



***Addressing critical climate issues and creating a new agenda for Africa's sustainable development demands putting women at the Centre of shaping the new agenda and in implementing Africa's sustainable development.***

**Side Event Theme: "Empower Women to Overcome Threats and Climate-Aggravated Vulnerabilities."**

**Date:** September 8, 2023 **Time:** 9.00am – 10.00am **Venue:** Lenana Hall (KICC)

University of Nairobi, African Women Studies Centre (AWSC) in partnership with The State Department for Housing and Urban Development, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), and The Commonwealth Secretariat are partnering to host a side-event during the Africa Climate Week from September 4-8, 2023 under the theme *Empower Women to Overcome Threats and Climate-Aggravated Vulnerabilities*. It is under this partnership framework that the AWSC articulates its work which directly touches on climate and biodiversity in the following paragraphs.

## **AWSC's WORK IN RELATION TO CLIMATE ACTION**

### **EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH ON WHAT WORKS IN BUILDING WOMEN'S ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. African Women Studies Centre's research on entrepreneurship and value-addition studied women entrepreneurs in 20 counties where impacts of climate change is high and where value additions can lead to increased income and adaptation to climate change.
2. Researches in the areas of food security.
3. Researches in the areas of the impact of care work on women's productivity.
4. Research on Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

The findings show that there are models that can be used to reduce women's vulnerabilities, increase their adaptive capacities to climate change and increase their income. Further, through value addition which protects biodiversity, embracing climate resilient crops, and protecting women's income are key to climate adaptation.

<p><b>HOW AWSC USES RESEARCH OUTCOMES TO INFORM CLIMATE ACTION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Evidence Based Policy Influencing:</b> National Gender &amp; Development Policy, The East African Community (EAC) ScoreCard on Gender, Fiscal Policies on Child Care and Women’s Work at the national and county levels, Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS), Food Security Policy, National &amp; County Policies and Budgets. Currently working with other partners, on the National Social Protection Bill and The Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2023.</li> <li><b>Testing Models for Replication and Capacity Building:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>incubating women’s enterprises – (access to finance, access to markets, Technology Transfer, mentorship).</li> <li>testing the impact of child care work on women’s work.</li> <li>documenting women’s experiences – constitution making, self-mobilization, National Alliance Building for Women’s Economic Empowerment (NABWEE).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Collaborations, Partnerships and Linkages:</b> Government Ministries; Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Private Sector, Women’s networks, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), United Cities &amp; Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), UN-Women etc.</li> <li><b>Development of tools and frameworks:</b> Gender Aware Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Framework for Climate action (gender analysis tools)–kunming-montreal global biodiversity framework Target 22.</li> </ol>
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# CALL TO ACTION

1.	<p><b>Invest in research and evidence generation on women and gender transformative climate action as a pathway for evidence-informed policy and decision-making on climate action.</b> AWSC experience with 14 women’s incubation projects has promising good practices that can be scaled up to good practices.</p>
2.	<p><b>Increase access to climate finance for gender-transformative, women-led, women-owned, and women-benefiting organizations that address climate change.</b></p>

3.	<p><b>Foster women’s self-mobilisation, inclusion and leadership for strengthened women’s participation in climate action at all levels of decision making.</b></p> <p>Initiatives such as UCLGA provide an opportunity to intentionally invest in working with women and women leaders at multiple levels in shaping and implementing a new climate agenda for Africa: leaders at local, national, regional and international levels and national governments and with women in rural and urban settings to address the centrality of women’s representation, participation and financing of women’s climate change challenges. Building leadership capacities of women in climate action and building a network of high-level women leaders on climate action (ministerial and local government networks) can contribute to transformations in inclusion, participation and better outcomes for women.</p>
4.	<p><b>Invest in the development of a framework for monitoring progress on implementation of the interventions related to climate change and biodiversity and gender.</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Develop context specific gender and policy analysis tools</b> to be used by policy makers and implementers, agencies and departments on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.</p>

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University of Nairobi, African Women Studies Centre  
Making Women Count in Climate Action, Environment & Biodiversity