



REPORT OF A TWO DAYS WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Kigali, at M-Hotel
31st July-1st August 2024**

WORKSHOP REPORT¹

1. Introduction

From July 31st to August 1st, 2024, in Kigali at M-Hotel there was a National Workshop on Gender and Climate Change. The workshop was jointly organized by Women's for Water and Climate Cooperation Network (WWCCN), GIZ and Kvinna till Kvinna in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

The workshop was attended by a number participants amounting to 102 from State and Non-State Agencies including Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations, Media houses, Research and Academia Agencies as well as Development Partners all engaged in gender and climate change intersectional areas.

2. Overall and specific objectives of the workshop

The primary objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and experiences, build a strong cross-sectoral network, work in synergy and collectively take gender-climate responsive actions while removing all challenges that hinder women from playing their roles in the water and climate sectors. Government institutions expressed their commitment to collaborating with civil society organizations to overcome obstacles related to gender and climate change.

Specific objectives of the workshop were the following:

- Bring together different stakeholders including State and non-State actors, academia and research agencies, to foster collaboration about gender, climate change and policy interfaces,
- Enhance and formalize stakeholder network and collaboration frameworks on gender and climate agenda in Rwanda
- Inform stakeholders about the bilateral and multilateral policy frameworks and gender – climate responsive initiatives from UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and National perspectives
- Brief stakeholders about the ongoing gender-climate responsive actions undertaken by various actors in Rwanda;
- Raise awareness about climate induced impacts and mitigation measures to curve the effects on women and men livelihoods in Rwanda.
- Kick off an initial multi-stakeholder dialogue gathering policymakers, practitioners, influencers, activists, and researchers working on gender and climate change agenda in

¹ Prepared by Dr. Patrick K. Safari, Ph.D and Diane Uwamariya on behalf of the GIZ NDC CD project

Rwanda.

DAY ONE: MORNING SESSION

3. Proceeding of the workshop

3.1. Opening Session

The workshop was enthusiastically moderated by two experienced ladies namely **Frida Uwera and Ange Gaju Umutoni**. After the introductory remarks delivered by moderators focusing on the background, objectives, proceeding, and expected results of the workshop, there were some opening and welcome remarks delivered as follows:

a) Opening Remarks by Verdiane Nyiramana, the chairperson of WWCCN.

Madame Verdiane Nyiramana welcomed warmly the participants and thanked them for attending the workshop. She highlighted the objectives of workshop and emphasized that it was organized with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and capacity of women to champion gender equality, climate resilience and sustainable management of natural resources. She also expressed her gratitude to the partners such as GIZ, Kvinna till Kvinna who co-organized the workshop and provided financial and technical support to make the workshop very successful.

b) Opening Remarks by Annette Mukiga, Country Director of Kvinna till Kvinna

Mrs Annette Mukiga expressed her excitement about the workshop, highlighting the importance of the workshop to address critical issues related to gender equality, women's participation in climate change and environmental protection programs. She thanked WWCCN and GIZ for their joint efforts and collaboration in organizing the event so successfully. She expressed her hope that the workshop will lead to continued collaboration and inclusion of more partners in future. She appreciated the presence of both female and male participants, noting that gender issues require joint efforts from both men and women. She wished fruitful discussions to the participants and positive outcomes the will inform what actions are to be done collectively in collaborative and cooperative manner.

c) Opening Remarks by Natalie Neema, Gender Focal Point for Climate, Energy, and Sustainable Urban Development Cluster at GIZ

Natalie Neema welcomed participants to the workshop, emphasizing its significance in addressing the intersection between gender and climate change. She highlighted Rwanda case as role model of

building climate resilience and green environment. Neema pointed that climate change is a multifaceted crisis that disproportionately impacting women and girls, especially in sub-Saharan Region. She underscored the vital role of women as agents of change and the importance of their leadership championing innovative solutions in building climate resilience. The workshop, she said, symbolizes a collective and inclusive pathway for sustainability and bridging gender disparity gaps. Over the next two days, participants will engage in discussions, share knowledge, and build strong partnership and networking. She encouraged everyone to fruitfully contribute into discussion with an open mind and a collaborative spirit, and come up with a roadmap of collaborative actions in future that prioritizes gender equality and climate resilience programs. Neema thanked all participants for their dedication and involvement in the 2 Days' workshop.

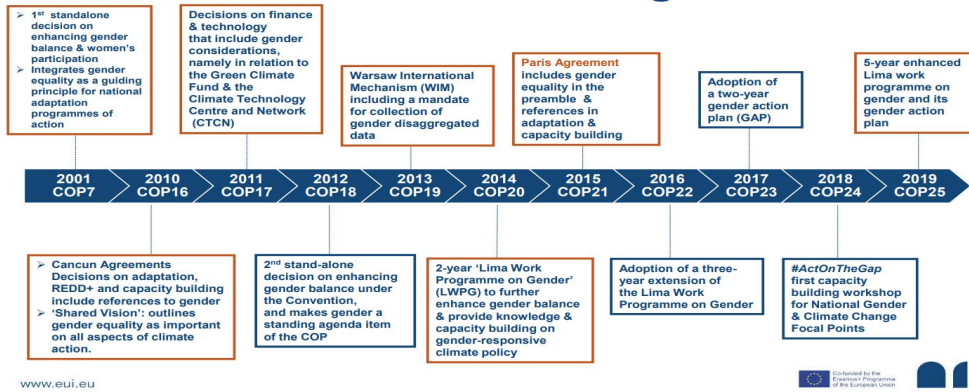
4. Topics presented during the workshop on DAY1

A. Presentation by Dr. Pascal Lopez, from GIZ on *How Gender is Integrated into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the NDCs*

In his presentation, Dr. Pascal Lopez highlighted how gender considerations are integrated into the UNFCCC and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Paris Agreement, which entered into force in 2016, aims to lower global temperature rise to below 2°C with the aim of to keeping it to 1.5°C. The NDCs, which outline each country's efforts and commitment to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change, are updated every five years.

Dr Pascal indicated to the audience that Rwanda was the first country to submit its NDCs. Along his presentation, he highlighted that countries adopted to embark on the journey of gender mainstreaming into climate agenda right from the Paris Conference of Parties (COP) in reference to COP25's agreement on a five-year enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (GAP), with the below features

Gender mainstreaming in climate action



Key topics covered during gender and UNFCCC are:

- Capacity Building:** Strengthening institutional, systemic, and human resources to foster gender balance in decision-making.
- Financial Inclusion:** Resource mobilization strategies and ensuring equal participation.
- Mitigation Actions:** Considering gender equity from the planning stage, with benefits reaching local levels.
- Technology Access:** Information and training on appropriate technologies to enhance gender mainstreaming efforts.
- Adaptation:** Implementing long-term gender-sensitive plans.

B. Presentation by Olive Byukusenge, from REMA on *Women and Gender at COP 28 and Outlook for COP 29*

Olive Byukusenge shared an overview of key gender-related actions and initiatives from COP7, COP16, COP18, COP20, COP22, COP25, COP26, COP27, and COP28, focusing on six main areas:

- Leadership and Decision-Making:** Increasing women's participation in leadership and promoting gender balance within national delegations.
- Vulnerability and Resilience:** Addressing specific impacts of climate change on women, including health impacts.
- Climate Finance:** Ensuring women have access to climate finance mechanisms.
- Data and Research:** Encouraging gender-disaggregated data collection and research on gender and climate change.
- Advocacy and Intersectionality:** Highlighting the importance of gender in climate action and recognizing the diverse experiences of women.
- Education and Capacity Building:** Empowering women through education and capacity-building initiatives.

Participants Reactions:

During the discussion, several participants raised insightful and informative thoughts articulated on the questions and comments:

One participant emphasized the critical need for comprehensive data on how climate change disproportionately affects women and children. Others highlighted the importance of documenting these impacts at both national and global levels to inform policy and decision making processes and actions to be taken. Participants pointed that these data are vital for building resilience, particularly for women and for raising awareness about the issues, as there are still significant gaps in understanding the gender-climate nexus concept.

Participants also raised the necessity of collaborating with researchers on gender and climate change issues for better understanding the nexus aspect. They pointed the importance of some initiatives like fellowship for women in climate change science, which can involve women researchers across Africa. Such programs could also help advocates and gender activists obtain gender disaggregated information and data. Participant also underscored the importance of considering the African context, noting that gender-related issues in Africa might differ from those in other regions and require specific solutions.

During discussion, there was a concern about the accessibility of information on climate change impacts for poor women in rural areas, particularly in Kinyarwanda local language. Participant suggested that efforts should be made to translate useful information to ensure that these communities fully understand how climate change affects their livelihood.

Another question was raised about how to measure and address the projected impact of climate change on women by 2050. The concern was particularly about disaster preparedness, noting that during crises, women and children are often the most vulnerable. Participants questioned what proactive adaptation steps are being taken at the grassroots level to mitigate these challenges and ensure that specific women's needs are addressed in national and international climate arena.

Responses to the questions raised

The presenter responded to all questions by explaining that Rwanda has integrated gender considerations into its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other national strategies. The ongoing efforts include translating important climate-related decisions into Kinyarwanda, to enable broader understanding and participation by local communities. The presenter also highlighted that the

government started allocating funds specifically for gender-responsive activities, ensuring that women are actively involved in all stages of climate-related interventions.

In response to the queries about increasing public awareness and collaboration, it was noted that the government and partnering organizations are working to disseminate information in accessible formats. This includes providing materials in Kinyarwanda and ensuring that complex technical terms are explained in simpler language. Additionally, there is a focus on including civil society organizations (CSOs) in these efforts, fostering greater community involvement and innovation to address climate change.

A representative from the Ministry of Environment elaborated on the implementation of NDCs at the district level. It was clarified that a number of awareness-raising workshops have been conducted across all districts to ensure that the goals and actions outlined in the NDCs are understood and acted upon locally. The representative emphasized that women's issues and climate change are cross-cutting concerns, and the Ministry has a dedicated focal point for women's issues. This ensures that gender equality barriers as well as climate, water, and environmental concerns are addressed in all sectors.

C. Presentation by Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga on *Bridging the Gap: Policy Innovations to Put Women at the Center of Food System Transformation in Africa*

Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga delivered an insightful presentation on the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and the necessity of innovative policies to empower them. With high appreciation, the presenter highlighted the remarkable presence of women in agriculture sector amounting to 87% of women in farming industry. However, despite their large numbers, women still face numerous barriers to success in this field. Dr. Niyonsenga indicated that women are underrepresented among agronomists, Agricultural engineers and veterinarians, out of 460 professionals in these fields, most of them are men.

Women in agriculture encounter a variety of challenges, particularly in the face of climate change. They are often the most affected by extreme weather events such as droughts and floods that devastate crops and food production. Beyond these environmental challenges, women face systemic issues including limited access to crucial resources like land, finance, information, energy, and water.

Additionally, they have fewer business opportunities and often lack the infrastructure necessary to succeed in agriculture. Another major issue is the disproportionate burden of unpaid work, with women in Africa spending over 10 hours per day on such tasks, which further

limits their ability to engage in paid employment or entrepreneurial activities.

Dr. Niyonsenga outlined several legal and policy landscape at global and continental level that support women's empowerment, with the below highlights:

- **African Frameworks:**

- a) African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Women's Rights (Maputo Protocol), 2004: This is a comprehensive human rights instrument that seeks to guarantee extensive rights to women, including the right to participate in the political process, social and political equality with men, and reproductive rights.
- b) Gender Policy, 2009: This policy aims to promote gender equality and empower women, focusing on the elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for men and women.
- c) Malabo Declaration, 2014: a commitment to transforming agriculture in Africa, with a focus on improving nutrition and boosting food security, which includes recognizing the critical role of women.
- d) Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063, 2015: A celebration and acknowledgment of the contributions of African women towards the continent's development and a call to action to accelerate efforts towards gender equality.

- **Regional Economic Communities Policy Frameworks:**

- 1) COMESA Gender Policy, 2002: Focuses on mainstreaming gender perspectives in all COMESA programs, promoting gender equality, and empowering women.
- 2) ECOWAS Revised Treaty on Women and Development, 1993: Aims to eliminate gender disparities and promote women's empowerment within the ECOWAS member states.
- 3) EAC Gender Policy, 2018: Sets the agenda for gender equality in the East African Community, including the promotion of women's participation in all sectors.
- 4) ECCAS Gender Policy, 2019: Seeks to advance gender equality and women's empowerment within the Economic Community of Central African States.

- **Global Policy Frameworks:**

- a) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Particularly SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- b) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women (CEDAW), 1979: A key international treaty focused on women's rights, seeking to eliminate discrimination against women in all forms.

- c) Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 1995: Focuses on the rights and empowerment of rural women, recognizing their significant contributions to agriculture and rural development.

Dr. Niyonsenga also presented specific countries that have made notable progress in empowering women in the agricultural sector. From a pool of ten countries, including Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Togo, Morocco, Tunisia, and Eswatini, he highlighted that Rwanda, Ethiopia, Togo, and Ghana were selected as exemplary cases. These countries have implemented policies and initiatives that have successfully increased women's participation and success in agriculture.

The presenter pointed several opportunities that can help bridge the gender gap in agriculture:

- a. Extension Services: Providing women with access to machinery and digital solutions to enhance food production. This includes technologies that can simplify farming processes and increase productivity.
- b. Post-Harvest & Processing: Introducing labor-saving technologies and offering training services to improve post-harvest handling and processing. This can reduce the workload for women and increase the quality and marketability of agricultural products.
- c. Distribution & Trade: Improving access to storage facilities and markets, as well as facilitating transboundary trade to empower women economically. This includes creating platforms that allow women to sell their products beyond local markets.
- d. Training: Offering training on modern farming techniques, business skills, and transformational leadership. This helps women gain the skills needed to manage farms and agricultural businesses effectively.
- e. Policies: Promoting women's representation in political and decision-making spheres, ensuring that their voices are heard in policy development and implementation.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of comprehensive policy frameworks and the need for concerted efforts to empower women in agriculture. He underlined that by addressing these challenges and leveraging available opportunities, Africa can make significant strides toward transforming its food systems and achieving sustainable development.

He ended his presentation by recommending the following:



The participants' comments and reactions were articulated on the following:

1. Education and Empowerment: one participant highlighted that while women have gained more opportunities in education, there is still a significant gap at higher level, particularly in obtaining PhDs. He indicated that as women age, they often face increased responsibilities, which can hinder their educational and professional advancement. Participants also emphasized the importance of empowering women from the grassroots level, encouraging them to think critically and creatively about solving the challenges they face on ground.

2. Access to Technology and Research Promotion: participants also raised concerns about the availability and affordability of labor-saving technologies for women, particularly in rural areas. They questioned how these technologies, which could significantly reduce the time women spend on household tasks, are being made accessible and affordable in Rwanda. Additionally, they suggested to promote research in schools on practical tools and solutions to address these challenges.

Response: It was acknowledged that while technologies are available in Rwanda, such as those for processing beans and other food grains are more efficiently, they are often not affordable for many women. Participants recommended that the government would set related policies that support the accessibility and affordability of these technologies.

3. Challenging Gender Stereotypes and Systems: The Country Director of Kvinna Till Kvinna underscored the importance of addressing and challenging gender stereotypes that hinder women's empowerment. She called for an "unlearning" of these stereotypes and the adoption of a narrative that accurately represents women's

capabilities and contributions. She also advocated for holding systems accountable and creating supportive environments for women and girls, including maintaining affirmative actions and addressing barriers to accessing finance and land.

4. Implementation of Policies and Support for Women Farmers:

There was a discussion on whether the Malabo Declaration is being effectively implemented, particularly regarding the support for the 87% of women identified as farmers in Rwanda. It was noted that while CSOs provide some resources like cooking stoves and irrigation systems, there are still challenges in transforming these resources, such as water and solar energy, into practical agricultural solutions.

5. Support for Vulnerable Women: Another participant raised concerns about young, vulnerable women and single mothers who lack access to land or parental property but still have to take care of their children. They questioned whether the proposed interventions adequately address issues such as domestic violence, which can further hinder women's development.

Response: It was acknowledged that access to land resource remains a significant issue, with 80% of people in Rwanda living on less than one hectare. Additionally, the rising number of domestic violence cases needs to be considered when designing interventions.

6. Collaboration and Practical Support: A representative from an international academic institution mentioned their work on projects that involve partnering with local NGOs. They bring students from the USA to work on specific tasks like running social media campaigns and writing articles, aiming to contribute to the development of women in the region.

7. Global Industrialization and Climate Justice: one participant noted the global focus on industrialization and its impact on raising the level temperatures. The audience questioned whether the strategies discussed take into account the greenhouse gas emissions from major industrialized countries like China, Japan, and the USA.

Response: The discussion underscored the need for climate justice and climate finance to support developing countries in growing crops sustainably. It was noted that crop failures in regions like the Southern Province of Rwanda are often accompanied by increases in domestic violence, highlighting the interconnectedness of these issues.

8. Financial Barriers and Advocacy: A participant shared the challenges faced by women engaged in climate resilience activities, such as managing avocado farms, and the financial barriers they encounter. They sought advice on overcoming these obstacles.

Response: The response emphasized the need for advocacy for farmer-friendly policies and encouraged collaboration with government bodies like the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI, RAB and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

9. Inclusive Research: The need for research that considers specific groups of women, such as those with disabilities, was also raised. It was argued that addressing the unique needs of these groups is crucial for social inclusivity purpose.

DAY ONE: AFTERNOON SESSION

- Presentation by Dr. Pascal Lopez, from GIZ on ***Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Gender***

Dr. Pascal Lopez highlighted the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in providing a scientific basis for developing climate-related policies and supporting negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPCC's work is crucial for gender-responsive climate action, as it offers comprehensive assessments on the state of scientific, technical, and socio-economic knowledge on climate change.

The IPCC is organized into three Working Groups and a Task Force:

1. Working Group I: Focuses on the Physical Science Basis of Climate Change.
2. Working Group II: Deals with Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.
3. Working Group III: Concerned with the Mitigation of Climate Change.
4. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Develops methodologies for calculating and reporting national greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

The IPCC's comprehensive Assessment Reports and Special Reports on specific topics provide essential guidelines for preparing greenhouse gas inventories and understanding the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Lopez emphasized that in situations of poverty for women often face higher risks and burdens from climate change impacts. Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labor markets exacerbates inequalities, limiting their contributions to climate-related planning, policy-making, and implementation. The IPCC's work includes providing an evidence base and understanding the impacts of climate change on both men and women, as well as recognizing the vital role of women in addressing these challenges.

Furthermore, the presentation pointed out a significant gap in scientific evidence about climate change from Africa, particularly Rwanda, and the specific impacts on gender. This lack of data can negatively affect women, as it may lead to inadequate policy responses that fail to address their unique vulnerabilities and contributions to climate action.

For more information, refer to the IPCC's Gender Workshop Final Report

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2024/06/IPCC_Gender-workshop_SB60-3June_final.pdf and the Sixth Assessment Report on Gender Considerations - <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/chapter-9/>.

- Presentation by Annette Mukiga on ***Gender, Women's Rights, Environment, and Climate Change in Rwanda***

Annette Mukiga from Kvinna Till Kvinna presented the findings of a comprehensive study on the intersection of gender, women's rights, environment, and climate change in Rwanda. The study aimed to provide a contextual background of relevant laws, policies, and initiatives and to generate an intersectional gender and power analysis of these issues in the country. The study also conducted an environmental assessment of Partner Organizations working with Kvinna Till Kvinna and provided detailed and actionable recommendations for integrating environmental and climate change concerns into the program's thematic focus areas, such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Participation. Additionally, the study mapped relevant stakeholders and actors in the Environmental and Climate Change (ECC) sector.

Key Findings of the study include:

1. Environmental Challenges:

- Land Scarcity: Limited availability of land.
- Soil Degradation and Erosion: Widespread deterioration of soil quality and loss of fertile topsoil.
- Deforestation: Significant loss of forest cover, leading to ecological failure.
- And loss of Biodiversity.

2. Contributing Factors:

- High Dependency on Subsistence Agriculture: A significant portion of the population relies on small-scale farming for survival.
- Low Coping Capacities: Approximately 36% of the population is categorized as poor, with 16% living in extreme poverty.
- Rapid Population Growth: Increased population density on limited land area exacerbates resource strain.
- Rapid Urbanization: Urban expansion contributes to environmental stress.

3. Gender-Specific Impacts:

- Women's Vulnerability: As 87% of farmers are women, they are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental degradation.

- Unrealistic Expectations: Women are often expected to generate sufficient income and food for their families, even during adverse conditions like prolonged droughts that lead to poor harvests.
- Coercive Control: In some households, men exert control over limited family resources, dictating their usage and limiting women's autonomy.
- Negative Coping Mechanisms: Men may turn to alcohol consumption and other behaviors in response to economic stress, sometimes resulting in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) within the home.

4. Intersectional Challenges:

- Women with Disabilities: These women face severe challenges, experiencing discrimination not only as women but also due to their disabilities. For those who are illiterate, the challenges are even more severe, as they may lack access to essential information and resources to cope with ECC effects.

The presentation emphasized the need for inclusive policies and targeted interventions to address the unique vulnerabilities and contributions of women, particularly those with disabilities, in the face of environmental and climate challenges. The study's recommendations aim to promote gender equality and empower women as key actors in environmental stewardship and climate resilience.

- Presentation by Honorine Isingizwe on ***Granular Gender and Climate Change Vulnerability Hotspot Mapping for Decision Support in Rwanda***"

Honorine Isingizwe presented a detailed study conducted by the African Group of Negotiators Expert Support, funded by the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the Rwandan government. This ground-breaking research aimed to map gender and climate change vulnerability hotspots, specifically within the agricultural sector of Rwanda. As the pilot country, Rwanda provided a unique context for identifying the nexus of gender, agriculture, and climate change in 2022.

Objectives of the Study

The primary goal of the study was to generate reliable and actionable sex-disaggregated data. This data enables stakeholders, including policymakers, to identify critical locations, sectors, and actions required for gender-responsive climate action. The granular mapping of vulnerability hotspots serves as a decision-support tool, allowing for targeted interventions that can improve women's access to technology, finance, and capacity building for adaptation and resilience.

Key Findings and Insights

1. Engagement of Women in Agriculture:

- The study highlighted that a significant proportion of Rwandan women and girls (>70%) are involved in farming activities. However, they face substantial barriers, including limited access to land, agricultural inputs, finance, and markets, as corroborated by a 2018 UN Women report.

2. Rationale for Gender Hotspot Mapping:

- Evidence-Based Approaches: There is a critical need for an evidence base to develop transformative approaches that enhance women's and girls' capabilities and opportunities for climate action, particularly in agriculture and related sectors.

- Policy Mainstreaming: The study emphasized the importance of integrating the global UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) into national policies. This ensures that gender considerations are not only acknowledged but are actively addressed in climate strategies.

3. Geographic Distribution of Vulnerability:

- General Vulnerability: While climate vulnerability is generally higher in the eastern districts of Rwanda, the study found that gender and agriculture-related risks and impacts are significant across the entire country. This indicates that the challenges faced by women in agriculture are not confined to specific geographic areas but are widespread.
- Critical Hotspots: The most critical hotspots of vulnerability were identified in the East and Central districts of Rwanda. These regions exhibit high to very high levels of risk, underscoring the urgent need for targeted, gender-responsive interventions.

Implications for Policy and Action

The findings from this study provide a vital tool for policymakers and other stakeholders. By highlighting specific areas where women are most vulnerable, the study offers a roadmap for implementing targeted measures. These measures include improving women's access to climate-resilient technologies, enhancing their financial inclusion, and providing tailored capacity-building programs. Such actions are crucial for building resilience and enabling women to actively participate in and benefit from climate action initiatives.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists: Annette Mukiga and Honorine Isingizwe (from REMA)

Topic: *Climate Science and Gender*

Key Questions and Responses

1. *Question to Annette Mukiga: How does climate change impact men and women differently? What are the different aspects of women's economic opportunities, livelihood, and health in a climate-changing context?*

Answer: Mukiga reiterated that women face climate induced challenges which disproportionately affects their economic opportunities, livelihoods, and health. She emphasized that climate actions must prioritize creating economic opportunities, such as green jobs, specifically for women. This approach is essential for diversifying income sources and promoting economic development. She called upon for collective efforts to ensure that women and girls are included in climate-related programs.

2. *Question to Honorine Isingizwe: Role of Gender Equality in Reducing Vulnerability and Building Climate Resilience.*

Answer: Gender equality is crucial for reducing the burden on women regarding family labor by promoting shared responsibilities. It enables women to access financial resources, land, and other assets. Providing them with greater protection and resilience against climate impacts is very crucial. Isingizwe emphasized that gender equality helps distribute the impacts of climate change more equitably, reducing the overall vulnerability of families and communities.

3. *Question to Honorine Isingizwe : How do you assess the quantity and quality of evidence and research knowledge? Is there a need for more research on gender and climate change in Rwanda, and how can we provide it?*

Answer: Isingizwe agreed on the need for more comprehensive research on gender and climate change in Rwanda. She highlighted the importance of understanding the specific challenges and barriers that women face to develop effective interventions. Collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and academic institutions is essential to ensure that research informs both policy-making and implementation. This partnership can help to bridge the knowledge gaps and generate workable actions for tackling gender- climate related issues.

4. *Question to Olive Byukusenge: Are there specific climate change policies that have successfully addressed gender disparities at national and global levels? Can you provide examples of successful gender-responsive climate policies?*

Answer: Rwanda has ratified various international conventions and obligations that are aligned with gender action plans. The Environment and Climate Resilience Policy, along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), guides these efforts. In 2019,

REMA conducted a study on gender in environment and climate mainstreaming, leading to the development of a gender mainstreaming strategy. This strategy has become a reference for planning processes. Additionally, projects like the ones that are being implemented in Mayaga focus on restoring agro-forests and increasing food crops, with a particular emphasis on supporting women-led households. By providing cooking stoves and facilitating access to funding, these initiatives aim to empower women and promote gender equity in climate actions.

5. Question to All Panelists: How can we ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation strategies are gender-sensitive?

Answer:

Panelists underscored the importance of evidence-based approaches and sufficient funding for women-led projects in climate actions. They advocated for more workshops and meetings to inform stakeholders about women's livelihood status and the specific challenges they face. Policies must be informed by scientific research on gender and climate change, ensuring inclusive decision-making processes, especially for vulnerable groups. Meaningful collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to avoid duplicating efforts and develop innovative strategies. The participation of vulnerable populations from the outset is vital to ensure their voices are heard. Monitoring and accountability mechanisms must be established to track the impact of initiatives on affected families and individuals.

Questions from the Audience

1. **Menstruation and Climate Change:** Climate change affects menstruation, causing delays, irregularities, and increased flow, which consequently increases the need for menstrual pads. Has the Government considered reducing taxes on menstrual pads? Additionally, could the rise in early pregnancies be related to climate change affecting menstrual cycles, making it difficult for girls to track their cycles?

Answer from Olive Byukusenge: she acknowledged that climate change has numerous negative impacts, but noted that there is no conclusive scientific evidence linking climate change directly to menstrual irregularities.

The discussion also touched on the lack of direct Government action regarding the taxation of menstrual products.

2. **Gender-Responsive Interventions and the Role of Men:** In gender-responsive interventions, what role do men play, and how are they being sensitized on this topic?

Answer from Annette Mukiga: men are crucial allies in addressing women's issues. Men's involvement and awareness are essential achieving gender equality. Men should inevitably be included in gender-responsive interventions, due to their role in supporting women's empowerment and shared responsibilities.

4. **Success Stories and Focus on Disabilities:** Is there a success story involving a woman with a disability from REMA's initiatives? Why isn't disability one of the thematic areas in climate action?

Answer from Olive Byukusenge: While there isn't a specific success story to address this, women with disabilities are included in REMA's activities. There is a recognition of the need to focus more on this group.

Question to Annette (KTK): Is KTK looking for new partners to work on climate change, potentially leaving behind existing partners?

Answer from Annette: KTK is not abandoning existing partners but is seeking experts to expand knowledge in various topics, including climate change.

Honorine added that the research did not specifically focus on women with disabilities but suggested that future studies could produce a policy brief focusing on this **SPECIAL** group.

4. **Question to Honorine: Adaptation vs. Mitigation and Gender Balance in Decision-Making**

Answer: The primary focus has been on adaptation due to Africa's lower contribution to carbon emissions and economic instability. While adaptation is prioritized, mitigation measures are still part of the broader strategy, especially as they relate to building climate resilience.

Question to all panellists: Since today 60% of decision-makers in the Government organs are women, is this true gender balance? What if this number increases to 80% in the future?

Answer: Panelists noted that the representation of women in decision-making reflects broader societal efforts towards gender equality. The high percentage of women in leadership is seen as a positive outcome of these efforts, and they emphasized that these women represent all citizens, not just women.

5. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Research:** Has there been any recent research at the national level to quantify CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions?

Answer from Olive Byukusenge: Rwanda, as part of the UNFCCC, is required to report on greenhouse gas emissions. The most recent study was conducted in 2018, and another comprehensive report

covering 2019-2022 will be published by September 2024. This report will be part of Rwanda's biennial transparent report, contributing to the revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025.

6. Question to Olive and Annette: What can be done to bridge the gap between gender and climate, and how are women-led CSOs engaged in COP29?

Answer: Panelists highlighted the importance of including women in decision-making processes, especially those in leadership positions. However, there is still a need to enhance their knowledge and negotiating abilities. Before COP meetings, Rwanda holds national consultative meetings where various stakeholders, including CSOs, share their insights. This ensures that representatives at COP meetings have comprehensive and accurate information reflecting the country's context.

Panelists concluded by emphasizing the importance of collaboration, long-term transformative interventions, and innovative solutions to achieve climate resilience and gender equality.

Wrap-up of day 1 by Verdiane Nyiramana: The Chairperson of WWCCNN urged donors and international partners to avail more funds for such platform to discuss gender-climate nexus. She reminded participants to put their address papers on board to know who does what and take the stock about their organizations' work. Participants were encouraged to join the network initiated by Women for Water and Climate Cooperation Network to enhance the wider network in order to be more productive.

DAY 2 MORNING SESSION ON 1st AUGUST 2024

Day two of the workshop started by a series of presentation as follows:

Presentation by Alexandre Nzeyimana, from ActionAid on **Gender Transformative Approach to Loss and Damage**

Rwanda has committed to reduce 38% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. In 2023, heavy rains in Northern and Western Rwanda caused severe landslides and floods, resulting in 130 deaths and extensive damage in several districts.

Key highlights:

- **Vulnerability:** Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during climate disasters. 80% of climate-displaced people are women. Women, often responsible for agriculture in the Global South, face increased challenges due to frequent climate events like droughts and floods.
- **Women's Response:** Women across Africa are actively

responding to the climate crisis and advocating for climate justice. In Kenya, a feminist academy for climate justice empowers women's groups, girls, and young women by providing knowledge and a platform to share their experiences and build solidarity. Similarly, in Uganda, young feminist climate activists are leading mobilizations and strikes to highlight the critical link between gender equality and climate action. South Africa has also seen the formation of networks of women climate activists who emphasize democratic participation and leadership as essential components of addressing gender inequalities and achieving climate justice.

- **Agroecology Solutions:** Agroecology combines local knowledge with scientific innovations, promoting sustainable farming practices and supporting rural livelihoods. This approach helps communities adapt to climate change by fostering economic resilience and food sovereignty.

Panel Discussion: Effective Civil Society Initiatives on the Gender-Climate Nexus

Panelists: *Dative Nakabonye (Family Circle Love Lab), Rita Nishimwe (Rwanda Young Water Professionals), Verdiane Nyiramana (WWCCN), Dativa Mukashema (RNADW)*

Question 1 : *What are some of the most successful civil society initiatives related to the gender-climate nexus at the community, national, and global levels?*

Verdiane Nyiramana's Response: Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in advocating for climate induced vulnerability of communities by influencing policy making at various levels.

Successful initiatives include:

- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** CSOs act as a bridge between the government and the community, translating complex policies into understandable language and ensuring that the voices of marginalized groups are heard.
- **Community Engagement:** They facilitate community involvement by raising awareness and translating governmental policies into actionable steps for local populations.
- **International Advocacy:** CSOs also influence global climate policies, ensuring that gender perspectives are included in international agreements and frameworks.

Question 2. *Can you share any successful best practices where women's rights organizations have addressed both gender and climate issues?*

Dative Nakabonye's Response: Women's rights organizations have effectively integrated gender and climate issues through:

- *Climate-Smart Agriculture*: Implementing approaches that combine gender equality with climate-smart agricultural practices.
- *Resource Access and Training*: Linking women farmers to resources and providing training on gender and climate issues to empower them.
- *Decision-Making*: Ensuring women's active participation in decision-making processes related to climate action and resource management.

Question 3. How do these initiatives ensure the active involvement and participation of women in processes related to climate adaptation and mitigation?

Verdiane Nyiramana's Response: Women should be represented at decision-making tables. It is crucial for women to gain confidence and actively represented in high-level forums to raise their concerns. There is a need to increase the number of women in national and international gender-climate related dialogues and conferences to ensure that women's perspectives are included in policy actions.

Question 4. What are the challenges faced by CSOs, women's rights organizations (WROs), and youth-led organizations (YLOs) in conducting gender-sensitive climate projects and mainstreaming gender into their programs? How can these challenges be addressed?

Dativa Mukashema's Response: Women with disabilities often receive late warnings during climate disasters and face transportation barriers. There is insufficient data and reporting on the specific needs and challenges faced by people with disabilities, and partnerships with relevant stakeholders are currently inadequate.

Solutions: Ensure information is available in accessible way and consider the special needs of people with disabilities in project planning. Allocate budget for inclusion needs, such as interpreters and assistants for people with disabilities.

Question 5. How can CSOs tailor their models to effectively engage youth, including young women and girls, in climate change actions?

Rita Nishimwe's Response:

- **Education and Mentorship:** Empower young women through education and mentorship programs. Connect them with experienced women to build their confidence.
- **Technical Skills:** Provide information and technical skills to young girls in secondary schools and universities.
- **Project Development:** Encourage young women to develop and implement small-scale climate projects, thereby integrating them into climate action from an early age.

Questions and Reactions from Participants: What can be done to bridge the gap between gender and climate, and how are women-led CSOs engaged in COP29?

Question to Dative: Women are often under-engaged in climate related activities. Organizations perceive involving people with disabilities as costly. What can be done to address this?

Question to Verdiane: there some good practices of engaging young women from various sectors, including teen mothers and young women who dropped school in climate projects' implementation.

Dative Mukashema's Reaction: It is crucial to approach people with disabilities as integral contributors rather than focusing solely on their expense. Inclusion of PWD should be understood as one of their fundamental rights not just as a favour to them.

Verdiane Nyiramana's Reaction: There some ongoing efforts to include diverse young women in climate actions. This includes reaching out to various groups, such as teen mothers and those out of school, through targeted programs and partnerships.

Intervention of METEO's representative, Mr Alexandre's: METEO is willing to always share climatic information and data to better understand the impact on women. This information could help CSOs to effectively engage the communities as negatively affected end-users.

Verdiane Nyiramana's Reaction: CSOs play a critical role in working at the community level and ensuring that local voices are included in climate change actions. Engaging directly with communities helps to address specific needs and challenges.

Intervention of GMO's representative: GMO uses gender equality principles and we urge other sectors to adopt similar practices. GMO offers a gender equality seal certification program to monitor and assess gender equality implementation.

Dative Mukashema's Reaction: Collaborating with organizations that focus on people with disabilities, like KTK, is instrumental. The national disability policy emphasizes inclusive responses, and efforts are being made to improve inclusivity.

Rita Nishimwe's Reaction: It's important to interpret data in a way that is understandable to the community. Efforts should focus on providing context-specific solutions, particularly addressing intersectional issues like gender, climate, and economic challenges.

Intervention of MINAGRI's representative: Climate-smart agriculture is being implemented under 5th strategic plan 2024-2029, which emphasizes gender and youth inclusion. CSOs are encouraged to participate in this plan to support resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

Intervention of MoE's consultant: This workshop is an opportunity to connect with organizations that can contribute to the Gender-Climate Action Plan by the Ministry of Environment.

Question to Verdiane: Is there a plan to support small organizations, especially those working with women including women with disabilities, to ensure broader impact across districts?

Verdiane Nyiramana's Reaction: The network includes various groups intervening in gender-climate agenda. Collaboration with government institutions and other stakeholders is essential to support small organizations and ensure a wider-reaching impact.

DAY TWO, AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon of Day two was made of presentation and Group works with the following highlights:

1. **Presentation and Group by Janet Umuhiza, from GIZ *On NDC and how partners work on weather and climate extremes: Discussion on which sector of NDC they are working on***

Definition: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are country-specific commitments under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

CSO Involvement: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a significant role in the formulation, review, and implementation of NDCs.

Rwanda's Updated NDC with ambitious Goals: Rwanda has set an ambitious target to reduce GHG emissions by 38% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario. This goal aims to mitigate approximately 4.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e).

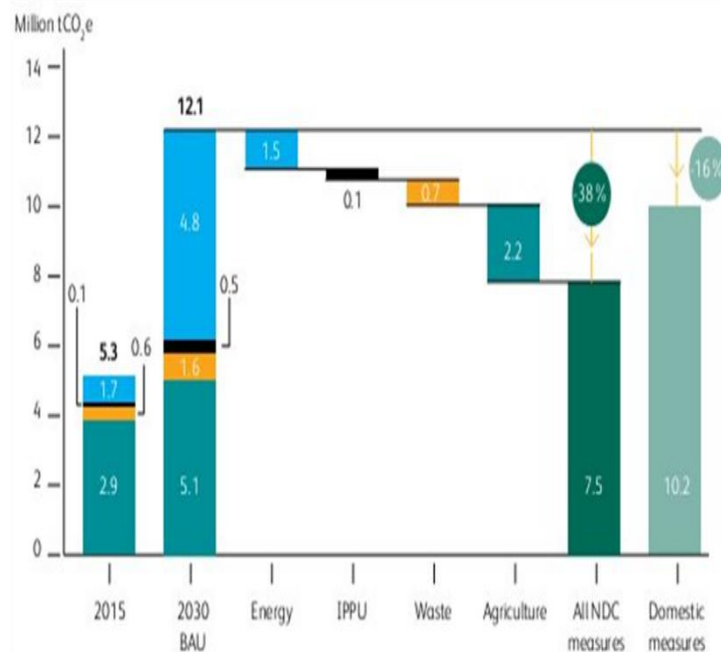
Strategic Plans:

- **Climate Technology:** Promote and encourage the development, transfer, and diffusion of climate technologies.
- **Gender Mainstreaming:** Integrate gender considerations into climate change policies and actions.
- **Education and Awareness:** Enhance climate change education,

public awareness, and capacity development through communication, training, and knowledge management.

- **Policy Support:** Provide support for policies and programs that address the interplay between population dynamics, climate change, and development. This includes strengthening connections between national and sub-national governments.

Mitigation contributions in 2030



2. Remote Presentation by Belinda Okungu : *Sharing experience of effective networking at the regional level, the case of Panafrikan Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)*

Belinda Okungu recommended that Women for Water and Climate Cooperation Network (WWCCN) scope of work should be expanded to establish the multi-platform from national, regional to the global scale. She highlighted that transitioning to a regional network can significantly enhance technical and institutional capacities, provide new funding opportunities, and foster a more inclusive network with diverse expertise. Regional multi-stakeholder engagements and advocacy campaigns are crucial for amplifying voices and influencing policies at higher levels. Developing a coordinated strategic action plan with clear goals and designated roles is essential, along with maintaining effective communication channels and ensuring active participation from all members. Showcasing evidence-based plans that align with the network's goals will enhance credibility and effectiveness. Emphasis could also be placed on ensuring long-term sustainability to address ongoing climate change challenges.

3. Remarks by Mr Vuningoma Faustin, from RCCDN: *Sharing experience of effective networking at the national level*

The speaker underscored the importance of strengthening national networking efforts by focusing on collaboration and a shared vision. He anchored the need for every organization to have a clear strategic plan and organizational structure, with a participatory leadership style that prioritizes transparency and efficiency in decision making. Every organization should ensure its members benefit from the ongoing capacity building and resource access plans. Strong leadership, particularly the empowerment of middle level managers, is crucial for effective daily management. Seeking guidance from experienced managers and actively pursuing visibility and networking opportunities can significantly enhance the organization's positive impact and effectiveness.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWO DAYS WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In afternoon of Day two of the workshop, participants were organized in two working groups to reflect on three general questions and come up with workable recommendations.

General Questions:

- How can several stakeholders share information, best practices AND cooperate on Gender and CC instead of working in isolation?
- How this networking could be done in the future.
- How could be shaped the institutional set up of networking and cooperation amongst various stakeholders intervening in Gender and CC Agenda
- Experience on Climate funding: success stories and key challenges

After intensive discussion and deliberations conducted in more inclusive manner during group works, participants came up with these recommendations:



Photo of group work

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

In regard to how can several stakeholders share information, best practices and cooperate on Gender and CC instead of working in isolation

Participants recommended the following:

- ✓ Sector working group (SWG) an umbrella forum in the Ministry of Agriculture should coordinate the networking of all stakeholders intervening in Climate, Food security, agriculture sector;
- ✓ Sector working group (SWG) an umbrella forum in the Ministry of Environment should coordinate the networking of all stakeholders intervening in the sector of Climate Change, Environment, and Natural Resources;
- ✓ Have a well-established and inclusive platform that gather multi-stakeholders intervening in the area of Gender and climate;
- ✓ Have a well-tailored strategic plan and resource mobilization strategy to unleash funding for women operating in the sector of environment and climate change.

In regard to how the networking could be done in the future

- ✓ The networking should be functioning as an umbrella set up or Union with legal persona that gather key actors intervening in the area of climate change, environment and agriculture, with the aim of sharing opportunities, information, knowledge and research finding

In regard to how could be shaped the institutional set up of networking and cooperation amongst various stakeholders intervening in Gender and CC Agenda

- ✓ The organizational set up of the network should be shaped as the existing forums such as OADF with technical thematic working groups that hold quarterly review and monitoring meetings and workshops
- ✓ Adherence to the existing working groups established to discuss gender- Climate Nexus
- ✓ Every partner organization of the network: to nominate a focal person who will be attending national level meetings to develop strategic plan and fundraising strategy for gender and climate responsive action
- ✓ Ministerial Departments on gender and climate change within relevant Ministries, should be part and parcel of the network;
- ✓ Amendment of policies and laws on gender and climate change to consider special and unique needs of PWD's and other vulnerable groups

In regard to the experience on Climate funding: success stories and key challenges

- ✓ Since the available funds do not take into consideration local needs and make difficult the implementation of projects, gender-climate intersectionality and local needs should be considered while applying for funds from donors
- ✓ Use the exemplary model of world bank to request that a certain percentage of women employment be considered when designing any project
- ✓ Designing project in a broad-based and more inclusive manner to ensure that needs of vulnerable groups including PWD's are given due considerations
- ✓ Working under consortium is essential to BUILD synergies to leverage multi-faceted resources

WORKSHOP ENDING REMARKS

The two days' workshop's ending remarks were delivered by Mrs Verdiane Nyiramana by thanking the Government of Rwanda for its support and commitment to promote gender equality and championing climate resilience programs. She thanked all attendees for their active participation and engagement throughout the workshop event.

Special appreciation was given to the moderators and speakers for their insightful contributions and to the organizers for their tireless efforts for the planning and execution of the workshop.

Verdiane emphasized the collective efforts and collaborative spirit of each and every one to make the workshop successful and mentioned the importance of continued dialogue and collective actions in addressing gender and climate challenges.

At the closing of remarks, Verdiane invited Mr Silas Ngayaboshya, Director General for Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment in MIGEPROF, to make his closing remarks .

In his closing remarks, Mr Silas expressed his gratitude to the organizers of the 2-day national workshop on Gender and Climate Change. He reminded participants that this is an opportunity to raise awareness and share their expertise on the gender-climate-peace nexus for women with concrete information. He also emphasized the importance of men to promoting positive masculinity, influencing inclusive policies, best practices, and transformation of negative norms.

He quoted : “ MIGEPROF recognizes that Climate change is a phenomenon that affect women's peace and security (WPS) processes and this has to be dealt with by everyone with concrete actions.

I am with no doubt that participants to this workshop will work synergies, and will continue raising greater awareness and enhance advocacy work on Gender- Climate-Peace and Security Nexus. MIGEPROF commends the fruitful deliberations, experiences and knowledge shared during the workshop on **Gender -Climate Intersection**, and hope that responsive actions are expected to be taken at different levels”

Mr Silas took the opportunity to reiterate MIGEPROF's support to set up an enabling policy environment and collaboration frameworks to welcome everyone partner with good ideas and projects promoting gender equality and climate resilience actions.

Winding up, Mr Silas recommended that similar workshop could be organized every year to take stock of stakeholders’ achievement, knowledge and experiences accumulated every year in diversity. He commended the good work performed by organizers namely WWCCN, GIZ and Kvinna and request them to sustain this platform and network.

With his few remarks, Mr Silas officially closed the two days’ workshop at 15:00 PM

**ANNEX AGENDA FOR NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
Day 1: 31ST July 2024**

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Arrival of participants and registration	
9:15	Introduction to the conference	Moderators Ange GAJU and Frida UWERA (RWAMREC)
9:30	Welcome remarks by the organizer of the Workshop	Verdiane NYIRAMANA (WWCCN) Annette Mukiga, Country Director of Kvinna till Kvinna Natalie Neema, Gender Focal Point at GIZ
10:15	Group photo and coffee and tea break	
10:45	The International Policy framework for gender and climate action	Dr Pascal LOPEZ (GIZ)
11:15	Gender and Women at COP28: Review and outlook for COP 29 at Baku, Azerbaijan	Olive BYUKUSENGE (REMA)
11:45	Policy innovation to put women at the centre of food system transformation in Africa	Dr Seraphin NYONSENGA (Akademiya 2063)
12:15	Questions and Answers session	Moderators
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Opening of the afternoon session: Climate Science and Gender	Moderators
13:45	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Gender: The importance of climate science and research for gender-responsive climate action	Dr Pascal LOPEZ (GIZ)
14:15	Evidence from Rwanda: Gender, women’s rights, environment and climate change	Annette Natukunda MUKIGA (Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation)
14:45	Evidence from Rwanda: Uncovering gender and climate vulnerability in Rwanda for decision support	Honorine ISHIMWE
15:30	Coffee and tea break	
15:45	Panel discussion: Climate science and Gender	- Rebecca ASIIMWE (GMO) - Olive BYUKUSENGE

		- Honorine ISINGIZWE - Annette MUKIGA
16:30	Media coverage (RBA, The New Times, IGIHE)	
17:00	Closing wrap-up day 1	Moderators, Verdiane NYIRAMANA (WWCCN)

Day 2: 1st August 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Arrival of participants and registration	
9:00	Welcome address	DG (MIGEPROF) t.b.c.
9:15	Recap from Day 1	Moderators Diane UWAMARIYA (WWCCN)
9:30	Keynote speech: “Gender transformative approach to loss and damage”	Alexandre NZEYIMANA (ActionAid Rwanda)
10:00	Panel discussion: Effective civil society initiatives at community level on the gender-climate nexus. How to effectively mainstream gender into projects.	- Dative NAKABONYE (Family Circle Love Lab Organization) - Rita NISHIMWE (Rwanda Young Water Professional) - Francois TETERO (Global Water Partnership) - Verdiane NYIRAMANA (WWCCN) - Dative MUKASHEMA (Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women)
11:00	Coffee and tea break	
11:15	Presentation and Group work: On NDC and how partners work on weather and climate extremes: Discussion on which sector of NDC they are working on.	Janet UMUHOZA (GIZ)
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Presentation / speech: Sharing experience of effective networking at the national level Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN)	Faustin VUNINGOMA (RCCDN)
13:30	Online Presentation: Sharing experience of effective networking at the regional level, the case of Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)	Belinda OKUNGU (PACJA)
14:00	Interactive exercise, Group work for networking How can stakeholders share information and best practices and cooperate instead of working in isolation in gender and climate change?	Moderators
15:30	Closing of the workshop	MoE/Organizers
15:45	Media coverage	
16:00	Cocktail	

