

# Human Rights and the Gender Dynamics of Climate Change in Ghana: The Legal and Policy Dimensions

Rachel Yeboah Nketiah<sup>1\*</sup>

## Abstract

The effects of climate change are not only unevenly felt by the most vulnerable and impoverished people, but there are also gender discrepancies. The nexus between human rights and the gender dimensions of climate change has strongly emerged in the literature. Not only are rights difficult, but they are also complex. Given the complex interconnections between human rights and the gender dynamics of climate change in Ghana, this article discusses the relevant policy and legal frameworks on climate change and how they capture the interest, concerns, and rights of women in Ghana. The paper uses a systematic review methodological design and the human rights-based approach as an analytical lens. Human rights and gender equality are protected under international and regional law in Africa and thus provide a legal foundation for incorporating gender equality and the protection of human rights into Ghana's climate change legal and policy frameworks. The paper therefore argues that the Ghanaian human rights regime offers a basis for transforming the climate change legal and policy framework by emphasizing the support for vulnerable groups such as safeguarding women's rights in order to establish effective gender-responsive and human-rights-based climate action. It, however, underscores that the Ghanaian climate change legal and policy frameworks recognise women but it is challenged by poor implementation. In practice, the national climate policy is failing to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of women and girls despite the opportunities to do so.

## Keywords

Ghanaian Gender Dynamics; human rights; interest; Vulnerability; Resilience; Climate Change action; legal and policy frameworks

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Climate Change and Gender Studies, University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana

\*Corresponding author: rachel.yeboah@uenr.edu.gh

DOI: 10.26796/jenrm.v8i1.191

Received: 21 September 2021; Received in revised form: 10 February 2022; Accepted: 30 March 2022; Published: 30 April 2022

## Contents

1	Introduction	54
2	Materials and Method	56
3	Results and Discussion	56
3.1	The Gender Dimensions of Climate Change Responses in Ghana: Conceptual briefings	56
3.2	Climate Change and the Quest for Gender Equality: Mapping the Legal and Policy Framework	58
3.3	National legal and policy architecture on the environment, climate change and human rights with reflections on the gender dynamics	59
4	Conclusion and implications for policy and practice	62
	References	63
5	Appendix	65
5.1	Conventions and legislation	65

## 1. Introduction

Addressing the effects of climate change on vulnerable and minority populations is critical to attaining the sustainable development goals (SDGs), notably Goal 13 (taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 5 (gender equality). The underlying goal of effective climate change measures is to create ecologically

sustainable, socially inclusive, and economically productive communities through national and local initiatives. Environmental problems such as climate change affect people across geographic scales and locales, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, girls, youth, and children. Yet, the plight of women and girls who are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change is not high on the priorities of many national governments (Quan, 2019). The negative impacts of climate change have been widely acknowledged and documented, especially by policymakers and researchers (e.g. the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who are interested in a sustainable global future. There is still evidence that the already vulnerable societies, individuals, and classes are more prone to the threats and impacts of climate change (Björnberg and Hansson, 2013). Women and girls are known to be harder hit by climate impacts compared to men. This is partially due to differences in the ownership of economic resources, including labour and capital, and also due to entrenched cultural norms and beliefs, social and political discriminations that work against women (Eastin, 2018; Björnberg and Hansson, 2013). The World Bank (2014) noted that women are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change as a result of a combination of several fac-

tors including gender-based cultural norms, inheritance structures and household responsibilities.

That notwithstanding, the government of Ghana and its related agencies have adopted policies and strategies to effectively respond to the threats of climate change including the 1992 Constitution of Ghana with amendments through 1996, Ghana National Climate Change Policy of 2013, Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan, National Environmental Policy, Environmental Protection Agency Act of 1994, Forestry Commission Act and Land Use and Spatial Planning Act of 2016 (Act 925). These policies and strategies are to enable the government to build the adaptive capacity of communities and individuals to climate change impacts. Women's empowerment and fulfillment of leadership roles are being postured as important for a more climate-resilient future (Bob & Babugura, 2014). Due to the non-gender sensitivity nature of the norms, plans, structures, strategies, policies and legal frame of Ghana, most Ghanaian women are not equipped with information to help them adapt to climate change which affects their daily living conditions. This paper uses a systematic review research design and the human rights-based approach to development as an analytical lens to examine the legal and policy framework including the constitution, regulations, programmes, legislation, as well as relevant international and regional laws on climate change. It explores how these mechanisms capture women's interests, concerns, and rights vis-a-vis the impacts of climate change in Ghana. The 2007 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) observed that "climate change is the outlining human development issue of this generation" (United Nations Development Programme 2007).

Climate change's negative consequences can endanger, if not already jeopardized, the advances in sustainable development made thus far, such as goal 13 and goal 5 including improvements in health, food, and water rights. Climate change not only interferes with sustainable development and the right to development; it also undermines the enjoyment of other human rights such as the rights to life and security of the person, health, adequate food and water, shelter and property (Cima, 2022). Dealing with the negative consequences of climate change has become a massive and intimidating challenge for many developing areas and vulnerable countries including Ghana. Climate change is an international issue; however, its impact varies depending on the geography and locality, especially in terms of effects, exposure and adaptation (Addaney and Cobbinah 2019). Climate change's negative consequences are felt primarily by the most vulnerable groups and the disadvantaged; there are also gender inequities in Ghana. For example, in Ghana, the recent tidal waves rendered at least 3,000 people in Keta municipality homeless after the tidal waves swept through their homes on Sunday

dawn. Communities such as Abutiakope, Kedzikope and Keta Central were largely affected as affected homeless residents were left with nothing to salvage. Affected residents, mainly children and women, had their residential abodes destroyed by the tidal waves. The displaced residents were left stranded as many of them described the situation as unbearable. The Municipal Chief Executive for Keta had to be touring communities hit by the tidal waves to solicit help to support the affected residents from the government as the residents cried for government urgent attention because they were homeless (Setordjie, 2021). This was because of a weak early warning system that could not detect the outbreak of the sea. This early system ensures a coordinated approach to providing emergency services. The recent tidal waves in Keta of Ghana have brought a huge deficit between policy and practice. Most African countries and populations are facing different challenges due, among other factors, to the effects of climate change, which continue to threaten critical infrastructure systems, agriculture and biodiversity, energy and industrialization as well as urban and rural livelihoods (Addaney 2019). African countries including Ghana achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is threatened. This is so because the impact of climate change is highly felt by their economies. As is evidenced in Ghana, extreme temperature increases are creating complicated interactions for water supply, food security, ecosystems, public health and have a huge toll on the economy. Therefore, it is imperative for the Ghanaian legal and policy frameworks to have women's rights and gender equality at the center of all its national policies. This will encourage inclusion and participation as adaptation will be easy for effective response to climate change. Integrating gender issues and women's rights into climate change adaptation, mitigation, finance and capacity-building will amount not only to good practice but also to the advancement of inclusive development, as observed in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, the SDGs (2015) seek to realise the human rights of all through achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by ensuring that human rights norms and standards such as access to justice, access to information and non-discriminatory laws and policies are being implemented across the world including Ghana. The incorporation of gender sensitivity and human rights into the SDGs and indirectly into the legal and policy framework of Ghana has significant implications at the regional and national levels. With reference to the constitution, environmental policies, regulations, programmes, legislation, as well as relevant international and regional laws, this article examines the intersection of legal and policy frameworks on climate change and gender equality. The article explores how these mechanisms capture women's interests, concerns, and rights

vis-a-vis the impacts of climate change in Ghana. The intersection between gender equality, women's interests and climate change laws and policies from the Ghanaian perspective. To contribute to this hotly disputed subject, the paper draws on a theoretical examination of existing literature on human rights and gender dynamics of climate change in Ghana to investigate the linkage between gender, women's rights, and climate change. This paper takes a key legal approach, particularly in terms of constructing a legal framework for gender equality in climate change action. Again, it takes a human rights-based approach to establish that women have innate rights as humans, and that these rights must be integrated when capturing the interest, concerns and rights of women vis-a-vis the impacts of climate change into relevant climate change laws and policies in Ghana. The gap between men's and women's sociopolitical and cultural institutions has a significant impact on and perpetuates the disparities in climate change effects on women. The article focuses on the concepts of nondiscrimination and equality, as well as participation and inclusion, in discussing the relationship between human rights and the gender dynamics of climate change in Ghana.

## 2. Materials and Method

This paper adopts a systematic review approach to examine climate and gender-relevant legislation, policies, regulations, and programmes, with a concentration on Ghana's Constitution of 1992 with amendments through 1996, Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013, Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan, National Environmental Policy, Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994, Forestry Commission Act, Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 Act 925 and Environmental Assessment Regulations of 1999 on how it captures the interest, concerns and rights of women vis-a-vis the impacts of climate change in Ghana. This was undertaken through systematic in-depth literature searches (see table 1) conducted in July 2021 using the online search engine 'Web of Science', 'Science Direct', 'Google Scholar', 'EBSCO Discovery Service', and 'Environmental Index'. James et al. (2016) observe that systematic mapping collates, describes, and catalogues available data directly related to a question of interest. This paper followed a structured and standard process by filling the knowledge gap on Gender and climate dynamics in Ghana through secondary review by examining the legal and policy frameworks in Ghana and its climate sensitivity policies to Gender and women's rights in practice. The search term used included climate change impacts, human rights, gender equality, vulnerability, resilience, adaptive capacity, mitigation and gender dynamics of climate change with reflections on the different processes of climate change and associated extreme weather events occurring or projected to occur in Ghana.

The final search with the iteratively optimized search term yielded 240 papers. The purpose of this secondary review is to bring the attention of policymakers to the realisation of how the Ghanaian legal and policy frameworks lack the practical application of climate change policies through the eyes of Gender. Integrating gender issues and women's rights into climate change adaptation, mitigation, finance and capacity-building will amount not only to good practices but also to the advancement of inclusive development. The review further revealed the sequences of the legal and policy frameworks and how each tries to address the bottleneck of the other.

**Table 1.** Studies included in the analysis

Databases	No of publications generated	No of publications selected
Science Direct	70	9
Web of Science	50	10
Google Scholar	90	12
EBSCO/	30	7
Environmental Index		
<b>Total</b>	240	38

Source: Author's construct

A database of articles by scholars and academics was scrutinized to support the relevance of the study in the Ghanaian context. The review narrowed the scope of the study by focusing on a systematic review research design on the human rights-based approach to development as an analytical lens to examine the legal and policy frameworks including Ghana's Constitution of 1992 with amendments through 1996, Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013, Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan, National Environmental Policy 1992, Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994, Forestry Commission Act, Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 Act 925 and Environmental Assessment Regulations of 1999, Other research papers related to the topic in context to Ghana as well as relevant international and regional laws on climate change. This facilitated the exploration of how these mechanisms capture women's interests, concerns, and rights vis-a-vis the impacts of climate change in Ghana.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 The Gender Dimensions of Climate Change Responses in Ghana: Conceptual briefings

International law on climate change is expected to guarantee an equitable and all-encompassing framework that delivers global temperatures below 1.5 °C, supports a fair climate action, is human rights compliant and guarantees gender equality at its core as the guiding principle (Mayer 2018). What happens to women matters to Ghana's economy? The National Climate Change Policy (2013)

highlights the contribution of women to the Ghanaian economy and their challenges in the era of climate change as:

Women produce 70% of the nation's subsistence crops, account for 52% of our labour force and contribute 46% of our total GDP. They tend to be responsible for household water supplies and energy for cooking, and food security and are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods — all of which make them disproportionately vulnerable to climate change. A study on the impact of climate change on women in three districts of Ghana confirmed that, although women undertake 85% of Ghana's food distribution, they have difficulties in accessing land, land tenure security, and formal financial services. Attempts to address gender concerns in climate change must first address gender inequities and recognise that the effects of climate change are likely to affect men and women differently. By exacerbating inequality overall, climate change slows progress towards gender equality, impeding our progress on poverty reduction and sustainable development.

However, it is vital to analyze how Ghana's 1992 constitution and the environmental policies on climate actions and Ghanaian human rights law are being linked and implemented to achieve gender-responsive climate solutions, reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in Ghana. This section examines the issue of gender equality in climate change laws and policies in Ghana. It explores the intersections of gender, women's rights, and climate change actions, emphasizing how climate change exacerbates existing gender disparities. The adverse effects of climate change are not felt equally. Vulnerable and marginalized populations such as women, children and minorities often bear the brunt of the impact of climate change (Chalifour, 2021). It can be said that men's and women's vulnerability to the impact of climate change is influenced by gender variations in accessing resources associated with recovery from climate-related disasters, responses to climate risks, and participation in political processes that define adaptation and mitigation measures. For example, regarding Climate Change impacts and risks in Ghana:

Climate change in Ghana is projected to affect its vital water resources, energy supplies, crop production and food security. Societal effects of climate change are already felt, as evidenced in the health, livelihoods, food productivity and water availability. A sharp change in the rainfall pattern, drying up of rivers and receding of water bodies are some of the effects of climate change in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana. Ghana's vulnerability is

largely due to its dependence on the production of crops that are sensitive to climate change, including; cassava, cocoyam, yam, cocoa and a lack of agricultural diversity. Again, human activities, including pollution arising from industries, farming environmental degradation and others. Retrieve from Ghana web (2021).

Many factors have been attributed to the distinctive vulnerability of women to the impact of climate change. For example, the UNDP has underscored that women in developing countries experience unequal access to resources and decision-making processes, with constrained agility in rural areas, and therefore, it is important to recognise gender-just climate solutions (UNDP 2011). In a study by Alhassan et al. (2018), using the livelihood vulnerability index assessment in the Northern Region of Ghana, the revelation was that the social network major component showed that female-headed households were more vulnerable than male-headed households and this result was significant as indicated by the two-sample t-test. Again, the average number of months of food inadequacy among female-headed and male-headed households was high compared to their male partners respectively. In the discussion, it showed that women often cultivate on small scale and very close to the community where the lands are not very fertile and have been abandoned to fallow. The result is often that the farm outputs of women are usually low, which they are unable to depend on for the entire year, making female-headed households more food insecure than male-headed households. Wrigley-Asante et al. (2019), indicated that adaptation strategies are gendered with men mostly resorting to on-farm agronomic practices such as the use of artificial fertilizers and also moving into new cash crops. The paper also showed women's resilience has also subsequently improved in their decision-making role at the household level, which is an indicator of empowerment, but still recommended that institutions that support climate change adaptation initiatives at the local level must take gender differences into consideration and support particularly women to strengthen their resilience and consolidate their empowerment.

Furthermore, a UNDP Report (2011) echoed, for instance, drought resulting from climate change will increase the distance to be covered in search of water and fuelwood for both domestic use and farming which is mostly the role of young girls and women in most parts of Africa. Bessah et al. (2021) found that women are more vulnerable to water scarcity (drought) due to their usual gender roles in their household and farming activities in Ghana. The above authors support that in Ghana one aspect of gender is disadvantaged in terms of accessing climatic information and active participation in climate decisions. That is clearly women. The principle of equity and non-discrimination implies that human rights are to be enjoyed by every human being without any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, birth, ethnic

group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national origin, fortune, birth or any other status (The World Bank 2006). It is also reechoed in the Ghanaian 1992 constitution in Chapter 5:

that, every person, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, on fundamental human rights and freedoms it talks about equality and freedom from discrimination. where, "discriminate" means to give different treatment to different persons attributable only or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, gender, occupation, religion or creed, whereby persons of one description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another description are not made subject or are granted privileges or advantages which are not granted to persons of another description and Women's rights; where women shall be guaranteed equal rights to training and promotion without any impediments from any person. Again, in Chapter 4: the laws of Ghana shall comprise this constitution and any Orders, Rules and Regulations made by any person or authority under a power conferred by this Constitution.

The constitution is the referral point of all the legal and policy frameworks in Ghana. Since it is so, the legal and environmental policy frameworks must recognise the participatory and decision-making rights of women in the various legal and environmental policy frameworks. Furthermore, all these rights are protected by the courts of Ghana and are a basis for impacted populations seeking legal redress for human rights breaches caused by climate change in their communities. The constitution makes provision for the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalance in the Ghanaian society. The concept of gender equality has been enshrined in international human rights law and was also the first reference made in the international law on climate change (Bali Action Plan 2007) of which Ghana is a signatory to it. This emphasises the need for gender equality in climate change policies in Ghana. As a result, this principle is crucial in determining the compatibility of the 1992 constitution, climate change laws and policies in Ghana on how it captures the interest, concerns and rights of women on climate change. As the climate crisis is exacerbated, there is scientific evidence that poorer countries and vulnerable populations in those countries and regions will be the

hardest hit (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007).

Therefore, it is critical under the principles of participation and inclusion for Ghana to mainstream gender into its environmental policies to encourage women to make an active, free and meaningful contribution in decision making for their guaranteed rights to be fulfilled. This will help in translating the Ghanaian human rights commitments into practice. Women, when given the right information and necessary support systems, take opportunities that come with it as innovative ways to adapt to climate change and contribute to the economic growth of Ghana. To reduce the vulnerability of high-risk communities, the Government of Ghana adopted The Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA). SADA's vision was "creating a forested and green North by 2030, doubling the incomes of Northern Ghanaians and reducing the incidence of poverty in the Northern Savannah Ecological Belt to less than 20% within 20 years". This strategy could not achieve its stated mandate as a result of a change in government with its associated change in policy directions. Adaptive capacity refers to the ability of a particular system to moderate the adverse impacts of climate change and take advantage of opportunities (Füssel and Klein 2006). In other words, it is the ability to live with stressors (Antwi-Agyei et al., 2017). Effective climate change adaptation approaches through national and local efforts have a fundamental aim of creating environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically vibrant communities. The warming of the globe and the signs of a changing climate are evident. It challenges everything human beings know and care about, from well-being and individual rights to social structure, development, environmental sustainability and ecological equilibrium (Mayer, 2018). It is therefore necessary for Ghana to build the adaptive capacity of its citizens to climate change especially women as climate change have become part of our everyday lives. There exists an apparent difficulty in translating the legal frameworks and policies into practice in the context of current climate change actions to improve the quality of women's lives.

### **3.2 Climate Change and the Quest for Gender Equality: Mapping the Legal and Policy Framework**

At the regional level, the rights of women are recognized and guaranteed by regional human rights instruments. For instance, Article 13 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provides for the right of everyone to enjoy the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in the charter without distinction of any kind such as gender, race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status (Addaney and Moyo, 2018). There exist some instruments including the African Charter guaranteeing the right to participate in public decision-making. Therefore, gendered and human

rights-based approaches to climate change action offer appropriate mechanisms for responding to the weaknesses inherent in the laws and policies adopted by states to deal with the adverse effects of climate change. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana was established after the realization by the government that there was an urgent need for the establishment of a high-level body that would specifically be responsible for coordinating national response to gender inequality. The Ministry promotes the implementation of activities that address the rights of women and children with the aim of advancing the status of women and ensuring the growth, survival and development of children. The Ministry has, since its establishment, spearheaded national drives to overcome the challenges of gender inequality by concentrating on Ghana National Climate Change Policy Focus Area 8: on addressing Gender Issues in Climate Change to ensure Gender equality as an important precondition for successful climate change adaptation and mitigation responses and equitable social development.

Due to existing gender inequalities and discriminatory practices, focus area 8 was formulated. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana with its other working partners are the institution to make sure gender is integrated into every project and programme. They are also responsible to make sure that gender-sensitive policies are instituted to back programmes and projects to run smoothly, it is critical that Ghana's 1992 constitution, environmental policies on climate action and Ghanaian human rights law are established to transform climate change legal and policy frameworks into actions to promote gender-responsive climate solutions, decrease poverty, and achieve sustainable development in Ghana. Although there is a whole Ministry set up to push for gender equality among the sexes, it appears that converting these legal frameworks and policies in the light of present climate change efforts to better the lives of Ghanaian women is proving difficult. The goal of this section is to assess the adequateness of the national climate change policies in safeguarding gender equality or protecting the rights of women and girls. The Ministry together with human rights techniques and policies is to help empower and impacted communities to seek legal redress for human rights breaches caused by climate change in their own countries. These policies and legal frameworks are to empower communities and women to hold their own states accountable for failing to embrace human rights approaches to climate change action as stipulated in the Ghana National Climate Change Policy, rather than claiming cross-border obligations by nations to prevent climate change's effects. Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013 Section 4 Themes and Strategic Focus Areas 4 - 18 highlights the participation of women and men as well as allowing for the differentiated impacts on women and men from climate change and its response measures

should be taken into account in line with various national policies on women's rights and gender equality. Gender equality is critical for successful climate change policy development, implementation, monitoring, and assessment. Women, on the other hand, are not only oppressed victims of climate change; they are also strong agents of change, and their knowledge and leadership are crucial. As a result, climate change and catastrophe risk reduction initiatives must be gender-responsive, attentive to local knowledge systems, and respectful of human rights. The right of women to contribute to decision-making at all stages must likewise be ensured in climate change policies and programs.

### **3.3 National legal and policy architecture on the environment, climate change and human rights with reflections on the gender dynamics**

#### **3.3.1 *Ghana's Constitution of 1992***

The degree and scope of the climatic changes occurring are overwhelming. These issues have been raised at the level of the UN and the AU, influencing emerging legal and policy discourse on environmental law and climate change. That notwithstanding, many international organizations including the UN and the AU have emerging legal and policy discourse on the environment and climate change to help address the canker. In response to the degree and scope of the climatic changes overwhelmingly occurring, international organizations and countries have introduced numerous initiatives, interventions and policies. Country leaders have agreed on special actions to undertake in other to mitigate and adapt to climate change in their various countries (WHO, 2019). In Ghana most prominent among such policies to abate climate change and promote sustainable development to improve human existence include Ghana's Constitution of 1992 with amendments through 1996, Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013, Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan, National Environmental Policy 1992, Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994, Forestry Commission Act, Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 Act 925 and Environmental Assessment Regulations of 1999. This sub-section introduces relevant climate change policies and environmental Acts in Ghana to combat climate change. This will further discuss how it protects the rights and interests of Ghanaian women in achieving gender equality.

In the exercise of Ghanaians' natural and inalienable right to establish a framework of government that secures for themselves and posterity the blessings of liberty, equality of opportunity and prosperity, the 1992 Constitution is the referral point. The Constitution spells out the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms and is supreme to all the other laws and policies in Ghana. It is stated in the constitution that any other law found to

be inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void. The constitution shall be binding in the interpreting of any other law and in taking and implementing any policy decisions, for the establishment of a just and free society. The Constitution recognizes the equality of all human beings and gender equality as one of its foundational ideas and principles. Chapters 4 and 5 of the Ghanaian constitution further stipulate that the state shall promote full gender balance by encouraging broad involvement of women in all fields on an equal footing with men and that both genders must be represented equally in all government organizations and agencies at all levels. As a result, the Constitution and any subsidiary laws in Ghana should ensure that women’s and girls’ views are heard in discussions about climate change.

Among such subsidiary policies in Ghana to curb the cancer climate change is Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013. The policy recognises the demonstrated impressive economic development of Ghana over the past decades, attaining the status of a middle-income country. However, future growth is still threatened by its high vulnerability to climate change as reflected in increasing temperatures across the various ecological zones where rainfall patterns are also becoming less predictable and thus exacerbate poverty amongst the poorest people, particularly women and children. It is in this light that it is critical to have in place a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) to ensure a climate-resilient and climate-compatible economy which addresses a low-carbon growth path for Ghana while achieving sustainable development (Ali et al., 2021). The NCCP recognises that the poor are disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly women and children, the elderly, and the physically challenged. Again, it recognises that Climate change is already influencing the national economy, with obvious indicators that the coastal zone, agricultural, and water resources are all being impacted, as well as health and livelihoods, particularly for women, leading to rising poverty levels. Furthermore, how benefits are to be shared between different levels of government, local communities and others such as women and indigenous people with a right to forest resources, and the creation of an efficient system to measure and monitor the carbon stocks of Ghana’s forests, including a baseline against which to measure progress. The NCCP is the basis for critically assessing the impact of climate change on the environment, humans especially women, the aged and the vulnerable in Ghana.

Social protection and social safety nets are critical for climate resilience and national development by reducing disparities and fostering social cohesion as a result of the various policies and acts on the environment. One such policy again is Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The Ghana National Climate Change

**Table 2. Thematic areas identified in addressing adaptation issues in Ghana**

Effective adaptation: To address the adaptation issues in Ghana, four thematic areas have been identified. These are;	B. Social development, its most distinctive feature is its attempt to harmonize social policies with measures designed to promote economic development (Midgeley, 1995) In this context, is the responsible use of natural resources and ongoing protection of the environmental settings, all while guaranteeing the economy and society’s stability?	Mitigation, efforts primarily employing decarbonization technologies and techniques that reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, such as renewable energy, fuel switching, efficiency gains, nuclear power, and carbon capture storage and utilization.
(1) Energy and Infrastructure		
(2) Natural Resources Management		
(3) Agriculture and food security		
(4) Disaster Preparedness and Response		
Natural Resources Management		
(Ghana National Climate Change Policy, 2013)		

Source: Ghana National Climate Change Policy, 2013

Adaptation Strategy also highlights the severity of climate change consequences, which are mostly felt by poorer populations that rely on natural resource-based activities and live in remote areas. The policy's main purpose is to make Ghana more resilient to the effects of climate change now and in the future. This is through the process of building Ghana's capacity in the area of infrastructure, knowledge to deal with climate change impacts and reduce vulnerability in key sectors, ecosystems, Districts and Regions of the country. Small-scale food crop producers, women small-scale farmers, livestock operators, fishers and fishmongers, slum residents, and migrant agricultural laborers are among the socioeconomic groups most affected by climate change. Institutional impediments, legal frameworks, insufficient capacities, and market inefficiencies make these groups susceptible. One of the key guiding principles in achieving the goal of the strategy is the extensive adaptation of a gender-sensitive Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to reduce vulnerability. Achieving a gender-sensitive Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is possible through Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan. It is the action plan for implementing all climate change policies, including gender-based policies, in order to alleviate poverty and ensure long-term sustainability.

To tackle Ghana's climate change problems and possibilities, the Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan identified 10 Policy Focus Areas. Each of these categories has a number of particular programs in place to address the important activities required to attain the intended results. Focus areas eight (8) address gender concerns in climate change: that is connections between gender and climate change are increasingly being recognized as crucial for adaptation and mitigation; this recognition will help Ghana to promote development on an equal footing. This focus area stresses precise methods in which gender concerns may be mainstreamed in the context of climate change been highlighted. This includes determining the mainstreaming process's goals; assessing the impact of climate change on socioeconomic, sectoral, and local development strategies and plans; raising awareness and building capacity about gender issues; assessing the mainstreaming process; and developing strategies and mechanisms for mainstreaming gender issues, including financial, economic, and policy aspects. This is owing to the existing disparities and problems in Ghana's promotion of gender equality in all aspects of life. At the national and local levels, there is already a legislated framework in place to legitimize the urge to incorporate climate change into gender equality concerns and vice versa. A number of particular actions, including the inclusion of cross-cutting concerns (such as population, gender, strategic environmental assessments, climate change, vulnerability, etc.) in sustainable development programs and projects. Section 4 (page 34) talks specifically about

gender equity. That is Mainstreaming gender into formulating policy, and coordinating, executing and monitoring programmes and activities related to the well-being of women and children.

The above strategies form the basis for ensuring gender is mainstreamed in climate change initiatives. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana in collaboration with other institutions including the policy planning, monitoring and evaluation offices in ministries, departments and agencies and in the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs); inter-ministerial sectoral gender policy committees; the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ); gender desk officers in ministries, departments and agencies and in MMDAs; parliamentary subcommittees on gender and legal issues; the Women's Caucus in Parliament; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) across the country; Queen Mothers' associations; the women's wings of political parties; and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units (DOVVSU) at national, regional and district levels have the sole mandate to impinge on the promotion of women's rights. In 2015, the Ghana government, in collaboration with the gender ministry and its agencies, conducted nationwide consultations to establish a national gender policy. A policy that strengthens women's rights while also providing a clear framework for resolving deep-seated injustices in our society. The National Gender Policy was established with a thorough understanding of women's empowerment, rights, and access to justice, leadership and responsible government, gender roles and relationships, and economic possibilities. With the implementation of this National Gender Policy, the success of inclusion in the lives of both sexes is hoped for. Gender desk officials have been assigned the task of aiding line ministries in mainstreaming gender into their top priorities, although these structures are not represented at the district level.

The Environmental protection Agency Act, 1994 is also in line to address the impact of climate change. This well-established institution is tasked with assisting the Minister on environmental policy formation and, in particular, making suggestions for environmental protection. This particular act did not mention gender in the document. The act hopes to advise the minister on issues impacting the environment but not in line with a particular sex. The Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) came into existence as one of Ghana's legal frameworks as a result of "adverse influence on the environment or public health. It is in charge of the process of methodical identification, prediction, and assessment of (a) the likely environmental, socio-economic, cultural and health effects of an undertaking; and (b) the mitigation and management of those effects. This policy as part of its mandate does not pay particular attention to gender in its assessment of the adverse influence on



the environment or public health. Land Use and Spatial Planning Act (Act 925) of 2016, this Act works in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's applicable laws and directions. Human settlement and spatial planning are also important to the agency. The Act establishes a decentralized planning framework for the long-term development of land and human settlements, ensuring prudent land use. Although this policy did not mention gender, part of its objectives is on human settlement. This brings to the fore that the issue of human interactions is addressed when it comes to the prudent use of land though not along any gender lines. Finally, National Environmental Policy, this policy takes into account socioeconomic and gender concerns to guarantee that environmental awareness and public education programs are accessible to men and women from all walks of life. It guarantees that impact evaluations are carried out on all policies, programs, and initiatives to maximize fairness for all economic, ethnic, social, cultural, gender, and age groups, particularly the socially disadvantaged. The policy promotes the involvement of women from all walks of life in environmental management training, public awareness campaigns, formal and non-formal education, and decision-making processes. The policy guarantee that impact evaluations are carried out on all policies, programs, and initiatives to maximize fairness for all economic, ethnic, social, cultural, sexual, and age groups, particularly the vulnerable.

Conversely, most prevailing characteristics that are making people susceptible to climate change such as heavy dependence on local natural resources and a lack of alternative livelihoods – reflect the fact the lived characteristics of women living in societies of extreme poverty are also prevalent in Ghana. In many African rural societies, communities and individuals interact with their physical environment in a gender-differentiated way (Adanay, 2018). Despite this, the AU and most African countries including Ghana have constructed beautiful laws and environmental policies. These legal frameworks are not translated into their national and international human rights commitments and practices in the context of climate change actions to benefit women. These policies have not largely achieved their expected mandates due to a lack of clarity about the mandate that they are expected to fulfill, which is in addition to their current core responsibilities within their organizations to achieve gender equity. It is worth mentioning that gender issues have not been broadly considered in the international climate change policymaking process, especially in the UNFCCC regime (Mayer, 2016). In the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, the words “gender” and “women” are not mentioned at all, resulting in little consideration of gender issues in international climate action discourse (Atapattu, 2016). Women, who are already oppressed and underprivileged, face the brunt of climate change's

effects and have less capacity and opportunity to adjust to its negative repercussions.

#### 4. Conclusion and implications for policy and practice

Considering the intricate ties of human rights and gender dynamics in Ghana's climate change, through a systematic secondary review methodology and an analytical approach, this paper assesses the adequateness of the national climate change policies and other environmental laws in Ghana in safeguarding gender equality or protecting the rights, interest and concern of women and girls. Reiterating previous research, it was highlighted that women in Ghana have uneven access to resources and decision-making processes, which has a negative impact on individuals living in rural and vulnerable regions. This has an impact on their ability to respond and adjust in the face of climate change. The paper went on to say that women's vulnerability to the effects of climate change in Ghana is exacerbated by the difficulties in obtaining economic and social resources, as well as existing unfair behavior that except women from environmental and resource decision-making processes. Gender concepts such as non-discrimination, equality, participation, inclusion and mainstreaming are linked to the Ghana 1992 constitution, climate change policies, environmental laws in Ghana, international and regional climate change action. Human rights and gender equality are protected under international and regional law in Africa as well as the Ghana 1992 constitution, Ghana climate change policies and environmental laws. These legal frameworks provide a legal foundation for incorporating gender equality and the protection of human rights of the vulnerable especially women by bridging the gender equality gap. The paper therefore argues that the Ghanaian human rights regime offers a basis for transforming the climate change legal and policy framework through emphasizing the support for vulnerable groups such as safeguarding women's rights to establish effective gender-responsive and human-rights-based climate action but the application is hampered. Despite the opportunity, national climate policy fails to strengthen the resilience and minimize the vulnerability of women and girls in practice. This is so because Ghana does not have the structures to support and implement the majority of what is stated in the policies. Going forward, from the various policies and documents, what stood out was, the focus which was on opportunities and dialogues Ghana could benefits internationally than on training and results to develop the resilience capacity of its citizens.

Policies are to drive the state of Ghana to be guided by the legal framework concerning the human rights of women in the perspective of climate change. Government and stakeholders responsible for the environment need to address climate change to at least reduce the nega-

tive impacts of climate change and provide alternative solutions for those whose rights are affected. There have been various measures by policymakers and stakeholders in Ghana to mitigate the potential effects of climate change. However, these measures are not enough and the existence of institutional weakness makes the enforcement of mitigation and adaptation measures a problem. The legal framework is, therefore, to push for the review and update of the gender-related norms, plans, structures, strategies and policies to reflect current developing trends to effectively capture the concerns of gender and age groups as well as seek compensation especially the socially disadvantaged like women. Stakeholders and policymakers should therefore strengthen the existing institutions and establish new ones in relevant areas where necessary to implement the adaptation and mitigation measures (Asante and Amuakwa-Mensah, 2015). This clearly states that although the Government of Ghana on its part has in place policies to help address climate change, the individual Ghanaians including women should also cooperate by making themselves accessible to climate information from the various stakeholders within their environs'. For example; Women as part of their responsibilities (domestic work) at home are not always available to receive adequate information on climate change and disaster management. It is therefore important that stakeholders package climate change information for women at the appropriate time in multiple sections for them to make informed climate decisions.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is their mandate to ensure that people's environmental rights are enforced. These environmental rights include women's environmental rights. This goes on to explain that, it is important for information to be segregated along gender lines. This will make adoption and acceptance easy and will also promote enquires for further clarifications. This will empower the people of Ghana to demand that their environmental rights are enforced. It is therefore important for every Ghanaian to have access to relevant information to enable them to take the necessary decisions. This can only be possible when information on the various policies is tailed down to the community level. At the community level, the interest and concerns of the local people are captured as well as reliable data and information are documented. The impacts of Climate change expose humans and ecosystems to harm therefore it is important to build effective and accessible agencies to address climate change related risks.

With regards to climate change and gender, a study by Alhassan et al. (2019) recommends that female-headed households should be given priority in both ongoing and new intervention projects in climate change and agriculture by empowering them through financial resources to venture into other income-generating activities. This would enable them to diversify their sources of livelihood

to boost their resilience to climate change and variability. Farmers need to realize first of all that, there is the need to implement adaptation measures to reduce the risk of climate and ecological change impacts on their livelihoods (Aniah et al., 2019). According to him, to increase climate resilience and decrease the vulnerability of the populace of Ghana, the Ghanaian women will also have to implement adaptation measures in their farming activities. These measures could be local innovations they have learned from their parents, services they receive from Ministry of Food and Agriculture Extension Officers and as a result of years of farming through experiences. Among all the climate change and environmental policies, it is only the National Environmental Policy that talks about the provision of all environmental policy documents in the major Ghanaian languages. I will also recommend that the other climate change documents and environmental policies could be documented in the major Ghanaian languages. Also, the government strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience could be translated into drama in the local languages as this will be easily captured by the women for further dissemination of information. Most of the Climate change information as well as the environmental documents is guided by norms, standards, strategies, plans, policy frameworks and legal backing but have not been pushed or contested on the behalf of the affected area or people for the injustices and inequalities to be addressed by agencies and departments to perform according to what is captured in the documents or per their mandates.

## References

- [1] ASANTE, F. A., & AMUAKWA-MENSAH, F. (2015). Climate change and variability in Ghana: Stocktaking. *Climate*, 3(1), 78-99.
- [2] ADDANEY, M. (2020). Strengthening Africa's Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change: African Union Law and Implications of China's Belt and Road Policy. In: Leal Filho, W., Nagy, G., Borga, M., Chávez Muñoz, P., Magnuszewski, A. (eds) *Climate Change, Hazards and Adaptation Options. Climate Change Management*. Cham: Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-37425-9\\_25](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-37425-9_25)
- [3] ADDANEY, M. (2019). "Climate-induced Displacement and Protecting the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Peoples in Africa" in M Addaney (ed) *Women and Minority Rights Law in Africa: Reimagining Equality and Addressing Discrimination*. Den Haag: Eleven International Publishing.
- [4] ADDANEY, M. AND COBBINAH, PB. (2019.) "Climate Change, Urban Planning and Sustainable Development in Africa: The difference worth appreciating" in PB Cobbinah and M Addaney (eds) *Geography of*

- Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Africa. Houten: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-04873-0>
- [5] ADDANEY, M., & MOYO, C. G. (2018). Women's rights, gender and climate change law in Africa: Advancing an equity agenda. *Law, Society and Development*, 5(1), 1-18.
- [6] ALHASSAN, S. I., KUWORNU, J. K., & OSEI-ASARE, Y. B. (2018). Gender dimension of vulnerability to climate change and variability: Empirical evidence of smallholder farming households in Ghana. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*.
- [7] ALHASSAN, S. I., KUWORNU, J. K., & OSEI-ASARE, Y. B. (2019). Gender dimension of vulnerability to climate change and variability: Empirical evidence of smallholder farming households in Ghana. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*.
- [8] ALI, E. B., ANUFRIEV, V. P., & AMFO, B. (2021). Green economy implementation in Ghana as a road map for a sustainable development drive: A review. *Scientific African*, 12, e00756.
- [9] AKAMANI, K., WILSON, P. I., & HALL, T. E. (2015). Barriers to collaborative forest management and implications for building the resilience of forest-dependent communities in the Ashanti region of Ghana. *Journal of environmental management*, 151, 11-21.
- [10] ANTWI-AGYEI, P., QUINN, C. H., ADIKU, S. G. K., CODJOE, S. N. A., DOUGILL, A. J., LAMBOLL, R., & DOVIE, D. B. K. (2017). Perceived stressors of climate vulnerability across scales in the Savannah zone of Ghana: a participatory approach. *Regional Environmental Change*, 17(1), 213-227.
- [11] ANTWI-AGYEI, P., STRINGER, L. C., & DOUGILL, A. J. (2014). Livelihood adaptations to climate variability: insights from farming households in Ghana. *Regional environmental change*, 14(4), 1615-1626.
- [12] ANIAH, P., KAUNZA-NU-DEM, M. K., & AYEMBILLA, J. A. (2019). Smallholder farmers' livelihood adaptation to climate variability and ecological changes in the savanna agro ecological zone of Ghana. *Heliyon*, 5(4), e01492.
- [13] ATAPATTU, S. 2016. Human Rights Approaches to Climate Change: Challenges and OPPORTUNITIES. United Kingdom: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315849683>
- [14] BALI ACTION PLAN. 2007. Available at (accessed 2 October 2018).
- [15] BESSAH, E., RAJI, A. O., TAIWO, O. J., AGODZO, S. K., OLOLADE, O. O., STRAPASSON, A., & DONKOR, E. (2021). Gender-based variations in the perception of climate change impact, vulnerability and adaptation strategies in the Pra River Basin of Ghana. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*.
- [16] BROWN, K., & WESTAWAY, E. (2011). Agency, capacity, and resilience to environmental change: lessons from human development, well-being, and disasters. *Annual review of environment and resources*, 36, 321-342.
- [17] CHALIFOUR, N. J. (2021). Equity considerations in loss and damage. In *Research Handbook on Climate Change Law and Loss & Damage*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- [18] CIMA, E. (2022). The right to a healthy environment: Reconceptualizing human rights in the face of climate change. *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*.
- [19] EASTIN, J. (2018). Climate change and gender equality in developing states. *World Development*, 107, 289-305.
- [20] EDVARDSSON BJÖRNBERG, K., & HANSSON, S. O. (2013). Gendering local climate adaptation. *Local Environment*, 18(2), 217-232.
- [21] FOLKE, C., CARPENTER, S., ELMQVIST, T., GUNDERSON, L., HOLLING, C. S., & WALKER, B. (2002). Resilience and sustainable development: building adaptive capacity in a world of transformations. *AMBIO: A journal of the human environment*, 31(5), 437-440.
- [22] FLEURBAEY, M., KARTHA, S., BOLWIG, S., CHEE, Y. L., CHEN, Y., CORBERA, E., & SAGAR, A. (2014). Sustainable development and equity.
- [23] GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE REVISED ANNUAL 2014 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GHANA WEB (2021). Extreme temperatures, a rising warning for climate action. Retrieved from: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/Extreme-temperatures-a-rising-warning-for-climate-action-1434388>
- [24] GUNDERSON, L. H., & HOLLING, C. S. (EDS.). (2002). *Panarchy: understanding transformations in human and natural systems*. Island Press.
- [25] INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC). 2007. *Climate Change: Fourth Assessment Report (Summary for policymakers)*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511546013>
- [26] KINDON, S., PAIN, R., & KESBY, M. (EDS.). (2007). *Participatory action research approaches and methods: Connecting people, participation and place (Vol. 22)*. Routledge.
- [27] LOLIG, V., DONKOH, S. A., OBENG, F. K., ANSAH, I. G. K., JASAW, G. S., KUSAKARI, Y., ... &

- KRANJAC-BERISAVLJEVIC, G. (2014). Households' coping strategies in drought-and flood-prone communities in Northern Ghana. *Journal of Disaster Research*, 9(4), 542-553.
- [28] MAPFUMO, P., ADJEI-NSIAH, S., MTAMBANENGWE, F., CHIKOWO, R., & GILLER, K. E. (2013). Participatory action research (PAR) as an entry point for supporting climate change adaptation by smallholder farmers in Africa. *Environmental Development*, 5, 6-22.
- [29] MAYER, B. (2018). Obligations of conduct in the international law on climate change: A defense. *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*, 27(2), 130-140.
- [30] MELILLO, J. M., RICHMOND, T. T., & YOHE, G. (2014). Climate change impacts in the United States. Third national climate assessment, 52.
- [31] MIDGLEY, J. (1995). *Social development: The developmental perspective in social welfare*. Sage.
- [32] MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013
- [33] MTEY, A. R. (2021). Contribution of power dynamics and women's perceptions to girls' education among pastoral communities in Tanzania. *Papers in Education and Development*, 38(1). Myjoyonline (2021) retrieved from: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/tidal-waves-render-about-3000-homeless-in-keta/>
- [34] POWER, T. M. (2006). Public timber supply, market adjustments, and local economies: economic assumptions of the Northwest Forest Plan. *Conservation Biology*, 20(2), 341-350.
- [35] QUAN, R. J. D. (2019). Human rights and the gender dynamics of climate change. In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Environmental Law* (pp. 235-253). Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.
- [36] RUHL, JH. 2010. "Climate Change Adaptation and the Structural Transformation of Environmental Law" *Environmental Law Review* 40(2): 363, 431.
- [37] SETORDJIE, I. (2021). Tidal waves render about 3,000 homeless in Keta. MyJoyOnline, 7 November. <https://www.myjoyonline.com/tidal-waves-render-about-3000-homeless-in-keta/> (accessed 10 September 2021)
- [38] SHABAYA, J., & KONADU-AGYEMANG, K. (2004). Unequal access, unequal participation: some spatial and socio-economic dimensions of the gender gap in education in Africa with special reference to Ghana, Zimbabwe and Kenya. *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 34(4), 395-424.
- [39] WORLD BANK. *The Costs to Developing Countries of Adapting to Climate Change: New Methods and Estimates*. Available online: <http://www.worldbank.org/eacc>. (accessed on 25th January 2014).
- [40] WORLD BANK, 2006. *World Development Report 2006: Equity and Development*
- [41] WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, (2019). *Climate change and health in small island developing States* (No. WHO/AF/CDS/PHE/05, 2019). World Health Organization. Regional Office for Africa.
- [42] WRIGLEY-ASANTE, C., OWUSU, K., EGYIR, I. S., & OWIYO, T. M. (2019). Gender dimensions of climate change adaptation practices: the experiences of smallholder crop farmers in the transition zone of Ghana. *African Geographical Review*, 38(2), 126-139.

## 5. Appendix

### 5.1 Conventions and legislation

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 31 ILM 849 (1992). Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948, General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) 1992 Constitution of Ghana Ghana National Climate Change Policy Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan Environmental Protection Agency Act 1994 Environmental Assessment Regulations 1999 Forestry commission Act 1999 National Environmental policy Land Use and Spatial Planning Act (Act 925) of 2016

Given the complex interconnections between human rights and the gender dynamics of climate change in Ghana, this table is a representation of the pick outs from the policies, constitution, regulations, programmes, legislation, provisions, relevant international and regional laws on environment and climate change and how these documents make provisions for gender by capturing how the complex situation of the environment will be addressed. These documents are in place to ensure that people's environmental rights are enforced. This table spells out the core mandates of all the agencies responsible for enhancing the well-being of people without sacrificing the quality of the environment and its resources.

**Table 3.** Summary of the 1992 constitution of Ghana, environmental legislations/policies, how it captures its gender-relevant provision and types of provision in Ghana.

Legislation/policy	Gender relevant provision	Type of provision
1992 Ghana Constitution with amendment through 1996	Every person in Ghana, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual contained in Chapter 5 but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest. The constitution makes provision for the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalance in the Ghanaian society.	CHAPTER 5: protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms  A person shall not be discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.
Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994  This Act is consolidated with the Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1996 (Act 528)	The Act does not categorize the information in the document on gender-specific needs.	To advise the Minister on the formulation of policies on the environment Promote studies, research, surveys and analyses for the improvement and protection of the environment. Collaborate or co-ordinate with foreign and international agencies for the purposes of this Act.
Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 Act 925	The Act did not consider the importance of segregation of formation on gender lines which would have its objective of achieving sustainable development easier	Revise and consolidate the laws on land use and spatial planning.  Ensure judicious use of land in order to improve quality of life and promote health and safety in respect of human settlements. Regulate national, regional, district and local spatial planning
Environmental Assessment Regulations of 1999	This report contains orderly statements with respect to the natural environment's effects on all gender and how it seeks to address its challenges	This report makes the Minister of Environment responsible for the environment.  Responsible for the likely environmental, socio-economic, cultural and health effects undertaking; and Mitigate and manage those effects
Ghana National Climate Change Policy 2013  The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), is Ghana's integrated response to climate change.	The NCCP recognizes that the human impact of climate change falls, for the most part, on the poor, and – very often – on women and children, the aged and the physically challenged. As such, social protection and social safety nets to smooth out inequities and build a more cohesive society are vital for climate resilience and national development	The policy states that climate change manifestation has the potential to have a direct and indirect impact on the dynamics of Ghana's economy.  The policy resolves to lessen the potential hardships that climate change impacts may pose to the sustainable development of Ghana. The policy provides strategic directions and coordinates issues to focus on a climate-resilient economy that will accelerate development.  The policy also puts Ghana in a better position to stand for international funding which generates significant development benefits.
Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	Gender sensitivity and reduction of vulnerability are extensively adopted and captured as part of the policy guiding principles. One of the policy strategies on livelihood is to improve the output and income of vulnerable groups. On the other hand, what was not specified was which agency is responsible to achieve this and through what means and from which stage to what stage is the policy hoping to achieve. Furthermore, how does a policy achieve gender sensitivity if it does not have laid down procedures to follow?	Been driven fundamentally by a participatory approach as stated in the document.  What makes a policy or document 'participatory' is not the sort of research methods used, but rather the depth of involvement participants have in the whole research process (Kindon et al. 2007). It encourages the working together of policymakers and local people to achieve a common goal. It concentrates not on the populaces but policymakers.
Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan	In the Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan action programme for implementation policy, focus area 8, centers on Gender issues in Climate Change.  In the Master plan, it is clearly stated that there is a causal relationship between climate change and gender relations. Climate change tends to exacerbate existing gender inequalities. At the same time, gender inequalities lead women to be exposed to greater negative impacts. Women are not just victims but they are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical in all initiatives for achieving equitable sustainable development.	Provides a clearly defined pathway for dealing with the challenges of climate change in Ghana.  Part of its mandate is implementing NCCP which integrates response to climate change.  The policy seeks to initiate a climate-resilient economy that will accelerate development efforts. Ghana National Climate Master Plan is developed into action programmes with specific strategies and time bounds.
National Environmental Policy	Uphold the equitable representation and participation of the poor and the marginalized in society.	National Environmental Policy to ensure environmental justice. That is enhancing the well-being of people without sacrificing the quality of the environment and its resources.