegetable farming to a larger scale and the use of solar irrigation.</li> <li>• Group saving techniques by members and leading to the harvest of tomatoes on 2 acres of land.</li> <li>• Improved crop yield, improved income and group savings from farm income.</li> </ul>
Challenges	Limited market and lack of value addition skills for tomatoes.
Key lessons	For the project, there was a joint group effort to farm at a large scale and use solar irrigation. Men were included in the women's group.
Scalability	This case study can be upscaled especially in terms of vegetable farming and group saving techniques which has positive impacts on gender.



## Examples of interventions in Northern Africa

<b>Gender inclusive participation</b>	
Title of initiative	'Acacias For All': women fighting desertification in Tunisia
Project year/s	2012-2015
Funding Source	Rolex; W4; UBCI BNP Paribas; Fondation Heinrich Böll Stiftung
Implementing partners	CSOs
Intervention	This initiative focused on the high rate of soil degradation and deforestation in Tunisia, training women – the main labourers on farms – on alternative intensive agricultural techniques (organic agriculture, permaculture, agroforestry) and cooperative governance and financial management.
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained women on eco-friendly agricultural techniques and knowledge transfer</li> <li>• Established women cooperatives and trained them in financial management and governance</li> <li>• Trained women's cooperatives on agricultural value chain addition</li> <li>• Increased women's financial autonomy</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planted two barriers of acacias as a green wall against sand and desertification.</li> <li>• Training in sustainable agriculture reduces the carbon footprint of agriculture.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of women and men on climate change.</li> </ul>
Key lessons	Women are actively involved in agricultural production, with a key role in implementing eco-friendly farming practices and in boosting community knowledge transfer on sustainable agriculture.
Challenges	Inadequate finance to scale the initiative to other parts of the country.
Scalability	The cooperative model ensures the sustainability of the project.

## Examples of interventions in Southern Africa

<b>Capacity development, effective participation and women's leadership</b>	
Title of initiative	'Gender Climate Change and Agricultural Support Programme (GCCASP) in Malawi'
Project year/s	2015-2020 <sup>3</sup>
Funding source/s	African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)
Implementing partners	Government ministries and agencies, NGOs
Intervention	<p>The initiative was developed in response to more frequent extreme weather in Malawi which is exacerbating the vulnerability of smallholder farmers, especially women, thereby threatening their livelihoods.</p> <p>GCCASP initiatives aimed to enhance the climate change resilience of rural women in agriculture by helping to close policy and institutional gender gaps, strengthening the capacities of 50,000 women smallholder farmers in climate-smart agriculture, and establishing and strengthening women's platforms.</p>

3. This project was extended with post-project implementation activities up to 2022.

Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established and strengthened the capacity of women cooperatives.</li> <li>Trained 50,000 women on climate-smart agriculture.</li> <li>Strengthened implementing ministries' and agencies' capacity on gender mainstreaming in policies and practices.</li> <li>Established the National Partnership Platforms on gender empowerment and enhancing women's agriculture adaptation to climate change.</li> <li>Established a community of practice to share best practices on gender adaptation to climate change and the relationship between gender climate change and agriculture.</li> <li>Established Enterprise Development Centre for achieving an impactful and sustainable result of the project. The Hybrid model adopted to increase government and private sector buy-in can be replicated in other African Countries.</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	Training on sustainable agriculture practices reduces the carbon emissions of agriculture.
Key lessons	Institutional collaboration and capacity-building in relation to gender mainstreaming can reduce gender policy gaps and increase participation in climate action.
Challenges	Inadequate finance to scale the initiative to other parts of the country.
Scalability	The cooperative model ensures the sustainability of the project and provides an opportunity to scale up the intervention.
<b>Capacity development, effective participation and women's leadership</b>	
Title of initiative	'The Cashew Infrastructure Development Project (CIDP) in Zambia'
Project year/s	2015-ongoing
Funding source/s	African Development Bank
Implementing partners	Government ministries and agencies
Intervention	<p>In Zambia, women and men play different roles and face distinct constraints along the agricultural value chain, especially in land ownership, agricultural inputs, and financial resources. Weather extremes, accompanied by incidences of pests and diseases, have increased the vulnerability of women by affecting their livelihoods.</p> <p>The project aims to reduce poverty by increasing household incomes through cashew production value addition.</p>
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initiative supported 60,000 people, half of them women, along the cashew value chain starting from production, through processing and marketing.</li> <li>A gender analysis was conducted during the project design.</li> <li>A gender specialist consultant was hired within the project coordination unit to ensure gender was mainstreamed across all phases of the project.</li> <li>Project coordination unit staff received training on gender mainstreaming, and gender focal points established across all implementing ministries and agencies.</li> <li>The project integrated gender into the log frame, with all project activities, outputs, outcomes and indicators specifying gender targets.</li> <li>A gender-responsive budget was developed with specific funds allocated to carry out gender-responsive activities.</li> <li>Age- and sex-disaggregated data was collected and analyzed during project implementation to see progress towards achieving gender-related goals.</li> <li>Social norms and cultural barriers related to women's access to land were addressed to ensure women's continued access for agricultural production.</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	By building agricultural resilience to climate change impacts, men and women are supported to adapt during drought and dry spells prevalent in the country.

Key lessons	The project is a good example of how gender-responsive climate change action is needed to build inclusive resilience in agricultural development. Integrating gender considerations into its design, implementation, and monitoring, the project helped close gender inequalities along the agricultural value chain.
Challenges	The baseline was developed without using a participatory stakeholder approach.
Scalability	The methodology of the project's initiatives can be adopted in other African regions to build inclusive resilience in agricultural development and climate change.

### Examples of interventions in West Africa

Effective participation and women's leadership	
Title of initiative	'Promoting Sustainable Cooking Energy in Communities (PSCEC) in The Gambia'
Project year/s	2021-2023
Funding source	UNDP
Implementing partners	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources; The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO)
Intervention	<p>The rapid growth in population, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the ongoing deterioration of the environment in The Gambia. A high demand for fuelwood and charcoal has led to an increased felling of trees, with the natural forest continuing to disappear or at least deteriorate. Indications are that the energy sector dominates CO2 emissions, with the use of charcoal and firewood for cooking the most significant sources.</p> <p>The PSCEC promoted sustainable cooking solutions in communities and grassroots adoption of clean energy. It distributes/d? energy-efficient cook stoves (EECS), and LPG-supported cook stoves in communities to reduce fuelwood and charcoal consumption. Its goals are to reduce households' budgets for fuelwood and charcoal, and to reduce the associated CO2 emissions. A total of 300 energy-efficient stoves were distributed.</p>
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy-efficient stoves contribute to money, time, and fuel saved, as well as making cooking easier and faster. Women have more time for their business activities because of the less time spent on cooking. Household incomes have improved as a result of savings made on the purchase of firewood /charcoal.</li> <li>• By emitting less smoke, energy-efficient cook stoves also reduce pollution and improve the health status of women and children.</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	The intervention has had significant social, environmental, and economic benefits for households while also reducing GHG emissions and reducing pressure on forests.
Key lessons	Beneficiaries' direct participation, experience, and benefits of using the energy-efficient stoves were responsible for spreading awareness in their communities. This was a key factor in rousing interest and enthusiasm among other households. It has also popularized the importance of community participation in addressing the issues of climate change, disaster risk reduction, and natural resource management.
Challenges	The allocation of 300 stoves was not enough for each household (with 1,300 households in Essau community).
Scalability	<p>With a focus on sustainable cooking energy solutions, community engagement, and sensitization on climate change, this project showed the potential to spark a grassroots adoption of clean energy; accelerating awareness among communities through a cascading process, while also addressing the energy poverty and the drivers of climate change.</p> <p>The activity proved to be very efficacious because of the immediate and significant changes that the beneficiaries witnessed within just a few weeks.</p>

<b>Inclusive policy framework</b>	
Title of initiative	'National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change (NAPGCC) for Nigeria'
Project year/s	2016- 2020
Funding source/s	UNDP, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS), Both ENDS, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Women Environmental Programme (WEP)
Implementing partners	Relevant federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA)
Intervention	<p>Women are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, they are not consulted and are not involved in participatory processes of climate change action. Moreover, most climate change actions and policies are designed without considering the unique contributions and knowledge of women.</p> <p>Recognizing the need for gender mainstreaming in Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, the federal government worked with stakeholders to develop innovative strategies to ensure a gender-sensitive and responsive action plan for climate change planning and programming (NAPGCC).</p>
Gender impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NAPGCC focuses on effective strategies for integrating gender into the implementation of national climate change initiatives, including Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. It is in line with Nigeria's intention to empower and respond to the needs of women in the context of climate change.</li> <li>• The plan presents milestones for ensuring that in building a climate-resilient Nigeria, the important and critical roles of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups are carried along in the implementation of relevant national policies and strategies.</li> </ul>
Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts	The goal of the plan is to ensure that national climate change processes in Nigeria mainstream gender equality considerations, helping guarantee the inclusion of all demographics in the formulation and implementation of climate change initiatives, programmes and policies.
Key lessons	The implementation strategy developed with costing for the projects proposed in the priority areas highlighted the government-CSO collaboration on technical and funding arrangements. It also shed light on the government's active involvement and ownership of the entire process.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few gender experts undertake in-depth gender analysis.</li> <li>• The unavailability of sex-disaggregated data in some key NDC sectors/ministries</li> </ul>
Scalability	The gender analysis provided a gender-based baseline and recommendations as an entry point for integrating gender into NDCs and other gender-responsive climate actions.
<b>Climate finance and gender responsive budgeting</b>	
Title of initiative	'Controlling Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides Use through Organic Farming in Dobi and Padgana Communities in Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria'
Project year/s	2020- 2021
Funding source	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), GEF, UNDP, GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP)
Implementing partners	Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

<b>Intervention</b>	<p>This project aimed to reduce the amount of chemical inputs used in agriculture in target communities.</p> <p>The project focused on promoting sustainable agriculture and combatting the impacts of climate change through the adoption of organic farming practices – for example the production and use of organic fertilizer and pesticides – with specific training for women farmers.</p>
<b>Gender impacts</b>	<p>While both men and women are involved in farming activities in Nigeria, more women are involved in farming activities than men due to the gender role ascribed to them by society to produce food for the family. Women are also responsible for cooking for their families, so they are more involved in subsistence agriculture.</p> <p>The project targeted farmers including women and men as well as young people. It is also notable that the two communities targeted for the project were communities dominated by the indigenous people of Abuja, the Gbagyis.</p>
<b>Contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts</b>	<p>This project /linked to a number of the global Sustainable Development Goals that Nigeria has signed up to. In particular, chemicals management is related to SDGs 4, 11, 13, and 15, though it also links to the other goals. The project aimed to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts by reducing the use of chemical inputs in agriculture in target communities. It promoted sustainable agriculture practices, including the adoption of organic farming methods like the production and utilization of organic fertilizers and pesticides. Specifically, the project provided training to women farmers in these communities. Additionally, the project focused on communities dominated by the indigenous people of Abuja, the Gbagyis, aligning with their efforts to address climate change impacts through more environmentally friendly agricultural practices.</p>
<b>Key lessons</b>	<p>Development of organic materials used for the production of pesticide include: Neem leaves &amp; seeds, onions, pepper and local black soap. The farming community was enthusiastic about ditching chemicals for a more environmentally- and health-friendly method of farming that saves costs and adds more value to farm produce.</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Language barriers proved challenging to implementation of the project.</p>
<b>Scalability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participatory approach was employed to engage diverse stakeholders in the preparation of the action plan.</li> <li>• These stakeholders could be engaged to translate the information about the project and also provide mentorship to key actors in different localities and it could be strategies of engagement with the communities to government agencies, donors, and industries for upscaling of the project.</li> </ul>

## Section 5: Strengthening capacity

### 5.1 African countries' needs

Interactions with stakeholders brought forward several common issues and important, urgent needs, many of which are required to address the inhibitors identified above. These issues and needs are summarized below. Their fulfillment will enable African countries to accelerate their gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation actions.

- a. Functional coordination and reporting of activities:** Activities are implemented by various ministries, agencies, and departments. However, it was noted by several stakeholders that in many countries, activities of various agencies and civil society organizations are not adequately coordinated, integrated, and connected; hence, limited information exists on what is going on in different locations. The focal points and the central governments lacked information on the various activities going on in their countries. There is a need to promote and support cooperation among agencies, focal points, and subnational administrative units to enhance coordination, data collection, and reporting.
- b. Awareness:** There is a need at the national and local government levels to raise public awareness on both the Lima Work Programme and Gender Action Plan as well as the relevance

of gender mainstreaming into climate action. Sensitization is also needed at all levels to enhance understanding of gender integration into climate change measurement, reporting and verification (MRV).

- c. External financial and technical support:** Both financial and technical resources from the UNFCCC, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, and banks are needed to implement the policies, plans, and decisions on gender and climate and other related cross-cutting issues.
- d. Internal resources:** Africa needs stronger capacity to mobilize resources internally domestically, within a country and across the continent, by regional and sub-regional bodies. Governments also need to be able to efficiently plan, deploy and manage the required resources, including gender-responsive budgeting for climate actions. Tools such as gender-responsive budgeting for climate action can help.
- e. Technological and research capacity:** Technological and research capacity are two majorly undercapacitated areas in most African countries that require urgent and critical support.

### 5.2 The role of young African negotiators

Further to the above needs, to understand the level of capacity of young African negotiators to market and negotiate climate change issues in favor of Africa, a short survey of young African negotiators was conducted<sup>4</sup>.

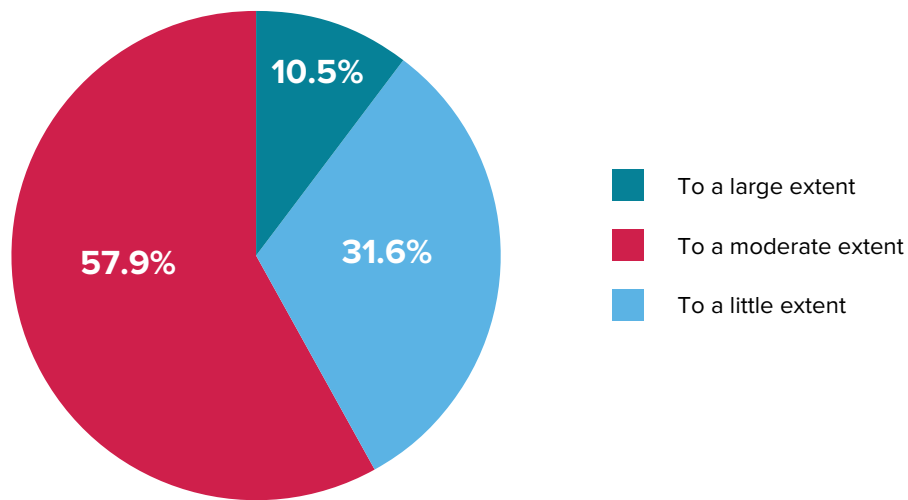
The survey was based on the assumption that the roles of climate change negotiators are indispensable for successful negotiation, and the sensitization and mobilization of stakeholders for effective implementation of the UNFCCC gender decision,

including the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.

Findings from the survey show that 57.9 percent of the respondents believed they had a moderate extent of knowledge about climate change, while 31.6 percent believed they had a little extent of knowledge, and 10.5 percent said they had a large extent of knowledge (Figure 5). This suggests a need to build the capacity of young negotiators on the climate change themes.

4. The survey was undertaken by 13 women, 1 man, and 1 person who identified as non-binary.

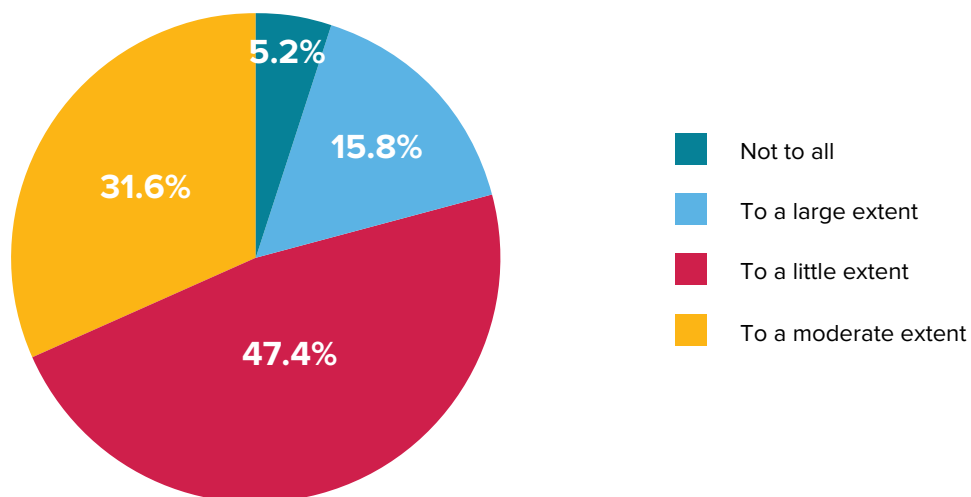
**Figure 5: Level of knowledge about climate change among young African negotiators**



The percentage of those that had good knowledge about gender and climate action, including the contents, context and how to go about their negotiations, and positions of other non-African negotiators was relatively small: 5.2 percent did not know at all, 47.4 percent had a little extent of knowledge, while 31.6 percent stated they had a

moderate extent of knowledge. Only 15.8 percent stated that young members had a large extent of knowledge about gender and climate action, including the contents, context and how to go about their negotiations (Figure 6), and positions of other non-African negotiators. A similar observation was made about their negotiation skills (Figure 7).

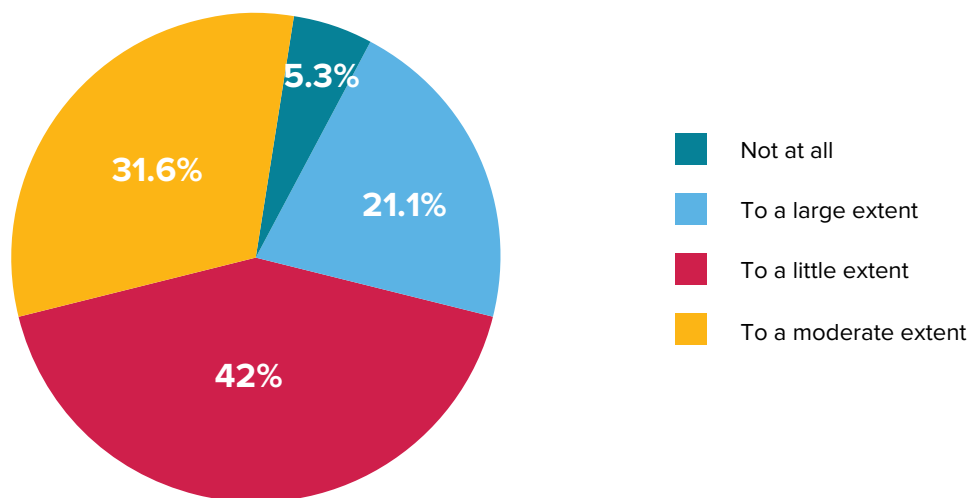
**Figure 6: Extent of Young African Negotiators knowledge about gender equality and climate action, including the contents, context and how to go about their negotiations, and positions of other non-African negotiators**



Almost half the members of young African negotiators surveyed said they did not have strong negotiation skills and strategies to engage in general UNFCCC negotiations. 5.3 percent said they did not have any at all while 42 percent said they had to a little extent; 31.6 percent and 21.1 percent stated they

had to a moderate and large extent, respectively. This points to a need to expose young negotiators to both mentorship and capacity development, especially around negotiating skills and strategies.

**Figure 7: Extent of young African negotiators' negotiating skills and strategies to engage in international negotiation**



The need for increased capacity was also observed among the older negotiators from Africa.

“When you look at countries outside Africa, you’ll have a lot of negotiators, but for us, we don’t have that luxury, even within agenda items like finance. For those who have a lot of negotiators, you find, for example, that one will just focus on matters related to adaptation and finance, while another will deal with long-term finance. But when you have only one finance negotiator for a country, and you have to deal with all those agenda items, it becomes difficult for them to be effective. When you come to gender, you will find that you have run out of people. So what we need is support to increase our negotiator numbers participating in the process.” - Ephraim Mwepya Shitima, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators 2022-2023

Besides the individual capacity to negotiate, Africa needs country- and regional-level capacities to increase the number of negotiators participating in the negotiation process. The continent and African Union member countries also need to be able to equip negotiators to adequately represent African interests, training them to become key experts,

increased supporting the generation of evidence-based negotiation. It is also important to support experienced and knowledgeable technical experts that provide background support to frontline negotiators, as noted during interactions with key stakeholders.



## Section 6: Key conclusions and recommendations

- a. Strengthen skills and capacity for gender mainstreaming.** Gender-responsive climate change action cannot be successful without building the capacity of relevant institutions, stakeholders, and key actors such as climate change-related line ministries and agencies and NDC coordination mechanisms. One of the reported gaps across Africa is the lack of capacity of policymakers and agencies' staff to integrate gender into policies and interventions. Regular staff training and peer mentoring on gender mainstreaming should be planned and budgeted for. CSOs, NGOs, and universities/ training institutions should be included in the implementation of capacity-building. A climate change gender specialist should be appointed in all climate change project interventions and related sectors to strengthen the capacity of regular ministry staff.
- b. Implement the African monitoring and peer review framework.** Initiating the African monitoring and peer review framework seems plausible. This framework will draw members from academics, CSOs, and government agencies at different sub-regional levels. They would form a sub-regional group that would periodically review the implementation of gender issues in NDCs across the countries within the sub-region. The group would also advise country-level actors on strategies for strengthening their policy and programmatic engagements. The framework would serve as a peer review, peer learning, and benchmarking framework.
- c. Conduct comprehensive gender analyses.** Another gap is observed in some African countries is the quality of gender analyses conducted. Conducting a gender analysis is perceived as counting the number of women and men affected in a population, without shedding light on the inequitable institutional structures, unequal power dynamics, and access and control over resources which are needed to inform the design of interventions. Thus, comprehensive gender analyses should be conducted before the design of interventions to explore the extent to which vulnerabilities are gendered. Interventions should take into consideration who owns and control resources, who has access to finance, and the unequal power relations regarding decision-making at the community levels. The analysis should inform the design of projects' interventions aimed at closing identified gender gaps.
- d. Adaptation and mitigation planners should ensure gender is integrated into project outcomes, activities, and indicators.** In most interventions in Africa, gender-responsive climate action is commonly understood as simply being women-targeted interventions or referencing women in policy documents as among the most vulnerable groups, without action on the ground. Instead, interventions should integrate a goal of gender equality, that addresses the different needs of groups within the population, in the objectives, activities, outputs, and outcomes of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. During the log frame development, gender specific activities, outcomes, and indicators should be clearly defined to measure and track progress towards stated goals.
- e. Budget support for gender mainstreaming efforts within government ministries, department and agencies.** African countries are making significant commitments in terms of policy development and strategic plans, however implementation has lagged due to limited resources. To ensure an effective gender-responsive budget, dedicated funds should be allocated to gender focal units to implement gender-responsive activities. The national budget planning department should define criteria for ministries' budgets to integrate gender considerations into the planning and budgeting process. The gender focal point should be involved to provide guidelines so that activities are targeted towards the strategic needs of all population groups, not only women.

- f. Enhance the collection, analysis, and reporting of sex-disaggregated data.** Countries in Africa have been complying with international commitments to collect sex-disaggregated data in relation to climate change, yet much remains to be done as these data sets are difficult to transcribe and to understand the extent and nature of women's participation. Adaptation planners need to make more effort in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating sex-disaggregated data so that progress on gender related goals can be measured. There is a general need to mainstream gender elements in the M&E of climate actions and to improve systems for gender-disaggregated data collection and management.
- g. Harmonize the coordination of efforts and strengthen synergy across government ministries and agencies on the planning and implementation of gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation actions.** For instance, there should be clearly defined roles between the UNFCCC gender focal points and Ministries of Gender focal points. The relationship and institutional framework needs to be very clear between the two and how they relate. This will solve the challenges of rivalries and threats to both parties.
- h. Strengthen the capacity of young Africans in negotiation processes, funding support to attend annual COPs and other key climate change events.** Some young negotiators are the pillars of the African Group of Negotiators. Thus, building their skills in negotiations, including through mentorship programmes on how positions are formulated, is essential. In addition, women and young African climate activists should be supported to attend COPs. The negotiators should be selected to cover all major sectors in ministries, department and agencies (including water, agriculture, finance, and climate change).

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## Annex 1: Overview of enabling conditions that support gender-responsive climate action in Africa

Enabling condition	Action	Vision	Country example
Political will	The Ministry of environment and forestry perceives gender equality as a very critical component of climate action. Efforts to mainstream gender across the board are visible including the appointment of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point (NGCCFPs).	Rwanda has a Vision 2050 that highlights Gender and Family Promotion as one of the crosscutting areas.	The government supports women's leadership and career development. Several top positions in the country are led by women. The country held a climate change symposium in 2019 that focused on gender and climate change
Inclusive governance structures	The relevant implementing institutions on climate change are inclusive in the composition of staff. Inclusivity is also ensured through programming.	Rwanda as a National Gender Machinery as part of its governance framework	Implementation of Uganda NDC follows a sector-wide approach. Sectors addressing climate change are required to integrate gender in the planning and implementation of climate actions.
Inclusive governance structures	The country has established climate change departments that are mandated to ensure gender mainstreaming in climate change sectors and gender policies.	Liberia had a gender-responsive model called Climate vulnerability risk assessment in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector, and also a climate vulnerability risk assessment in the health sector and the coastal sector. The assessment takes into consideration interpersonal risk and gender and contributed to climate change adaptation plans and strategies in different sectors.	Nigeria has a Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Environment (UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change National Focal Point), Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, National Centre for Women Development., and National Council on Women Societies (NCWS), among others.
Inclusive governance structures	There is the National Technical Committee on Climate Change and the Steering Committee on Climate Change in which the Ministry of Gender is represented. It is noted that in most of the institutions or sectors in Malawi, there is a lack of gender experts to ensure that daily issues of gender are being mainstreamed in climate change.	NA	Several entities focus on gender, including the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises. Climate Change Management Department (CCMD) also has Gender Focal Point.

## Annex 2: Integration of gender into African countries' revised NDCs

Gender considerations integrated into revised NDCs	Total number of countries	List of countries
NDCs which mention 'gender', 'women', or both	39	Angola Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cabo Verde Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Comoros Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Sierra Leone South Africa South Sudan Tanzania (United Rep. of) The Gambia Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe

Gender considerations integrated into revised NDCs	Total number of countries	List of countries
NDCs which mention gender/ women in relation to adaptation	34	Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cabo Verde Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Sierra Leone South Sudan Tanzania (United Rep. of) The Gambia Togo Uganda Zimbabwe
NDCs which mention gender/ women in relation to mitigation	27	Benin Burkina Faso Cabo Verde Central African Republic Chad Congo (Republic) Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Kenya Liberia Malawi Mali Mauritania Nigeria Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Sierra Leone South Sudan Tanzania (United Rep. of) The Gambia Togo Uganda Zimbabwe

Gender considerations integrated into revised NDCs	Total number of countries	List of countries
NDCs which mention gender/ women at a sectoral level	32	Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cabo Verde Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Comoros Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Liberia Malawi Mali Mauritania Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Sierra Leone South Sudan The Gambia Togo Uganda Zimbabwe
NDCs which recognize women as a vulnerable group	25	Benin Cabo Verde Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Comoros Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ghana Guinea-Bissau Kenya Malawi Mali Mauritania Namibia Nigeria Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Sierra Leone South Sudan The Gambia Uganda Zimbabwe



Gender considerations integrated into revised NDCs	Total number of countries	List of countries
NDCs which recognize women as agents of change	9	Cabo Verde Guinea-Bissau Mali Mauritania Namibia Sao Tome and Principe Sierra Leone South Sudan Zimbabwe
NDCs which promote women's empowerment	26	Benin Burundi Cabo Verde Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Comoros DRC Cote d'Ivoire Eswatini (Swaziland) Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Kenya Liberia Mali Mauritania Namibia Nigeria Seychelles Sierra Leone South Sudan The Gambia Togo Uganda Zimbabwe

## Annex 3: Primary data (interviews)

Respondents' institutions	Interview date
Cameroon Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature	28 August 2022
Democratic Republic of the Congo Ministry of Gender and Children Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature, Water and Forest	31 August 2022 5 September 2022
The Gambia Department of Land Management Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	31 August 2022 5 September 2022 7 September 2022
Kenya Climate Change Unit of Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Environment and Forestry National Gender and Equality Commission The African Women's and Development Network (FEMNET)	2 September 2022 6 September 2022 23 August 2022 2 September 2022
Liberia Conservation International, Liberia Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia UNDP	23 August 2022 28 August 2022 25 August 2022
Malawi Ministry of Gender Community Development and Social Welfare Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change	29 August 2022 6 September 2022 29 August 2022 31 August 2022
Nigeria Ministry of Environment Department of Climate Change Ministry of Water Resources Ministry of Agriculture, Gender Desk Ministry of Women's Affairs	29 August 2022 31 August 2022 30 August 2022 30 August 2022 30 August 2022
Rwanda Ministry of Environment	7 September 2022
Tunisia Civil society Ministry of Environment	2 September 2022 17 September 2022
Uganda Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Water and Environment Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment	1 September 2022 23 August 2022
Zambia Ministry of Water Resources Ministry of Gender Ministry of Finance	5-6 September 2022 4 September 2022 3 September 2022
Zimbabwe Department Climate Change Management Forestry Commission Gender Commission Ministry of Women Affairs UN Women	1 September 2022 4-5 September 2022 26 August 2022 28 August 2022 26 August 2022





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