

TOOLKIT

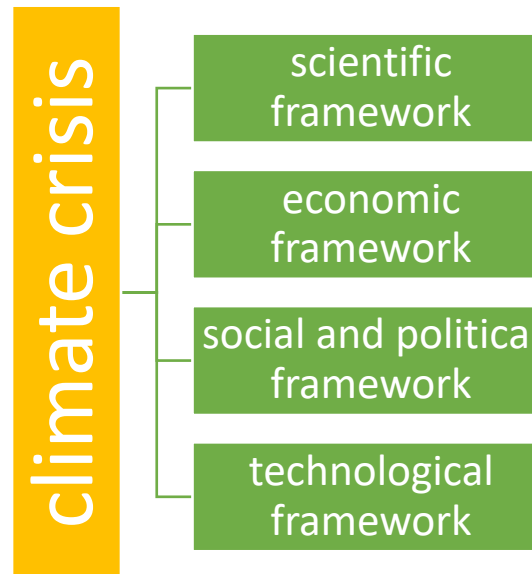
Grounding Ourselves: Afro-feminist Chants on the Climate Crisis

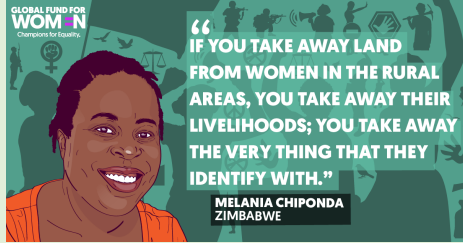

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I

Climate Crisis: Impact on Women




Understanding Climate Crisis	General Framework	Indicators	Impact on Women	Country Examples	Feminist Perspective
Scientific Framework	Understanding atmospheric, oceanographic, geological science of climate change (climate patterns)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse effect due to increased burning of fossil fuels. Climate models predicting future temperature and precipitation patterns (examples projections that low lying island nations like the Maldives could be uninhabitable by 2100) 	GHG effects leads to frequent and severe weather events, such as floods, hurricanes, and droughts - impact on agriculture sector, where women are the majority so affects their livelihoods, income and food security.	<p>Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India: Higher female mortality in natural disasters.</p> <p>Ethiopia: Women farmers' livelihoods affected by changing rain patterns - crop yield affected and thus their livelihood</p>	<p>Argues for including nuanced social variables in climate models to predict gender-differentiated impacts.</p> 
Economic Framework	Deals with the costs and benefits associated with actions or inactions to address climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tragedy of the commons illustrated by deforestation of the Amazon. - It's about overexploitation - overfishing. Negative externalities like air pollution from burning fossil fuels - felt globally. 	<p>Resource depletion like deforestation and overfishing places extra burden on women - women are responsible for gathering water, food and fuel as these resources become scarce, they have to travel further and work harder</p> <p>Traditional cooking methods impacts women health, as they spend more time indoors preparing food.</p>	<p>Malawi: Women face increased burdens due to resource depletion - droughts = travel long distance to find water, sacrificing time they could have used for education or earning an income</p> <p>India: Indoor air pollution disproportionately affects women - respiratory diseases from traditional cooking methods.</p>	<p>Advocates for highlighting and addressing gender inequalities in climate economics, and for designing progressive, gender-responsive economic mechanisms.</p> 

<p>Social and Political Framework</p>	<p>Involves issues of fairness, justice, policy-making, and geopolitics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate justice concerns about disproportionate impacts on less responsible countries. Example: Kiribati and Tuvalu - contribute minimal to global emissions but first to face existential threats • Global governance like the Paris Agreement to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius 	<p>Women can be particularly vulnerable due to social and political structures.</p>	<p>Vanuatu: Women's voices are often marginalized in climate decision-making - yet most affected by climate change due to role in food production and provision.</p> <p>Finland: Gender equality integrated into climate policy.</p>	<p>Highlights gender inequalities and advocates for gender justice in climate actions, including women's rights, leadership, and participation in decision-making.</p> <div data-bbox="1675 400 2136 735" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>“</p> <p>I WOULD HAVE GIRLS REGARD THEMSELVES NOT AS ADJECTIVES BUT AS NOUNS.</p> <p>ELIZABETH CADY STANTON</p> <p><small>RD.COM/QUOTES</small></p> </div>
<p>Technological Framework</p>	<p>Focuses on technological solutions to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of renewable energy technologies (wind and solar) • Carbon capture and storage in Norway (tech that captures CO2 from fossil fuel power plants and deposits it underground) • Proposals for geoengineering solutions (weather modification - rainfall 	<p>Effects of technology can be both positive and negative for women.</p> <p>Can empower women by reducing time and labour required for household chores.</p> <p>Women who rely on informal income generating activities in rural areas such as manually gathering firewood and selling kerosene, shift to</p>	<p>Kenya: Use of solar cookers empowers women by reducing time and labor required for household chores.</p> <p>Ghana: Akosombo Dam resulted in displacement of communities, when communities were relocated women faced challenges in accessing water, and food and loss of livelihood (fishing disrupted)</p>	<p>Advocates for women's involvement and leadership in technology, and for considering how climate-related technologies can affect genders differently.</p>

		enhancement by cloud chamber laboratory)	renewable energy can reduce demand for these products leading to income loss		
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II Women and Indigenous Approaches Exclusion

Understanding Climate Crisis	Women's Exclusion	Indigenous Approaches
Scientific Framework	Women's knowledge and perspectives are often excluded from scientific research and data collection.	Mexico: Indigenous women in the state of Oaxaca have been using traditional techniques to conserve water and improve soil fertility. This includes using ancient farming methods, such as the use of terraces to prevent soil erosion and the use of organic fertilizers. These techniques have helped these communities to maintain agricultural productivity in the face of increasingly unpredictable rainfall due to climate change.
Economic Framework	Women are often excluded from economic decision-making and do not have equal access to financial resources to adapt to climate change.	Peru: Quechua women maintain and develop diversity in potatoes through traditional farming techniques, creating a living seed bank. The genetic diversity held in this traditional agroecosystem is a crucial resource for developing new crop varieties needed for climate adaptation.
Social and Political Framework	Women are often underrepresented in climate policymaking and negotiations. 	India: The women of the Chipko movement in the Himalayan region of India have played a vital role in conserving forests by hugging trees to prevent them from being cut down. Their actions not only helped to save local forests, but also promoted an understanding of the important role that forests play in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. Kenya: The Green Belt Movement, founded by the late Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai, has involved women in planting millions of trees to combat deforestation and soil erosion, thereby addressing both climate change and women's rights. The movement uses an approach grounded in the Kikuyu culture's tradition of women being the primary caretakers of the land and resources.
Technological Framework	Women are often excluded from technology development and decision-making and can face	India: for example, women in Rajasthan have built traditional water harvesting structures called 'johads' for centuries. These structures collect and conserve water in

barriers to accessing and benefiting from climate-related technologies.

areas with scarce rainfall, offering a sustainable way to adapt to changing water availability due to climate change.

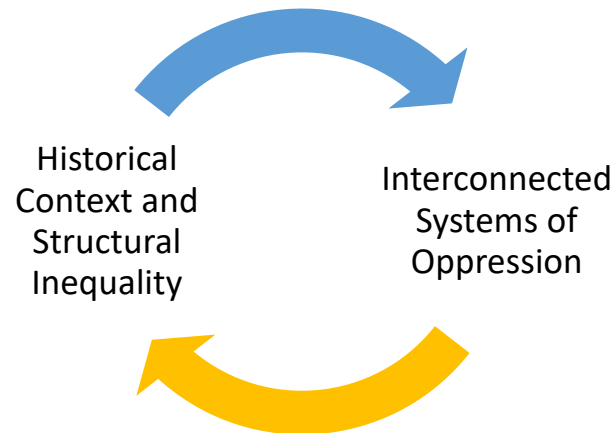
III

Why Must We Advance a Feminist Perspective to Climate Crisis




Understanding Climate Crisis	Justifications for Advancing a Feminist Perspective to Climate Crisis
Scientific Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge the dominant scientific narratives that often exclude the knowledge and experience of African women. • Encourage the inclusion of indigenous knowledge and the lived experiences of African women in scientific research and decision-making process.
Economic Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To call for economic systems that prioritise sustainability and social justice over profit
Social and Political Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demand from political systems to recognise and address the interconnected systems of oppression that contribute to the climate crisis. • Advocate for gender equity in climate negotiations and for laws that protect land rights of African women.
Technological Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advocate for research and investment in low tech solutions, such as the traditional water harvesting techniques used by women in many African communities.

IV
Why Do Women Have to Continuously Fight for Inclusion?



Historical Legacies: Impact of Colonialism and Capitalism on Current Climate Crisis

Colonialism	Impact
Control of resources	Rubber extraction in the Congo by Belgium led to deforestation and destabilisation of the local ecosystem.
Exploitation	
Disruption of existing social and ecological systems	Dutch colonialism in Indonesia involved large scale plantation agriculture (rubber, palm oil and spices) resulting in massive deforestation and habitat destruction.
Environmental degradation	
Political instability	UK's thirst for tea was met through extensive tea estates in India, resulting in massive deforestation which disrupted local ecosystems and reduced biodiversity.
Economic inequality	
Social disruption	
Made colonies vulnerable to impacts of climate change	British settlers systematically dismantled Aboriginal fire management practices, which had preserved the biodiversity of the continent for thousands of years. This has contributed to the more devastating wildfires witnessed today.

Capitalism	Impact
<p>Economic system prioritising profit and economic growth</p> <p>Encourages consumption at an unsustainable rate, therefore industries deplete natural resources and pollute.</p> <p>Promotes inequality and wealth concentration.</p> <p>Fails to account for the environmental costs of production and consumption.</p>	<p>Resource extraction - fossil fuel to minerals</p> <p>Consumerism - driving up GHG emissions (fashion industry produces 10% of all humanity's carbon emissions and is the 2nd largest consumer of the world's water supply)</p> <p>Inequality - wealthier nations contribute more to GHG emissions, have a greater capacity to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change, poor countries cannot</p> 

**Manifestations of Colonialism and Capitalism
Loss of Women's Agency**



**VII
Colonial and Capitalism Constructs Intersecting with Climate Crisis Impacting Women**

Health	Climate change exacerbates existing health disparities and poses unique risks to women and girls. They face increased risks during disasters, such as higher mortality rates, limited access to healthcare, and reproductive health challenges. For example, women and girls in developing countries often have limited access to menstrual hygiene products and face increased health risks due to inadequate sanitation and water scarcity
Financing and Economic Inequality	Women, particularly in developing countries, often face economic disparities and limited access to resources, making it challenging to adapt to climate change. They have limited access to credit, land, and productive assets, hindering their capacity to implement climate-resilient strategies and pursue sustainable livelihoods
Disability	Climate change impacts disproportionately affect people with disabilities, and this intersects with gender disparities. Women and girls with disabilities face multiple barriers in accessing resources, services, and adaptation measures. They may experience heightened vulnerabilities during disasters and have limited access to inclusive climate-related information and decision-making processes
Social Protection	Women, girls, and other minoritized groups face gaps in social protection systems, leaving them more exposed to climate risks. Existing gender inequalities in access to social protection programs, such as social security, pensions, and insurance, exacerbate vulnerabilities and hinder resilience-building efforts
Human Rights	Climate change has significant implications for human rights, including the right to life, health, food, water, and a safe environment. Women, girls, and minoritized groups often experience intersecting forms of discrimination, limiting their

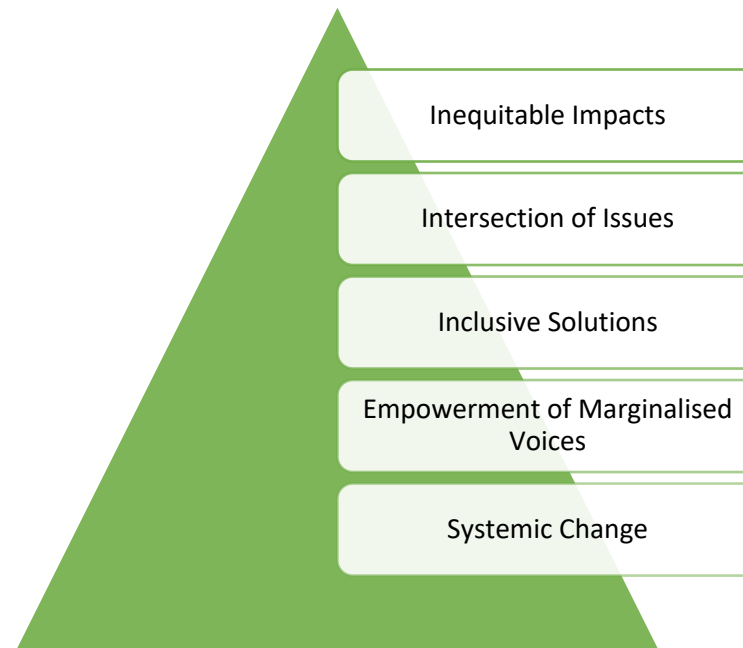
	ability to exercise their rights and access justice. Indigenous communities, for instance, face threats to their land rights, cultural heritage, and self-determination due to climate change impacts
Sustainable Development	Climate justice necessitates integrating climate action with sustainable development efforts. Ensuring gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights are central to sustainable development goals. Addressing gender disparities, empowering women and girls, and respecting the rights of all marginalized groups are crucial for achieving sustainable development in the face of climate change

VIII

Why Is a Feminist Perspective on the Climate Crisis Critical?


Intersectionality

(Impact of climate change is not experienced uniformly but rather disproportionately affect marginalised and oppressed communities. Factors such as race, gender, socio-economic status and geographic location intersect to influence how individuals and communities are affected by and respond to the climate crisis)



Inequitable Impacts	Climate change does not impact all groups equally. People who are marginalized due to factors like race, gender, class, disability, and geographical location are often more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to existing social, economic, and political inequities. An intersectional perspective helps us understand and address these disproportionate impacts.	The Pacific Island nations are facing existential threats from rising sea levels caused by climate change. These nations, including Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands, often lack the resources to effectively respond to these threats. Within these nations, intersectional impacts emerge. For instance, women, due to gendered roles and responsibilities, often face greater challenges in the wake of climate-induced displacement, such as increased risk of violence and loss of livelihoods.
Intersection of Issues	Climate change intersects with many other social, economic, and political issues, including poverty, migration, health, and gender inequality. An intersectional approach allows us to understand and address these interconnected issues holistically, rather than in isolation.	The prolonged drought in East Africa, exacerbated by climate change, has led to food insecurity and famine in countries like Somalia and Ethiopia. Women, who are often responsible for providing food and water for their households, are particularly affected. The scarcity of resources can also exacerbate social tensions and conflicts, forcing women and children to migrate and making them more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.
Inclusive Solutions	Intersectionality can help ensure that solutions to the climate crisis are inclusive and just. By recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by different groups, we can develop solutions that are responsive to diverse needs and circumstances. This can help prevent climate solutions from inadvertently exacerbating existing inequalities.	In India, the organization Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) has been working with rural women to build climate-resilient livelihoods. By including women in climate decision-making processes and supporting their capacity to innovate and lead, SSP has facilitated the development of local solutions to climate change that address gender-specific needs and contribute to community resilience.
Empowerment of Marginalised Voices	An intersectional approach emphasizes the importance of including diverse voices, especially those of marginalized and frontline communities, in decision-making processes related to climate change. This can lead to more effective, equitable, and sustainable climate solutions.	The Standing Rock Sioux protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline in the United States was a powerful demonstration of Indigenous resistance to environmental destruction. Many of the leaders and activists in this movement were Indigenous women, who were defending not only their land and water but also their cultural heritage and rights.
Systemic Change	Finally, intersectionality highlights the need for systemic change to address the climate crisis. It recognizes that the climate crisis is not just an environmental issue, but a symptom of deeper social, economic, and political imbalances. By addressing the root causes of these imbalances, we can create a more sustainable and equitable world.	The Green New Deal proposal in the United States, advocated by politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, aims to address climate change and economic inequality simultaneously. It recognizes that the transition to a sustainable economy must be just and inclusive, creating good jobs and addressing social inequality, rather than perpetuating existing systems of exploitation and oppression.

IX Going Forward

Creative Ideas		Explanation	Examples
Ecofeminist Artivism		Encouraging the use of art, creativity, and storytelling as tools for raising awareness and inspiring action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Climate Ribbon" project that uses interactive art installations to engage and raise awareness about climate change. • Street murals and graffiti that depict the intersection of feminist and environmental themes.
Community Resilience Hubs		Establishing community-based centers that serve as hubs for education, resource sharing, and climate adaptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Transition Town" movement, which establishes local community hubs to promote sustainable practices and build resilience. • The "Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)" that supports community-led projects and knowledge sharing.
Feminist Climate Funds		Establishing feminist-led climate funds that prioritize supporting grassroots projects and women-led initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA)" that provides funding and support to women-led grassroots organizations working on climate justice. • The "Womens' Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO)" that mobilizes resources for feminist climate initiatives.
Intergenerational Mentoring		Fostering intergenerational connections and knowledge sharing between experienced feminist activists and young climate activists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Women's Earth Alliance" mentorship programs that connect experienced ecofeminist activists with emerging young climate leaders. • Intergenerational dialogues and workshops organized by youth-led climate organizations.
Green Care Work Recognition		Advocating for the recognition and valuation of care work, including unpaid domestic labour and community-based environmental stewardship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Care Income Now" campaign that advocates for recognizing and valuing unpaid care work in economic and climate policies. • Community-based initiatives that provide support and resources for caregivers in the transition to sustainable lifestyles.