

Arise

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“Women and Natural Resource Management.”

Acfode



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung



Vision

A just society where there is gender equality of opportunities in all spheres

Mission

To Promote Women's Empowerment, Gender Equality and Equity through Advocacy, Networking and Capacity Building of both Women and Men

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Appreciation

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- ☐ Stacey Pearl Keirungi
- ☐ Tumusiime Kabwende Deo

Editorial



Dear Readers,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to Issue 52 of the Arise Magazine themed “Women and Natural Resource Management.”

My guess is that many of you know that women clearly outdo men in terms of their involvement in use,

management and conservation of natural resources, yet they face categorical exclusion and are denied equal sharing of access to, and benefits from natural resources.

This is caused by a number of factors like un-equal power relations, and the patriarchal nature of our society that demeans and belittles women.

Consequently, in order to promote a participatory culture in the use, management and conservation of natural resources like land, livestock, agriculture, oil, fisheries and forests, this Issue recommends that policy makers, planners and development workers have a better understanding of the relative and often shifting roles of men and women in natural resource management, including division of labor, access to resources, decision-making and traditional knowledge and practices.

The magazine also includes sector-specific recommendations that delineate women’s roles in natural resource management.

Below are some highlights of what’s contained in the issue:

- From Your Leaders’ Mouth!
- Undue Influence from a Rotten Institution: Corruption in Natural Resource Management
- Will Ugandan Women Benefit from Oil? Lessons from Ghana
- Women and Men in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap
- Nature & Health
- How to Get Beautiful Naturally
- Mainstreaming Gender in the Cycle Management of the Natural Resource Sector: Shifting Roles of Women & Men to Promote Participatory Management of Natural Resources

It is hence my wish that you enjoy reading the Magazine.

Sandra Nassali
Editor
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Arise Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to salute you for the wonderful work you are doing by creating awareness and appreciation on gender equality in our communities through creative and innovative ways. Though it was my first time to read the Arise Magazine, Issue 51 was good given the fact that it tackled a pertinent issue that we are struggling with in Uganda nowadays (economic crisis). I however have one request; can you please ensure that copies of the magazine are availed to Makerere University libraries, most especially the School of Gender Studies right after production? I would really appreciate that. Otherwise well done, and may God continue to bless you!

Mbabazi R Grace
MA Women and Gender Studies student
— Makerere University

Dear Sandra and the team,

Thank you for this quality and relevant publication.

Regards
— George Kanyomoozi

Thanks Sandra and fellow staff of ACFODE for the good publication.

Dr. Florence Muhanguzi
— Makerere University

Dear Editor,

I am pleased with the quality and richness of content in Issue 51 of ACFODE’s Arise Magazine. Given its excellence, I think the magazine has reached a stage where it can be sold because it contains rich information and knowledge that Ugandans can use to uplift their standard of living. I am so much touched by the special feature i.e. Prof. August Nuwagaba’s interview! I love his analyses on economies.

— Richard Makumbi
Program Officer
GBV Prevention Program CEDOVIP

Congratulations on the 51st issue of arise. It was an interesting read and is relevant to the times we are going through. Thanks for the effort in putting it together.

Happy New Year and good luck with your work!
— Maude Mugisha

Dear Sandra,

Let me take the opportunity to welcome everyone to the New Year and to also salute you for this issue. It is fantastic. I have to confess I have not been able to read the previous ones because of the format and quality.

This is a job well done and I must say ISSUE 51 is the best ACFODE has ever heard! Topics are spot on, except for a few pictures that need some improvement. Therefore I suggest that in future, use photos with high resolutions to minimize damage.

Otherwise keep up the good work!

— Dianah Kagere Mugerwa
Program Officer - National Advocacy
Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the useful information you have shared in ISSUE 51. Indeed, whether young, male or female, this information adds value.

— Juliette .M. Nakyanzi

Dear Editor,

Thank you for this very educative and informative ISSUE.

— Alice Bongyeirwe
Treasurer
ACFODE Board of Directors

WOW, ISSUE 51 of the Arise Magazine is nice and enriching!! On reading it, I realized that it is very relevant given the current economic crisis that is not only a Ugandan problem, but a worldwide crisis. I must say articles are very rich, well researched and well documented.

I have read every story (on a word to word basis) and I am still glued to the magazine! Thanks Sandra and your team for the good work.

— May God bless you!
Namital Esther

Dear Sandra, I received a soft copy of ISSUE 51 on my email and I found it rather inspiring. Keep up the good work.

— Best Regards
Mukono Alex

Context of Natural Resources in Uganda

Andrew Ssekirevu



2005). This makes Uganda's natural resource base one of the richest and most diverse in Africa.

Natural Resource Management

Natural resource management refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations. It deals with managing the way in which people and natural landscapes interact

Ugandan women with no doubt manage natural resources daily in their roles as daughters, wives, farmers and household providers. However, despite their reliance on natural resources, they have less access to and control over them than men. Usually it is men who put land, water, plants and animals to commercial use, which is often more valued than women's domestic uses. They thus have more control on natural resource use and management than women.

At the national level for instance, Parliament has a Natural Resource Committee which is comprised of 30 members, of whom only 7 are women. This pushes women to a more disadvantaged side!

The State Minister for Gender, Labor and Social Development, Hon. Rukia Nakadama however disagrees. She asserts that "resources in the country have been well utilized to equally benefit both women and men. The government has introduced many policies and laws, for instance the national gender policy to promote equality in all spheres, including that of natural resource management. Women should therefore make use of such policies/ laws so that they are at the same footing with men."

Unfortunately however, such efforts don't indicate how women are equally treated with men and even then, they have been hampered by the government itself, which easily falls for politicking them. Cissy Kagaba, (Executive Director, Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda) agrees to this and points out that 'most of the natural resources like the forests have been politicized and this hasn't only worked against women, but has also posed as a risk for the sustainable development of this country since it is heavily dependent on natural resources.'

Gerald Karuhanga (Youth MP Western Uganda) also agrees to with Cissy and notes that; "if efficient policies and institutions were there, we would see a lot of developments coming up to elevate this country out of poverty like the way it is in developed countries."



Gerald Karuhanga (Youth MP Western Uganda) also agrees to with Cissy and notes that; "if efficient policies and institutions were there, we would see a lot of developments coming up to elevate this country out of poverty like the way it is in developed countries. We would see quality health and education facilities in place; good roads, less load shedding and many more good things! Women would also be treated equally with men since they constitute more than 50% of the general population. Unfortunately for them, the government has not endorsed 'specific' plans of action for their full integration. It has just been a disaster not only to women, but to all Ugandans."

Maybe this is not an only Uganda problem but an 'all African context' because women are primary resource users and most of the responsibility for growing and collecting food, medicines, fuel, housing materials, providing cash income for schooling, health care and other family needs rests on them. As such, they do much of the work needed to maintain and conserve the environment."

Constraints to Women in Natural Resource Management

Women are subjected to specific constraints due to gender inequalities, and these constraints shape the results they obtain in natural resource management. The constraints most frequently identified are: lack of access to land, poverty, marginalization, discriminatory and inadequate laws on the use of natural resources, lack of access to decision-making organs, unjust and unfair cultural practices, women's heavy workload, lack of education and training and also the way in which

women's activities are structured.

Gender inequality is most evident in access to land. Custom prohibits women from owning land in many countries. In Northern Uganda for instance and among the Baganda, this is a common phenomenon. Frequently women have only use rights mediated by men, and these rights are highly precarious; yet women often depend on land for fuel, fodder, shelter and food.

Increasing the value of natural resources

As human populations grow in Uganda, especially in the urban areas, there will undoubtedly be an increase in the demand for a variety of rural products. This rise in demand is going to make natural resources more valuable and thus increase local interest in their active management.

Since women are key to the use and management of our natural resources, empowering them to ensure better use and conservation is vital for sustainability issues. In order to be for this to be effective therefore, women must not only be looked at as laborers in this field, but must also be involved in decision-making processes and must be given substantial control.

Key concerns for promoting women's participation in natural resource management should be promoted and these must focus on their access to, and control of resources. Activities that enhance their participation in sustainable development must also emphasize the importance of two major types of resources; knowledge and power.

Andrew Ssekirevu
sekirevu@acfode.org

From Your Leader's Mouth!



State Minister for Gender, Labor and Social Development - Hon. Rukia Nakadama

"Natural resources in the country have been well utilized to benefit every Ugandan, including women. The government has for instance introduced many policies and laws that challenge unequal power relations. Women should take advantage of them since government is on their side."



(MP Youth Western) - Hon. Gerald Karuhanga

"The natural resources in this country are not well utilized. This government is not very efficient and there are no clear policies that allow integration of women and youth. There is also a lot of corruption and dishonesty in the management of natural resources. If you think I am lying, take a look at the way the oil sector is being managed; and yet that's just a tip of the ice berg!"



Opposition MP and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources - Beatrice Anywar,

"This government is allergic to transparency when it comes to the management of oil and other natural resources. However, we can't allow this to continue because these are public resources and people have a right to know the way they are managed, and how the revenues are spent."



Executive Director of the Anti-Corruption Coalition Unit (ACCU) - Cissy Kagaba

"It is this secrecy and the personalization of the oil sector and other natural resources by the President that has led to their mismanagement. The secrecy government is using to promote its selfish interests might prove dangerous in future given the fact that it promotes social unrest."



Rubaga South MP, John Ken Lukyamuzi and shadow Minister for Water and environment -

"Natural resources in this country are handled as if they are private business. Point in case is the Mabira forest give away. If I may ask, were people consulted on whether it should be given away on not? I guess not. Sometimes I can't help but keep on asking myself repeatedly... what is going on in this country? I therefore conclude by saying that if the government can't handle working in a more transparent and democratic manner, let the opposition come in. I am certain we shall be better managers."

Undue Influence from a Rotten Institution: Corruption in Natural Resource Management

Roger Kiwanuka



Uganda Parliament in Session

Recently, about 1.1 million barrels of oil were discovered in the Albertine Graben region in western Uganda. Today, it is estimated that Uganda will be able to support production of over 100,000 barrels of oil per day for 20 years. For ordinary Ugandans, this news has been welcomed with two distinctive forms; the positive and the negative. In the case of oil discovery, the positive expectations are truly hopes that the valued resource and the associated revenues will deliver substantial social, economic and infrastructural improvements, whilst liberating Ugandans from poverty by boosting economic growth.

Negative expectations also exist since resource abundance is considered a "curse." While oil discovery presents considerable opportunities, it also carries a risk commonly known as the *natural resource curse* - a situation where abundance of tradable natural resources such as oil ironically leads to economic stagnation, the death of other traditional and non-traditional exports such as

agricultural and manufactured products, and conflicts over the allocation of resources.

This has been witnessed by some African countries for instance Nigeria - which pumped her first barrels of oil in the early 50s and has since set world records in corruption; and Angola, whose story is just as sad! Despite the huge revenue generated from oil, 70% of Angolans live below the poverty line. Another example is our good neighbors in the East (DRC) - home to some of the world's richest sources of gold, diamonds, timber, tin and cobalt but is compromised by greed, corruption and ethnic rivalry over the resources.

And if we look at Uganda, the situation is not any better. Already, our oil sector is amid so many corruption scandals; with some leading to the suspension of new deals between Uganda and foreign oil companies, and with others leading to the censorship of four ministers by the 9th Parliament.

So, what exactly is the cause of this?

According to the Anti Corruption Centre (4U), Natural resources often provide fertile ground for corruption. This risk cuts across natural resource sectors – from non-renewable resources such as oil, gas, minerals and metals, to renewable resources such as forests, fisheries and land. The basic relationship between corruption and natural resources is twofold. Firstly, the presence of natural resource endowments may cause corruption. The existence of appropriable resource revenues, for which various social groups may vie, can result in a high level of rent-seeking behavior.

Secondly, corruption may occur within natural resource management (NRM) systems themselves, leading to the sub-optimal use of these resources and to poor development outcomes in terms of economic growth and/or poverty reduction. The level of corruption within NRM systems is a product not only of the resource endowments at stake, but also of the institutional arrangements in place to govern their use.

In philosophical, theological, or moral discussions, corruption is spiritual or moral impurity or deviation from an ideal. In economic terms, corruption is payment for services or material which the recipient is not due, under law. This may be called bribery, kickback, or, in the Middle East, baksheesh. In government it is when an elected representative makes decisions that are influenced by vested interest rather than their own personal or party ideological belief (WIKIPEDIA).

This normally results in extreme poverty, abuse and discrimination since corruption is a challenge to political and economic development.

Subsequently, what can Uganda do to avoid causing the wretchedness associated with corruption, civil and armed strife, and poverty plus chaos that have left some other African countries ruined? Here are a few suggestions:

- Ensure transparency of revenue and distribution of allocations
- Institute constitutional governance

In economics, rent-seeking is an attempt to obtain economic rent by manipulating the social or political environment in which economic activities occur, rather than by creating new wealth, for example, spending money on political lobbying in order to be given a share of wealth that has already been created.

- The Ugandan government should also use the revenues gotten from natural resources to fund demonstrable social projects that benefit society; giving priority to the most under deserved communities. In a recent interview in a local newspaper, Mr. Bob Ken, a Ghanaian Lawyer, and Governance and Management Analyst noted that “people’s expectations can be best managed by building infrastructure like roads, health centers and school and setting up of hi-tech industries to provide employment opportunities and to improve the

standard of living when it comes to natural resource management.”

- Sensitize masses about the natural resource sector since most anticipate some “rapid and unrealistic achievements” in economic growth. This will help avoid social unrest.
- Develop methods and policies that control natural resource revenues to avoid mismanagement of public funds.
- The private sector should work towards exposing abuses and bringing substantial public pressure to bear on officials engaged in any corruption scandals.
- Put in place effective monitoring systems to avoid misuse of public funds and the natural resources.

A major conclusion is that priority is also given to policies that address rent-seeking and patronage. In other words, policy in resource-rich countries should be less about macro-economic management and more about institutions to prevent rent-seeking and patronage, and about giving the right incentives to players in the resource sector. Furthermore, these policies need to take into account their impact on rent-seeking and patronage, and some current policies may actually be harmful in this respect.

In economics, rent-seeking is an attempt to obtain economic rent by manipulating the social or political environment in which economic activities occur, rather than by creating new wealth, for example, spending money on political lobbying in order to be given a share of wealth that has already been created, while patronage refers to the support, encouragement, privilege, or financial aid that an organization or individual bestows to another.

Corruption: Casting a shadow over Uganda’s oil”

Patience Akumu



Minister of Ethics and integrity - Simon Lokodo

Sections of the public have expressed fear that they might not benefit from oil revenue expected out of the over 1 billion barrels of commercially viable oil discovered in Uganda’s Albertine Graben region; thanks to an entrenched culture of corruption in the country, unclear oil agreements and a lot of secrecy when it comes to this public treasure. In February, Members of Parliament (MPs) tried to push for accountability and stop government from signing any more oil agreements until issues of oil governance were streamlined.

However, Energy Minister, Irene Muloni, hurriedly signed the agreements on the order of President Yoweri Museveni. Museveni later said MPs who opposed the signing of oil agreements were sabotaging the economy and he had succeeded in stopping them.

Parliament also unsuccessfully called for the censure of senior cabinet Ministers for their alleged involvement in illegal oil deals. Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi, Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa and Internal Affairs Minister Hilary Ongek were accused of taking bribes to the tune of over 100 billion Ug Shs from oil companies and influencing the signing of oil deals.

Yet the question still begs: Is there any hope of curbing corruption before it makes the phenomenal oil curse a reality in Uganda?

Executive Director Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, Cissy Kagaba, says that the biggest challenge when it comes to oil governance is the fact that it is still

shrouded in mystery. Yet, transparency lies at the core of the fight against corruption.

She says that the fact that oil agreements are available on very stringent conditions is a violation of the right to access information as enshrined under the Constitution. For example, under the guidelines, the agreements can only be accessed by “authorized persons” only after he or she has made a formal application. The agreements are held by the clerk of Parliament and cannot be taken away or photocopied. This way, their circulation is limited.

The result is that people neither know the contents of these agreements or their rights as citizens of the country. Most ordinary citizens I talked to for instance don’t know the Constitutional provisions and other laws and policies relating to oil. The basis of which is the fact that government holds the oil in trust for its citizens, all of whom are entitled to benefit.

Also, those whose property is affected by oil mining are entitled to fair compensation. The compensation exercise is overseen by the district head office. Kagaba says this arrangement leaves the locals with poor bargaining power.

“There is no go between them and the district. Who determines how much they are compensated anyway?” she asks, adding that the fact that people stay without compensation for over a year shows that the government is not willing to protect its people against powerful companies.

Weak Parliament

The situation looks even grimmer considering that events in the past have shown parliament is powerless in the face of heavy influence from the Executive. It becomes questionable whether they have the ability to uphold and defend the interests of the people they represent.

Kagaba cites the February speech by Museveni that chastised MPs for trying to stop the signing of oil agreements. Kagaba points out that clearly there is no respect for the Constitutional tenet of separation of powers. And that:

“Why can’t they (Parliamentarians) fight for their independence? What did they do when government ignored their resolution?”

Sources; some of the information in this article was got from - <http://www.u4.no/> rogerkiwanuka@gmail.com



Western Uganda Youth MP Gerald Karuhanga during ACFODE-KAS EU Project launch. The youthful MP became popular because of his fight against corruption in Uganda's oil sector

“We challenge and demand that proceeds of oil go directly to government coffers for the good of the public.”

The vulnerable left out

Economic, social and political changes disproportionately affect vulnerable groups like women, children, youth, and the disabled. These people are also the most affected by poverty, and ideally economic planning should be geared towards correcting the imbalances that have been caused by age old culture, religion and even written laws. In the same vein, the oil debate should feature discourses on how societies' vulnerable will benefit from oil revenue.

Unfortunately, mention of vulnerable groups in the oil governance debate is merely coincidental. A senior officer at the Ministry of Gender said that his office is not concerned with oil economics and politics because it is a “sensitive” matter.

Kagaba says that these imbalances against the vulnerable are deeply entrenched in the country's culture of patriarchy. Thus far, only the big men with the right political affiliations stand to benefit if there is no concerted effort to include minorities.

High expectations

While the general outlook seems bleak, there is also extreme euphoria following the discovery of oil. Community based organizations in the area report that some people in the Albertine region believe that they will not have to work anymore. They think the discovery of oil portends a future free of hard labour or agriculture.

“These expectations will not be met. The government should educate the people,” Kagaba says adding that ‘these misconceptions have perpetrated the oil curse in countries like Nigeria.

Women and Climate Change – Report of a Climate Witness

Patricia Otuka-Karner

While climate experts meet in conferences locally, regionally and internationally to discuss issues of climate change, they don't come up with actions or substantial decisions that address this global issue, but only manage to compromise. A comprehensive and legally binding climate change protection agreement seems to be unrealistic yet there should be some alternatives given the fact that climate change has already affected the

seasons. Rose says that what she has been harvesting has never been much, however, today, it is less than ever. A little bit of sorghum, a little bit of maize. It is getting more and more difficult to take care of her three children. If the seeds don't sprout, she misses out on the little money to send the children to school.

Rose' husband is usually travelling with the small herd of cows the family owns. Since the water sources are

Climate change is a scientifically proven phenomenon that includes any change in the climate, whether due to its natural variability or as a result of human activity. It is also a reminder of a sometimes forgotten fact: we are ecologically interdependent. Human activity takes place within ecological systems not bound by political frontiers and will have generally negative impacts on the environment and on people's well being if not managed in a sustainable manner.
UNDP Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change, 2009

lives of many worldwide.

According to the Human Development Report 2007 – 2008 by the United Nations Development Programme, “climate change is the defining human development issue of our generation.” Tackling it can no longer be postponed, let alone ignored, and everyone concerned – which basically should be everyone – must integrate their efforts. Climate change threatens to erode human freedoms and limit choice. Women's often limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and muted voice in shaping decisions make them highly vulnerable to climate change. Patterns of inequality, including gender inequality, are emphasized.

Rose Nakiro - one of the many Ugandan farmers does not understand her world anymore. Previously, the woman from Karamoja knew when the rain would start, and when the dry season would begin. But now? Not anymore!

The 38 year old notes that, “nowadays, we experience droughts most of the time. They are more and more prolonged, briefly interrupted by strong floods.”

She lives in the north eastern part of Uganda where most people until today are half nomads, herd cattle and once in a while plant something. They are solely and strongly depending on stable weather and distinct

getting more and more scarce, he sometimes takes weeks before coming home again.

More than often, Rose has to manage everyday life by herself. Good news however is that she has not lost all her courage yet. After all, her name Nakiro derives meaning from the word akiro which means rain in karimojong. She was born during the rainy season which was a good omen for her family and she still keeps that hope, for positive things to happen to her and those close to her.

It is areas like Karamoja that face an insecure future due to climate change though effects are visible all over the country and indeed the world. While farmers and herders are watching on, the extremities of the weather are growing and growing. This has been confirmed by experts such as the German consultant Kai Windhorst who manages one of the UN certified reforestation projects in Uganda.

“Science confirms that weather extremities happen. Today's weather has no precedence in earlier times. The forms and frequency of extremities are new today.” And this does not only concern Rose, but also millions of other women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Though climate change affects everyone in the world, no matter how rich or poor and where they live, its



“
Though climate change affects everyone in the world, no matter how rich or poor and where they live, its consequences are worse for those already stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty.”

consequences are worse for those already stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty. In many countries, climate change means that women and young girls have to walk further to collect water, especially in the dry season. Women in sub-Saharan Africa for example spend 40 billion hours per year collecting water. In the future, women can be expected to contribute even more unpaid labor on coping with climate risks through soil and water conservation, building of anti-flood embankments and increased off-farm employment.

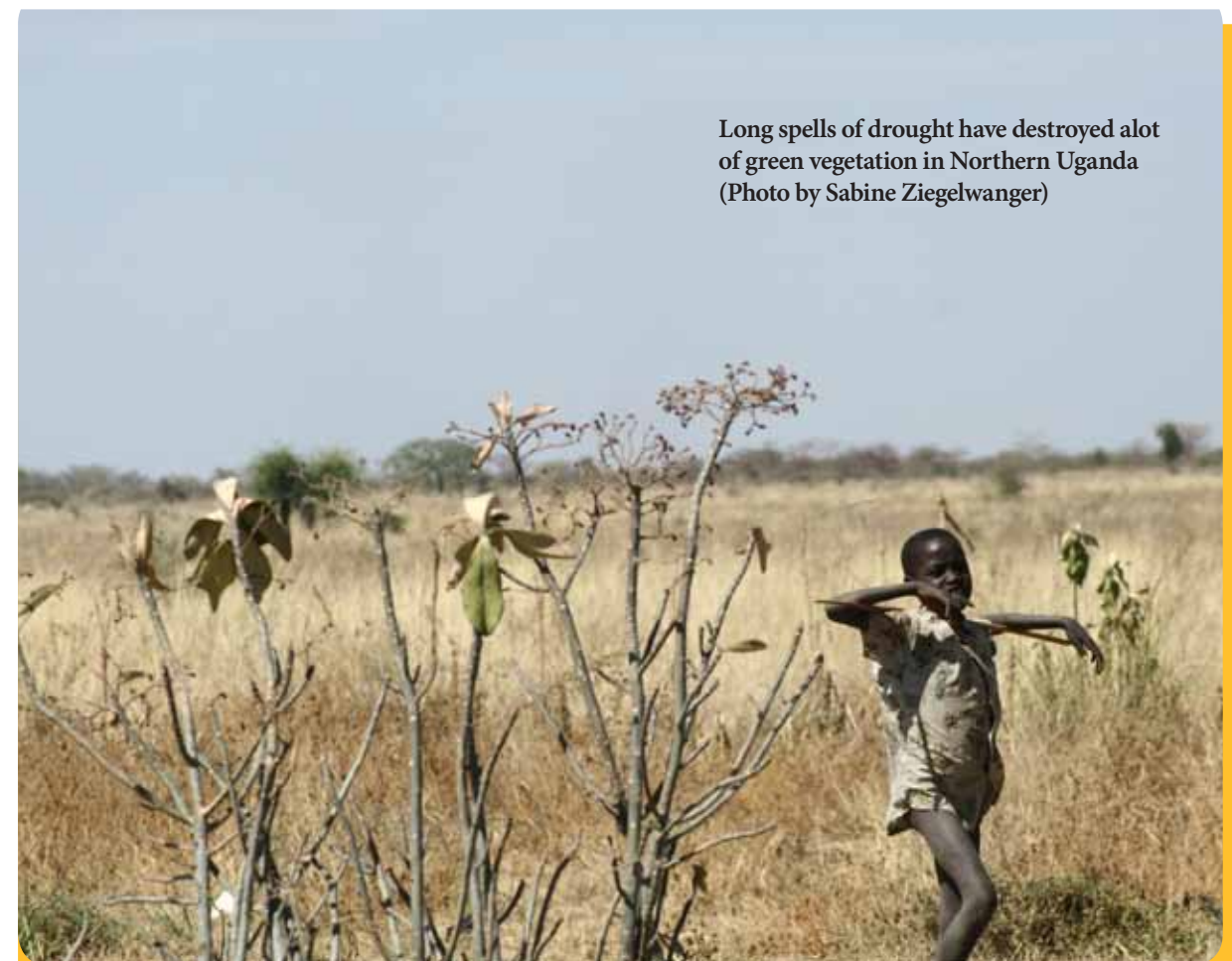
Windhorst emphasizes that the repercussions of climate change affect women most strongly. “About 80% of agriculture in Uganda is conducted by women. Although the head of a family in most cases is male, it is women who provide food and essentials. It is the women who are most concerned when the planting cycle is delayed; they are most exposed to the risks that come with drought and uncertain rainfall.”

The problems that come with climate change appear slowly and with time. Rose is one of those who now witness that. When one of her children fell sick in the past, she used to prepare traditional medicines out of medical plants available by her garden. However, now, those are more and more extinct since the vegetation has changed due to changed climate. That leaves her with no other option but to buy expensive western pills for which she does not have the budget.

Nonetheless not all hope is gone because there is much that can be done to become resilient to the changing conditions.

“One can plant shrubs and trees for firewood around the gardens. Water can be preserved and collected,” says the climate expert Windhorst. “We therefore have to support good projects that locally impact and assist

Before climate change (Photo by Patricia Otuka-Karner)



Long spells of drought have destroyed a lot of green vegetation in Northern Uganda (Photo by Sabine Ziegelwanger)

the small farmers directly. For instance as a consultant, I have the responsibility of developing and implementing projects that enable farmers to survive on agriculture, to be climate resilient and to address and react to climate changes.”

In this regard, one cannot ignore the role women play in supporting households and communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Across the developing world, women’s leadership in natural resource management is well recognized. For centuries, women have passed on their skills in water management, forest management and the management of biodiversity, among others. Through these experiences, women have acquired valuable knowledge that has allowed them to contribute positively to the identification of appropriate adaptation and mitigation techniques. If only they were given the opportunity; they would prove to the world the worth of their knowledge and skills.

The above reinforces that fact that depending on social categories such as gender, age, economic level and ethnic groups, climate change has and will have different effects. If attention is not paid to its causes and effects, climate change may increase inequality the world over. In view of this reality, ensuring participation of the greatest possible swath of the population, women and men, girls and boys, in developed and less developed countries alike is not only a matter of social justice but also one of great significance for our future generations. Women must be included in natural resource management not because they are more vulnerable but because they have different perspectives and experiences to contribute. Though they face different conditions of vulnerability than men, they are capable of offering different solutions than men; and this in the long run helps mitigate climate change, manage natural resources appropriately and protect the environment.

Sources: private research and interviews; and UNDP Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change, 2009
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Women's roles and responsibilities in using, managing and conserving natural resources need to be appreciated.

Mainstreaming Gender in the Cycle Management of the Natural Resource Sector: Shifting Roles of Women & Men to Promote Participatory Management of Natural Resources

Stacey Pearl Keirungi

Despite numerous efforts to mainstream gender, many governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and development agencies find these efforts particularly difficult in natural resource arenas. This is mainly because women and men have different roles, responsibilities, and knowledge in managing natural resources. For instance; rural women's and men's different tasks and responsibilities in food production and provision result in different needs, priorities, and concerns. And although their roles and responsibilities vary across regions and cultures, they often follow similar gender divisions of labor.

In most regions men use natural resources in agriculture, logging, and fishing for commercial purposes more than women. In crop production in many regions of the developing world, men tend to focus on market-oriented or cash crop production, whereas women often work with subsistence crops, minor crops, and vegetable gardens. Women often grow a wider diversity of crops. In some cases men and women perform complementary roles—for example, men clear land, women plant and tend crops and men harvest and market crops. However, observers have come to learn that these gender patterns are neither simplistic nor static.

Gender differences exist in rights and access to natural resources, including land, minerals, forests, water, and animals. In most societies women typically have fewer ownership rights than men. Women frequently have de facto or land-use rights as compared to men's de jure or ownership rights. Women often have use rights that are mediated by their relationships with men. Thus, when women are widowed or divorced, they may lose these rights, as in recent cases of land grabbing in Northern Uganda. Women may collect branches and limbs from trees, whereas men may have rights to harvest trees. Without secure land rights, women have little or no access to credit to make investments in improved natural resource management and conservation practices.

How men and women use resources reflects gendered access. In Uganda for instance, despite the existence of government initiatives aimed at reducing poverty over the years through initiatives like the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADs), 31 % of the Ugandan population still lives below the poverty line, with the majority being women in rural and peri urban areas. According to the Uganda Human Development Report (UHDR 2007), Uganda's agricultural sector shows inequality in gender relations with respect to production and marketing. Women constitute the majority of the estimated 70% of smallholder subsistence farmers and contribute to 70-75% of agricultural production: an average of 55% of labour for land preparation, 65% for planting, 85-90% for weeding and over 95% for food processing. Women are also responsible for a variety of post harvest activities ranging from crop preservation to processing and storage. Women are responsible for 60% of harvesting and 90% of preparation and processing. They also tend to concentrate on the production of food crops (70-

80%) mainly for family consumption while men tend to concentrate on the production of cash crops.

Despite their economic contribution, the report further reveals that majority of women are locked out because they are financially illiterate and lack collateral. Their businesses remain small, employing fewer workers mostly because they don't have adequate capital and yet many financial institutions insist on collateral. Lack of control over productive resources like land, crop and livestock as well as control of their labour is a fundamental determinant of gender dimensions of poverty. Such factors inhibit women from fully engaging in commercial agriculture and other rural economic activities

Women in Decision Making

Even with attempts to mainstream gender at the national and international levels in the natural resource sector, few women participate. Gender is rarely a central issue in policy initiatives. Even then, men tend to dominate in the newly emerging decision-making and policy arenas of natural resource management. Women's limited participation in decision-making processes restricts their capacity to engage in political decisions that can impact their specific needs and vulnerabilities yet their involvement is important. And it should not be merely for the sake of record, but rather must be integrated into process so that the problems, needs and aspirations of women are fully taken into account.

Facilitating Women's Participation

Different steps may be taken to facilitate the participation of women in natural resource management. Examples include;

- Understanding the role of women in participatory natural resource management
- Creating awareness amongst the men folk about the importance of women in the community, their role and status as equal partners in management of natural resources,
- Creating enabling conditions for women to move beyond their "domestic role" to other strategic and relevant positions
- Recognizing the differences of interest and responsibility in different activities, between—men, women, male and female children.
- Using more participatory approaches that involve



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Women and men maximize their contribution to natural resource management, use and conservation once gender responsive actions are adopted.

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both women and men in making decisions as well as acting on them, learning from women, listening to their points of view and priorities, and deciding with them. The targeted outcome of this can for instance ensure that women constitute at least 50 percent of the total membership of natural resource management committees, preferably holding calculated positions like president, vice president or secretary.

- Making more use of women's knowledge, experience and their traditional skills of good resource management, and also documenting them for instance through the media
- Developing a comprehensive gender balanced curriculum for schools, appropriate to local environmental conditions and social customs and;
- Establishing a broader base for decision-making at all levels, one which takes into account the experiences and needs of both women and men in resource management.

Benefits from Gender-Responsive Actions

- Overall improvement is seen in natural resources management, use, and conservation
- Women and men maximize their contributions

to natural resource management, use and conservation

- Understanding and addressing the gender dimensions of natural resources ensures their effective use for development purposes.
- Gender relations improve and the social acceptance of women in decision-making positions increases.
- By identifying gender-differentiated opportunities and constraints in natural resource management, project implementers make better-informed decisions and develop more effective 'engendered' interventions.
- Intra household relations improve with an increase in women's control over household resources.
- Gender analysis helps clarify the specific and often different needs, vulnerabilities, and coping strategies of women and men
- Opportunities to transform gender relations and empower women are also availed in the process.
- Involving both men and women in natural resources management offers the possibility of improved incomes and livelihoods for both women and men.

Other sources; <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/Module10.pdf>
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Get Beautiful Naturally

Namitala Esther



Adopting a new lifestyle with natural beauty products will help you look great

Beauty, unlike love, friendship or even life, brings its own sweet reward. All you have to do is to work towards its maintenance. Most women have chosen to keep gorgeous by depending on artificial beauty products without a care as to what effects these products have; yet what they need to realize is that there is so much beauty in nature. It is a notion that even men prefer in order to enhance their appearance.

If you have never tried using natural beauty products, now is the time to go green with your makeup routine. I do understand that when you are accustomed to doing things in a certain way, you may not see why you would want to switch to another alternative. However, once you understand the benefits of natural products, you'll see why you would want to adopt a new, natural lifestyle with beauty products that can help you look and feel great! Natural beauty care means using naturally-derived ingredients such as herbs, roots, essential oils and flowers, combined with naturally occurring carrier agents, preservatives, surfactants, humectants and emulsifiers (everything from natural soap to oils to pure water).

When compared to artificial beauty products that contain harmful ingredients like phthalates, formaldehyde, and parabens among other chemicals which are greatly linked to liver and kidney damage, affect baby boys' reproductive organs, and cause male obesity; natural organic beauty products are always gentle, pure, and kind to the skin and one's general health.

What's more, other than buying already manufactured products that are expensive, one can make their own beauty products to keep harmful chemicals off their skin. Homemade creams, soaps, face masks, moisturizers, hair treatments, nail strengtheners, foot treatments and more can be just as luxurious and fragrant as their

counterparts. Even then, many of these recipes can be put into reusable containers which can also be decorated to make them look attractive, and can as well be given as unique, homemade gifts to relatives and friends. Here are some natural beauty recipes you can try out on your own.

Mayonnaise-Baby Oil Dry Skin Treatment

For you to make Mayonnaise-Baby Oil Dry Skin Treatment, you will need to mix 2 tablespoons of real mayonnaise, and 1 teaspoon of baby oil. When you are through with mixing, apply onto face, neck, rough elbows and knees or anywhere else you feel might benefit from the product. Leave for 20 minutes then rinse off thoroughly with tepid water. This recipe will not only moisturizer dry skin, but will also make it soft whilst giving the applicant a youthful glow.

Vegetable Oil Nail Strengtheners

To make Vegetable Oil Nail Strengtheners, you need to mix 2 tablespoons of castor oil, with 2 tablespoons of salt, and 1 teaspoon of wheat germ oil into a sealable bottle. Note should be taken that this product can be used for 20 to 30 applications and should be shaken well before use. Rub a small amount of the mixture onto your nails, leave on for 3-5 minutes and wipe off with a

Nature's Pharmacy

Sandra Nassali

There are plenty of advantages of natural foods. Extensive research conducted over a number of years has proven that organic food not only tastes better than genetically modified food, but it better for us, our children, our animals, wildlife and the environment as a whole. In this issue of the Arise therefore, we have identified a number of foods that will go a long way in ensuring that you live a healthy life. So, find out how amazing nature's pharmacy can be and thereafter, make it a point to live right by eating right!!



A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.



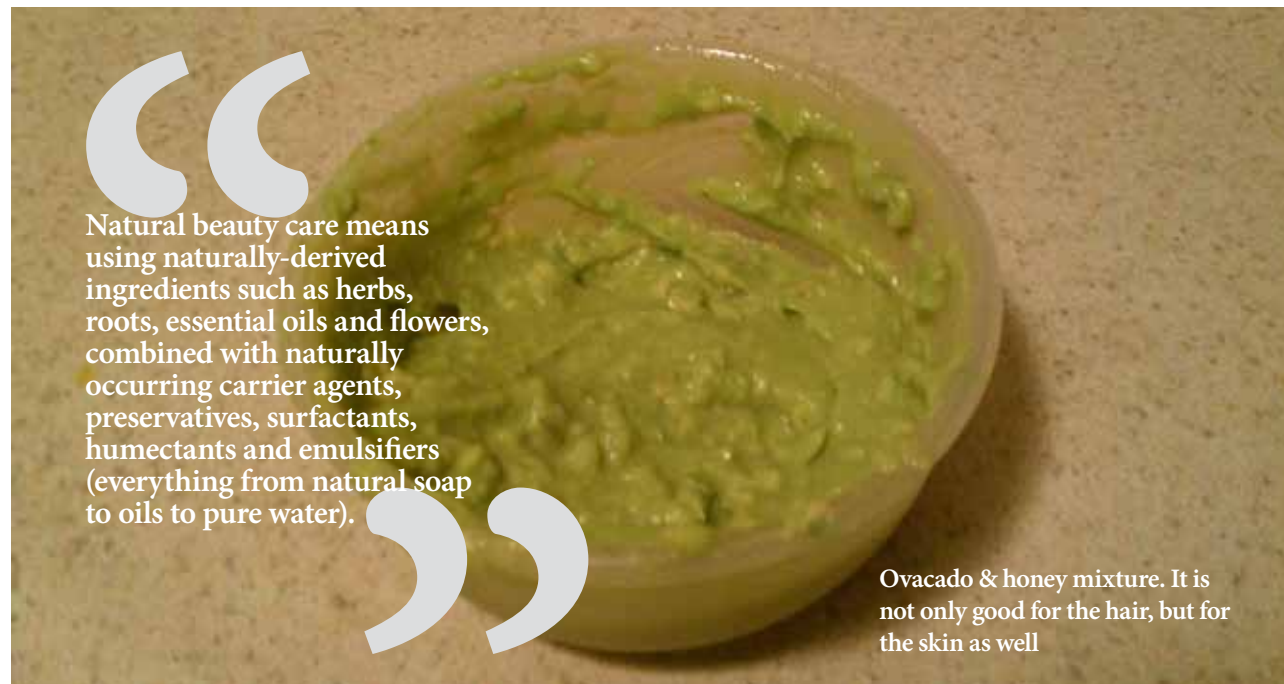
A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food



Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.



A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.



“Natural beauty care means using naturally-derived ingredients such as herbs, roots, essential oils and flowers, combined with naturally occurring carrier agents, preservatives, surfactants, humectants and emulsifiers (everything from natural soap to oils to pure water).”

Ovacado & honey mixture. It is not only good for the hair, but for the skin as well

cotton pad. This recipe is a good nail-strengthener. So you no longer have an excuse for conked-out nails.

Honey-Avocado Invigorating and Revitalizing Hair Treatment

For one to make Honey-Avocado Invigorating and Revitalizing Hair Treatment they will have to mash 1 medium avocado (peeled and stoned), and 2 tablespoons of honey. After that, massage into hair, leave for 20 to 30 minutes and then wash the hair as usual with lukewarm water. This treatment is good for hair that has been severely damaged by artificial hair products like color and chemicals.

Tightening/Toning Lemon Egg White Mask

To make Tightening/Toning Lemon Egg White Mask, beat together 1 egg white and ½ a lemon (strained) juice for 3 minutes. After, apply directly to your face, avoiding the eyes and leave on for 30 minutes. Rinse off with warm water. The advantages of applying this toner are varied and include among others; giving your skin a naturally acidic pH balance, adding a layer of protection, moisturizing and refreshing your skin, and preventing 'ingrown' hairs on the applicant's face.

Such products as above are considered to be genuinely healthy, and usually have a fresh, pleasant and natural scent

just like the ingredients they are made of such as coconut milk, papaya and other sweet-smelling ingredients; unlike synthetic products, which use strong fragrances to hide the smell of chemicals. More good news about using organic products is that results show almost immediately. However, one has to be aware of the fact that all-natural ingredients can also cause allergic reactions. One study in the British Journal of Dermatology shows that popular natural ingredients such as tea tree oil, feverfew, lavender, and jasmine brings on allergic or sensitivity responses in some people; therefore given such instances we recommend a “sniff” test” before use. If a product says it contains natural strawberries but smells like imitation strawberry-flavored candy, then it may not be as natural as you think.

Also, I recommend that you read the labels of all the beauty products that you plan on using even when they are labeled “natural.” Environmental groups caution against ingredients such as parabens which are used as preservatives; petrochemicals and their by-products (often found in skin creams, foundations, and lip balms); mercury mostly found in (mascara and eye drops); lead in (lipsticks); dioxane (in shampoos and body washes); and phthalates in (nail polishes and hair sprays).

Hence, natural beauty products have everything you need to be naturally beautiful. Therefore from today onwards, let them be your organic beauty directory. It's not only fun, but rewarding to mix up your own all-natural beauty products in the comfort of your home. So....why not try getting beautiful in less risky ways?

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Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function. And yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.



Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.



Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that When a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).



Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of Sperm as well to overcome male sterility.



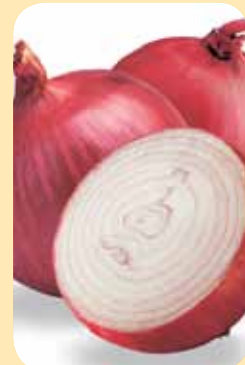
Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.



Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.

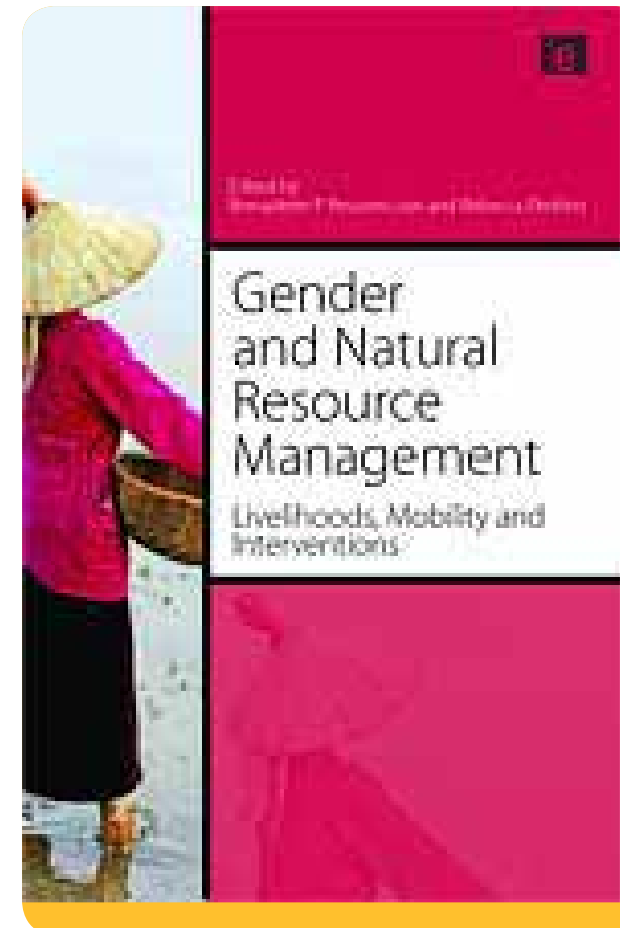


Oranges, Grapefruits, and other Citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.



Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

Source: Internet



Sasha Mumbi

This book is about the gender dimensions of natural resource exploitation and management. According to the editors, it provides an exploration of the uneasy negotiations between theory, policy and practice that are often evident within the realm of gender, environment and natural resource management, especially where gender is understood as a political, negotiated and contested element of social relationships. In recent years, there has been some disquiet that, amidst efforts to mainstream gender into natural resource management interventions and into development policy more broadly, gender has lost its critical and politicized edge, having been institutionalized into a series of tools and techniques that are far removed from the transformatory potential of gender as a feminist concept (Kabeer, 2005; Molyneux and Razavi, 2005; Leach, 2007).

The tension between gender as a technical fix and a more politicized view are examined in this book. The chapters touch on theory, policy and practice, all with a shared focus on gender as a critical analytical concept for understanding the social and political dimensions of natural resource management and governance across a range of empirical settings. In different ways, and with varying commitments to

Gender and Natural Resource Management

Livelihoods, Mobility and Interventions

International Development Research Centre

particular conceptualizations of gender, the authors explore how gender subjectivities, ideologies and identities are produced, employed and contested within natural resource governance, and how gender discourses shape exclusions and possibilities within environment/development processes.

The book also focuses on environments as a realm in which new realities are producing significant challenges for natural resource management, livelihoods and the mitigation of social inequalities. Across the Asian region, natural resource exploitation is accelerating dramatically as countries, cities and small communities are ever more incorporated into the global economy. Economic reform programmes that favour domestic and global market expansion rather than a social welfare agenda, policy responses to climate change, pressures associated with population growth and intensified geographical mobility, and urbanization and commoditization, are reconfiguring patterns of natural resource use and governance at both a national and local level and are having complex effects on peoples' lives. These processes are themselves not innocent of gendered power relations: they are inflected with gender discourses that set in motion differentiated and unjust life opportunities and exclusions. At the same time, sustainable development policy initiatives that seek to ameliorate environmental degradation and its negative livelihood effects not only bring gendered impacts and responses, they also work through and produce particular framings of gender and gendered power relations. The impact of this is apparent in the unintended consequences associated with sustainable development initiatives that target women as a homogeneous and undifferentiated

social category, at times exacerbating social and gender injustices.

In part, the book offers a response to recent calls to re-establish more politicized gender at the heart of environment–development debates and we are encouraged by a recent wave of politically committed and theoretically sophisticated contributions to the ‘gender agenda’ in the development literature. In contributing to this new wave of interest, the writers aim to provide a necessary corrective to the naturalized assumptions about men, women and power that underpin the widely held notion within sustainable development policy circles that women play a central role as effective managers of resources, and therefore should be key actors in natural resource management programmes.

In the introduction, writers develop three themes that link the discussions of gender, environment and natural resource management around which the book is organized. First, they consider the changing global context with which approaches to gender and environment must engage, paying particular attention to macroeconomic policies and changes in governance associated with neo-liberalism.

Second, they explore the ways ‘gender’ has been incorporated in environment and development practices, especially within interventions designed to accomplish sustainable development goals.

Finally, the writers examine the realm of gender, knowledge and authority, offering a critical consideration of gendered subjectivities that problematize simplistic mappings of gendered agency and environmental actions. Within each of these themes, the contributors respond in various ways to longstanding debates around gender, environment and natural resource management, many of which resonate with developments in feminist social theory more generally. They begin, therefore, with an overview of debates around gender, environment and natural resource management as these have unfolded in response to a widening engagement with environmental concerns within development policy frameworks since the landmark World Commission on Environment and Development.



Women fishing. If community resilience is built, we can afford to see more women involved in such activities

Building Community Resilience to foster Impartiality in the Management of Natural Resources

Stacey Pearl Keirungi

The rapid use, and the overwhelming dependence of large sections of populations on natural resources for their survival underlines the need to focus on effective management of natural resources.

Experience from many parts of the world demonstrates that the most effective and sustainable strategies for resource management are those based on community participation. This means working closely with local communities in order to assess the resource base and ascertain needs, priorities and constraints that must be considered in the planning, development and implementation of resource management programs.

A community usually comprises several groups with distinct roles, priorities and constraints. In order to ensure effective community participation and to address the needs of each group within the local community, it is necessary to understand these distinct roles and limitations. When a program attempts to involve an entire community without focus on any one group, the socially and/or economically disadvantaged groups are frequently marginalized from the participation process. In such a situation, these groups gain little, if anything from such programs.

Women especially faced by a range of social, cultural

and economic constraints are often marginalized from formal programs of natural resource management. Their acceptance as equal partners in community development has been severely affected by continuing barriers to their full participation in the development process. The absence of a conscious and specific focus on women has prevented their needs from being recognized and integrated into programs being developed.

It is now accepted that if women are to fully participate in the development process, important adjustment are required in order to increase their access to education, training, resources and decision making. Women’s marginalization occurs not on account of their biological differences from men but because of the socially defined differences in roles and responsibilities between the two.

Programs intending to reach all sections of the community need to address these socially defined differences that form the basis of gender stereotyping. A gender-sensitive approach would therefore examine the impact of policies and programs on the status, needs and priorities of both men and women with the local community. Hence, any meaningful involvement of women in a resource management activity entails an understanding of gender dynamic in the local community.

Resilience is the ability to keep functioning during an emergency, being collectively prepared to respond and recover, and being able to provide assistance to vulnerable residents. Emergencies can take many forms, from road accidents and house fires affecting a small number of people, through to widespread loss of electricity, flooding or an explosion which can affect many thousands of people. During times like this, individuals and communities may need to rely on their own resources to ensure they are able to cope with the consequences of the emergency.

Although not a magic potion, community engagement may offer a means of reducing vulnerability to the problems associated with managing natural resources inappropriately since equitable and sustainable management plays a key role in development.

Action to adapt and maintain resilience in the face of natural resource management requires adjustments by governments, by individuals acting as citizens, by duty bearers, and by civil society (collective action). In principle, the concept of collective action seems to offer one solution - men and women working together

and consolidating spaces as a team.

And it is here that Community Driven Development (CCD) – a development initiative that provides control of development process, resource and decision making authority directly to community groups becomes relevant. The underlying assumption of CDD is that communities are the best judges of how their lives and livelihoods can be improved and, if provided with adequate resources and information, they can organize themselves to provide for their immediate needs.

According to the World Bank, CDD has the potential to empower communities and to strengthen the voice of marginalized groups in decision making. But to fulfill this, CCD has to be responsive to the priorities of all the poor and marginalized groups; to which women fall victim. Since most communities are not all-encompassing, CDD initiatives need to be designed to be socially inclusive – giving voice and decision making responsibility to the marginalized for instance the women, the elderly, youth, religious and cultural minorities, among others.

This is because when CCD doesn't pay attention to issues of social inclusion, minorities groups may be excluded, management and investment choices may not reflect the true needs of the poor, and impacts may be significantly compromised. In many local communities for example, cultural practices restrain women from attending or speaking at community meetings, often resulting in neglect of their needs and concerns. They also restrain women from owning and accessing natural resources like land, and other property yet rights to natural resources are extremely important for women since their livelihoods crucially depend upon them, especially in developing countries.

In Uganda for instance; disturbing demographics and worrying social trends persist especially in sectors that have a direct effect on women. This is due to negative attitudes towards gender equality, and in most cases poor resource allocation. For example while women are more than 50% of the Ugandan population, only 16%- 21% own land; though they till and contribute greatly to the economic advancement of their families and of the nation.

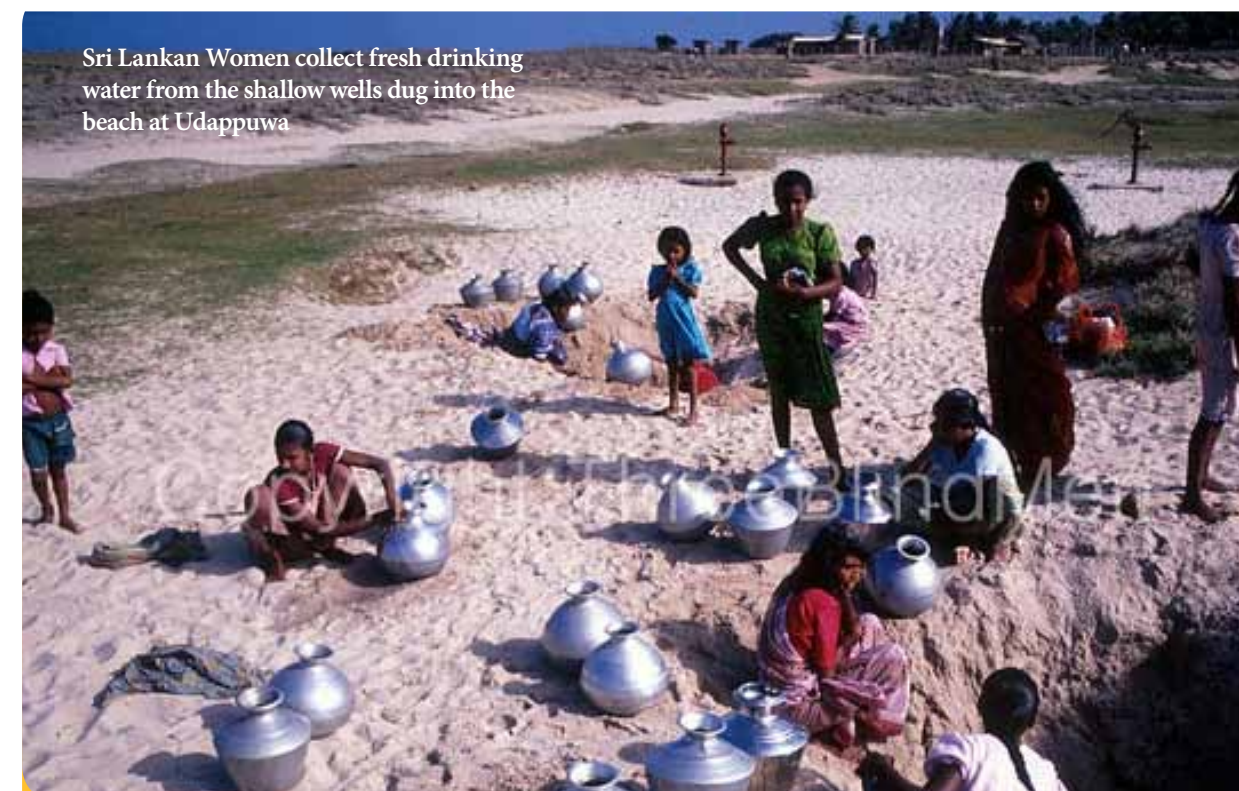
Despite such disturbing trends that are discriminatory and insensitive to women's needs and concerns, various participatory methods under CDD can

“According to the World Bank, CDD has the potential to empower communities and to strengthen the voice of marginalized groups in decision making. But to fulfill this, CCD has to be responsive to the priorities of all the poor and marginalized groups; to which women fall victim.”

facilitate women inclusion in the management of resources. Some of the general guidelines for building community resilience include:

- Understanding the existing community decision making processes and the often local, political, and social contexts (community consultations)
- Determining the gender roles, priorities, and access to resources
- Identifying any barriers to gender inequality so as to facilitate equal participation
- Ensuring that all bodies working with communities have expertise in gender (NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, local government, police, the media etc)
- Getting agreements with communities to support women's involvement in managing natural resources
- Raising awareness on gender equality and equity at grass root levels
- Advocating for, and popularizing national, regional and international legal instruments that support women's rights in as far as managing and accessing natural resources is concerned for instance – the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2010, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); arts. 2 and 17, and the CEDAW, art. 15 since provisions concerning women's rights to natural resources are embodied in human rights law, in international environmental law and in soft-law instruments.

Other sources; Women and natural resource management: a manual for the Asia region- Commonwealth Secretariat
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Developing Capacities to Enhance Participatory Management of Resources

Seuwandi Yapa

As with capability-building interventions in other disciplines and sectors, capacity building on gender equality and equity in the natural resource sector takes many forms and methods, and interventions take place at all levels of the sector - from the global stage to small villages and towns. However, what makes capacity building on gender equality and equity different from capacity building in other sectors is the importance of focusing initiatives on both women and men, and on women-only constituencies. Additionally, capacity building on equality between women and men requires trainers who are committed and engaged in advancing women's rights and gender equality. This is particularly so, as it is important that the trainers have experienced and engaged in the complex dialogues about (in)equality of power in gender relations and their implications for women, men and children with regards to access to resources and decision-making.

UNDP defined 'capacity building' as the creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policy

and legal frameworks, institutional development, including community participation (of women in particular), human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems, adding that, UNDP recognizes that capacity building is a long-term, continuing process, in which all stakeholders participate (ministries, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and user groups, professional associations, academics and others).

In natural resource management, capacity building for women is carried out to transform their positions so that their roles as farmers, environmental managers, professionals and decision makers for instance are fully recognized and supported in order to ensure equal distribution of responsibilities, rights, benefits, and power.

Women specific capacity building programs can therefore target;

- Promoting and building the capacity of women in natural resource management by delivering trainings

- on leadership, gender and training of trainers
- Building managerial skills of women
- Informing them about their rights as far as managing and using natural resources like land, forests, and minerals is concerned.
- Building capacities of women to generate income through enhanced and effective engagement with markets and through the development of enabling environments in natural resource management institutions.

These capacity building initiatives can also among other issues address the;

- Role of women in community affairs
- Problems of women with regard to use and management of natural resources
- Management of natural resources for meeting the specific needs of women
- Social institutions and role of women in their management

At community level, capacity building (for both men and women) can be achieved by;

- Advocating for greater benefits and decision making power for women and;
- Promoting learning and communication on organizational change and women's leadership through let's say training workshops or community dialogues.
- Other major activities can include; provision of training courses on gender and organizational change, women and leadership, and advocacy for female and male change agents at community level.

Additional capacity building initiatives can target;

- Developing 'Engendered' Manuals and Guides
At organisational and government level, manuals and guides for 'engendering' natural resource management policies can be developed. These manuals and guides must be gender sensitive. This process however needs to be accompanied by a parallel process for the engendering of relevant natural resource sector organizations and institutions. Transforming the institutional culture so that it is informed by the principles of equality, equity, and sustainability - especially inclusiveness, transparency

and accountability is critical to changing the culture of natural resource management. In Uganda for instance you have a gender-inclusive national water policy – which itself is a capacity building tool. It offers much food for thought, both from policy analysis to implementation.

- Relevant government ministries (water, forestry, land, and the environment), local authorities, non-governmental organizations and user groups, professional associations, academics and others.

Gender equity capacity building initiatives for policy makers, government, professionals and user groups should also be carried out if participatory management of natural resources is to be realized. These should target natural resource institutions and professional categories mostly dominated by men. There are for instance innumerable international, regional, and national capacity-building organizations that focus on natural resources. It would be a very positive development if all of them were to include gender training as an integral part of all their trainings.

A good example of an organisation that has successfully carried this out is the Network of Women Professionals (NetWwater) in Sri Lanka. It is a voluntary group of Sri Lankan women who are committed to promoting the principles of holistic water management to meet the current freshwater crisis and to create awareness about the relevance of gender in water resources management. NetWwater was created in 1999 and its work engages both women and men in all aspects and sectors of water.

NetWwater incorporates capacity building on gender by building the knowledge and capacities of women and men in technical issues and incorporating a gender analysis in their technical capacity development programmes. Depending on the constituency and the region of the country, they address issues such as floods, irrigation and farming, water pollution, climate change, river sand mining, sanitation in schools and rain water harvesting.

This approach to building capacity in gender equity in water has worked for NetWwater and for Sri Lanka as a whole since it has facilitated the engagement of both women and men who would otherwise not be open to discussing gender and the unequal power relations between women and men that are inherent in the water sector.



Sasha Mumbi

Raising Women's Voices in the Management, Use, and Conservation of Natural Resources

Women manage natural resources daily in their roles as farmers and household providers. Typically, they are responsible for growing subsistence crops, and often have unique knowledge of local crop species. To meet family needs, rural women and girls walk long distances to collect fuel wood and water. However, despite their reliance on natural resources, women have less access to and control over them than men. Usually it is men who put land, water, plants and animals to commercial use, which is often more valued than women's domestic uses. For instance, gender inequality is most evident in access to land in Uganda today, with not more than 20% of women land lords yet they make up for more than 50% of the general population. This is due to the fact that custom prohibits women from owning land. Frequently women have only use rights, mediated by men, and those rights are highly precarious.

However if protocol is observed, women's voices in management of natural resources can be increased. Here are a few tips on how this can be achieved;

- Increase women's participation in institutions that manage the use of natural resources
- Recognize women's knowledge and abilities in natural resource management
- Give women special attention in training activities (capacity building initiatives) because they are usually on the disadvantaged side. Although they, alongside men play important but different roles in the management of resources, women's particular roles and participation in national resource use, decision-making and implementation have been undervalued. In many cases, women's knowledge

and abilities are "simply" forgotten or neglected, so this calls for 'positive discrimination.'

- Involve women in decision making processes related to natural resource management from grass-root to national levels. This can be achieved by for example establishing quota systems in private and government institutions that manage natural resources, with special and strategic seats being reserved specifically for women.
- Include women's ideas, interests and perceptions in policies, laws and agreements that manage natural resources. Overtime, women will start to become more actively and meaningfully involved in management of natural resources if this is done.
- Support women economic empowerment initiatives.
- Advocate for 'equal access to resources' since men dominate the right to own and control natural resources.
- De-campaign the patriarchal customs that belittle and demean the status of women in society.
- Sensitize women about their rights so that they are in the know of what is justly theirs; for instance women, mostly in rural areas need to know that it is okay for them to own land, participating in fisheries, and also be in fully involved in decision that manage chief resources like oil and gold. Many don't know this!

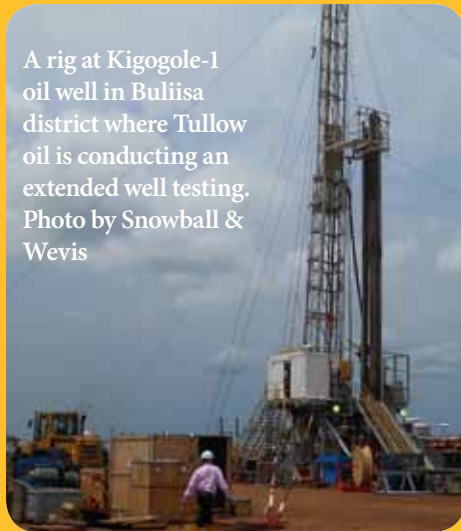
This will in the long run improve women's sustainable livelihoods. Many will also agree that if women's standards of living improve, so will those of their families and communities.

For God & My Country!

Other sources; An Overview of Capacity Building on Gender Equity in the Water Sector by Prabha Khosla & Participatory natural resource management By Sharad Singh Negi.
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A rig at Kigogole-1 oil well in Buliisa district where Tullow oil is conducting an extended well testing. Photo by Snowball & Wevis



Will Ugandan Women Benefit from Oil?

Lessons from Ghana

Patience Akumu

Even with so many prospects, a feeling of foreboding looms over Uganda, following the discovery of about 1.1 billion barrels of commercially viable oil in the Albertine Graben region, the biggest oil strike in East Africa so far. The prospects look particularly grim for Ugandan women who have for a long time been the ones who work hardest in nurturing and harvesting natural resources. Yet, they still remain in poverty and hardly enjoy the benefits of their labor.

Women in Uganda fair poorly when it comes to development indicators like education, use of family planning, access to health services, access to land and other assets and indeed use and control of natural resources such as oil. And, like has been the case in other oil producing countries in Africa, critics now predict that without proper legislation and policy, women may not reap the benefits oil promises to deliver to its citizens. Speaking about the gender dimension of the discovery of oil in Ghana, Geology Professor Thomas Akabzaa observes:

“The absence of effective policy guidelines to protect citizens from oil and gas exploitation, elsewhere on the continent, have resulted in costly social conflicts and entrenched poverty in oil producing areas and widened gaps between the rich and the poor who are mostly women and deepened inequalities between various social groups...”

Vincent Kisembo, Uganda Land Alliance (an NGO that deals with women’s land rights) Public Liaison Officer, echoes Akabzaa, saying that while the discovery of oil has affected both men and women in the region, the women are disproportionately affected. Research by the Uganda Land Alliance carried out in three districts of the Albertine region- Hoima, Buliisa and Amuru, shows that women are in most cases not involved in the negotiations and land

transactions. Also, they are particularly ignorant about the land laws and policies that directly affect them.

“The exploration of oil has adverse effects on the health of pregnant women. So while they no longer have to walk long distances to health centers, there is yet to be proper Environmental Impact Assessment that takes into consideration how they will be affected,” Kisembo says, adding that the discovery of oil, while improving on the infrastructure and access to social amenities, is likely to negatively affect the quality of life of women.

“The women are not employed in top positions. They are relegated to being sweepers,” Kisembo points out. Tullow Oil, the lead explorer, estimates that exploitable oil deposits are comparable to Equatorial Guinea’s and the Republic of Chad’s. At its peak, Uganda expects to produce 150,000 barrels a day for up to 25 years. While oil has the potential to bring in billions in revenue, the ‘oil curse’ phenomenon is well documented. Experts have noticed that once oil production begins, communities become worse off than they were before.

Indicators like health, environment and democracy drop. Oil does not always deliver on the promise of prosperity and a better economy. Still, Ugandan men and women hope, oil will turn around the ailing economy.

Last year, pump petrol prices rose to Shs 3,900 per liter. In November 2011, core inflation hit 30.8% - the highest in 15 years. At about the same time, the dollar almost hit the Shs 3,000 mark, and Ugandans experienced high food prices and transport costs. It is this dire economic situation that partly kicked off the opposition led ‘walk-to-work’ campaigns. During these campaigns, women and men protested the rising cost of living.

In March 2012, the ‘walk-to-work’ campaigns culminated in the killing of Assistant Inspector of Police, John Michael Ariong. The Uganda Human Rights Commission condemned the violation of the right to freedom of assembly, while the opposition questioned the government’s commitment to democracy. But will oil make the situation better?

President Yoweri Museveni, in his October 9, 2011 Independence Day speech, pledged government commitment to improving the economy. He said once oil production starts, Ugandans will enjoy lower fuel prices, jobs will be created and the country will rely less on foreign aid. However, skeptics say that Uganda, like other oil producing countries in Africa, is foredoomed.

They doubt the government’s commitment to ensuring that oil revenues benefit all citizens. While Museveni’s 26-year rule has brought relative peace to a bigger part of the country, his leadership has, nonetheless, been characterized by corruption and misappropriation of resources. The 2011 Uganda Human Rights Commission report indicates that Uganda repeatedly violates certain rights like freedom of expression, freedom from torture, and inhuman degrading treatment and the rights of minorities.

Also, because of reservations of particular clauses in the Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and in the The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, government’s total commitment to women’s rights is questionable.

Indeed, like is the case in countries like Ghana, any mention of women’s rights in the oil debate is merely incidental and not planned.

Oil-producing countries, according to a 2010 World Bank report, are more likely to have leaders who stay longer in power. They have more human rights violations and experience higher poverty levels, particularly in the oil-mining communities.

Still, Ghana is one of the few functioning democracies in Africa. Ghana has received international applause from leaders like US President Barrack Obama, for being one of the few African countries with term limits and regular free and fair elections where incumbents can be defeated and agree to step down.

Oil was discovered in Ghana in 2007 and production started in 2010. It has estimated reserves of 20 billion

barrels of oil and the capacity to produce approximately 120000 barrels of oil per day.

As a new oil-producing country, Ghana had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other oil producers, particularly those in West Africa for whom “the desperation, poverty and apathy are alarming and disheartening,” according to an online Ghanaian economic monitoring group.

The group cites Nigeria, where the majority still live in poverty in spite of the high revenue generated from vast oil reserves. Ghana, which buoyed the positive experiences of countries like Norway, USA, Britain and Russia, is optimistic that her oil will not be a curse.

Ghana decided not to rely entirely on oil. It has kept other economic activities like fishing alive. This way, the communities feel more included in the development discourse. Also, economic diversification controls overdependence on oil and brings in more revenue.

Thus far, women in Ghana have been able to continue with their economic activities, other than relying completely on oil. They also benefit from a more conducive and healthy environment through the rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment in the country.

For Uganda, some of the biggest oil reserves have been discovered in Murchison Falls National Park, and within Lake Albert. Even as Uganda explores oil, there is need to protect these environmental gems. Further, the oil production sharing agreements in Ghana have been made public and are available online.

In Uganda however, the full contents of the agreements remain undisclosed. This has put the government’s commitment to equitably sharing oil wealth into question. Apart from some lobbying from civil society organizations, the women’s voices have been particularly drowned in the oil debate. Yet the UN has noted that development is accelerated when women are actively involved; and oil is no exception. Akabzaa recommends that women should be involved in the dialogues on oil, and policies and laws, and that:

“The core argument is that citizen participation will contribute to better management of the industry in a way that ensures transparency, accountability to women and men, equity and delivers benefits to the entire country.”

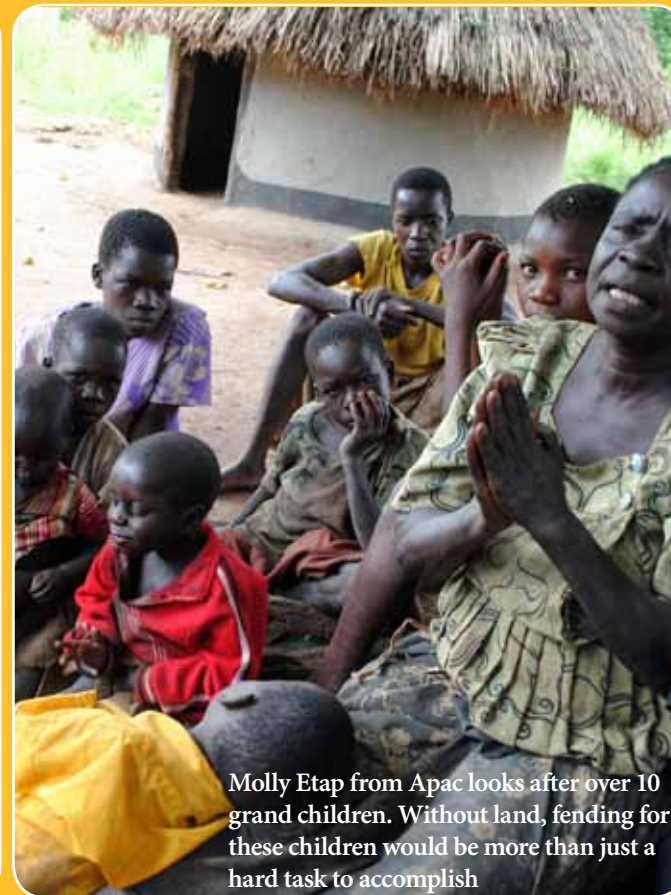
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Florence Ganyana from Hoima reclaimed her land after the intervention of Uganda Law Society



Lukiya Kigaiga points to the land bequeathed to her by her late husband but later grabbed by the brother-in-law



Molly Etap from Apac looks after over 10 grand children. Without land, feeding for these children would be more than just a hard task to accomplish

Women and Land Rights- The Time Is Ripe To Act Differently

Tumusiime Kabwende Deo

In many traditional African societies, women were, and continue to be considered as second class citizens devoid of among others, the right to own land. In many several instances, women are only allowed user rights while many women are virtually property of their husbands themselves, to say the least. This whole situation is archaic and must be fought with whatever weapons it takes to write it off from our societies.

On a recent visit to various districts of Uganda, everywhere I visited, I was welcomed by very miserable old women, some of whom, at the age of 70+, have never owned a piece of land- and for many of these,

natural death could catch up with them before they can afford a smile of true citizenship in their own country!

Article 2 of the 1948 Universal declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to which Uganda is a signatory states that, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status...". This is consistent with Article 1 which states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one

another in a spirit of brotherhood"; and Article 17 (1 and 2) "Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others; and No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."

Uganda's 1995 Constitution is in tandem with the UDHR and other regional and international human rights instruments. Article 33(6) of the Constitution for example prohibits 'laws, customs or traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women'. Considering that all human rights are inherent, and that they apply to everyone by virtue of their status as human beings irrespective of sexual orientation, discrimination of women on land rights is therefore untenable because it impedes the concept of fairness and mutual co-existence.

To me, ratifying international human rights whilst continuing to violate their provisions is a wrong thing and Uganda as a country ought to be held accountable by the United Nations. According to the International Land Coalition (ILC), "Women have fewer benefits and protection than men despite the fact that "Women

are primary agricultural producers, cultivating between 60 and 80 per cent of the food in most developing countries."

I recently had an interaction with some elders to share their views on the possible reasons as to why women are marginalized. They explained that once a woman gets married, she is not expected to divorce at all. If a woman gets divorced and returns home, her children must be treated as rejects on accord of belonging to her husband's clan!

All is not lost though, and thankfully, seems like some efforts are being made in the right direction. The Government of Uganda has pledged according to the National Land Policy, to legislatively ensure that both women and men enjoy equal rights to land. Indeed some cultural traditions for example in Acholi have also come up with guidelines to offer a ray of hope to Acholi women. Noteworthy though, is the need to establish tangible implementation and enforcement structures to ensure that these rosy promises are translated into action at household level. It is at this point that the role of civil society in mounting necessary pressure on government and other policy makers becomes handy.

However, before any grain of success can be registered, individual advocates for women's land rights must look back in their own homes and ask themselves whether they are fairing any better. If we raise a lot of noise yet do not make personal initiative to implement the change we would like to see at a personal level, then women's right to own land could remain but just a dream.

Personally, I have assured my wife Judith that whether we produce a boy in future or not, our daughter Nichol, being our first born, will be my heir. More so, whatever property we accumulate in our lifetime, including land, shall be for the equal benefit of my wife and children. It's a commitment I chose to make independently only if more men out there, who are obsessed about bequeathing property to fellow male race, can learn a lesson.

For God and My Country!

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Spirituality: A significant factor in Natural Resource Management



Nancy Oloro Robarts

I would like to attempt to address the issue of natural resources in relation to the role that women play in their management from a spiritual standpoint. I believe that much as we do not want to accept it, the problems that society faces today spring from our failure to seek solutions to these problems in the spiritual guidance provided to us by the various manifestations of God.

I know that world order can be founded only on an unshakable consciousness of the principle of the oneness of mankind, a spiritual truth which all the human sciences confirm. Anthropology, physiology, and psychology recognize only one human species, albeit infinitely varied in the secondary aspects of life. Recognition of this truth thus requires abandonment of prejudice—prejudice of every kind—race, class, color, creed, nation, sex, degree of material civilization, everything which enables people to consider themselves superior to others; and that includes the management of natural resources.

In whatever problem we are faced with, in this case, the control and management of natural resources; acceptance of the oneness of mankind is the first fundamental prerequisite for reorganization and administration.

In the world of humanity, the female sex is treated as though inferior, and is not allowed equal rights and privileges. This condition is due not to nature, but to education. In the Divine Creation there is no such distinction. Neither sex is superior to the other in the sight of God. Why then should one sex assert the inferiority of the other, withholding just rights and privileges as though God had given His authority for such a course of action?

I believe that today questions of the utmost importance

are facing humanity, questions peculiar to this radiant century.

One of these questions concerns the rights of woman and her equality with man. In past ages it was held that woman and man were not equal—that is to say, woman was considered inferior to man, even from the standpoint of her anatomy and creation. She was considered especially inferior in intelligence, and the idea prevailed universally that it was not allowable for her to step into the arena of important affairs, such as management of natural resources. In some countries man went so far as to believe and teach that woman belonged to a sphere lower than human.

But in this century, which is the century of light and the revelation of mysteries, God is proving to the satisfaction of humanity that all this is ignorance and error; nay, rather, it is well established that mankind and womankind as parts of composite humanity are coequal and that no difference in estimate is allowable, for all are human. The conditions in past centuries were due to woman's lack of opportunity. She was denied the right and privilege of education and left in her undeveloped state. Naturally, she could not and did not advance.

The lack of equal access due to poor management of natural resources, to a huge percentage of the world's population continues to be a problem facing society at large. However, women in general are more of the victims. Lack of equal opportunities for women makes the situation dire. As believers in God however, we must acknowledge that women must be given the privilege of equal education with men and full right to their prerogatives. They must especially devote their energies and abilities toward the industrial and agricultural sciences, seeking to assist mankind in that which is most needful. By this means they will demonstrate capability and ensure recognition of equality in the social and economic equation.

Women have equal rights with men upon earth; in religion and society they are a very important element. As long as women are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to

In the eyes of God, women & men are equal. They therefore have equal rights even when it comes to natural resource management



achieve the greatness which might be theirs.

Until the reality of equality between man and woman is fully established and attained, the highest social development of mankind is not possible. Even granted that woman is inferior to man in some degree of capacity or accomplishment, this or any other distinction would continue to be productive of discord and trouble. The only remedy is education, opportunity; for equality means equal qualification. And this is the case in many countries of the world, Uganda inclusive.

And let it be known once more that until woman and man recognize and realize equality, social and political progress here or anywhere will not be possible. In short the denial of women in participation in the management of natural resources is only a symptom

of a major problem that requires spiritual solutions. This entails changing the way we view education, to ensure that right from a tender age, both girls and boys are trained to value the principle of the oneness of all mankind. Only then can we have a brighter future and prosperity for all.

And make no mistake; these values must be inculcated into the tender hearts of the children both at home and at school. The parents must be exemplary by treating their children equally, irrespective of their sex. Society must be encouraged to abandon those traditions and cultural norms and beliefs that belittle women. Only then will women be able to emerge from the obscurity of shibboleths that have hindered them from realizing their true potential and thus contribute fully to the realization of the world that we all yearn to see, a world which is just and fair.

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Women and Men in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap

Margaret Ssebunya



A woman practising farming in Northern Uganda

Agriculture has always played an important role in the economies of many countries. For instance, in all developing countries, agriculture is an industry of major proportions, and often the only existing industry of any significant consequence.

Historically, women have played an important role in agriculture, taking on a wide range of activities related to food production, marketing, and processing. Women on average comprise 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, according to a recent report (2011) by the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA).

The role of women in agriculture and rural life has been especially important in Uganda; with 72% of all employed women, and 90% of all rural women

working in the sector according to a study (Gender Strengthening Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa) carried out by IFAD in 2000.

But why is it then that this sector that should be held with esteem in developing countries is associated with so much wretchedness, chaos and poverty?

The 2009 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is highly correlated with gender inequality – that is countries that exhibit high levels of global hunger are also those with a high degree of gender inequality (von Grember et al.2009).

Also, SOFA's report notes that the agriculture sector is underperforming, in part because men and women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be productive. Across countries and continents; women have consistently

The gender gap to assets is largely dictated by social norms and extends to all dimensions of agriculture. Customary practices often restrict women's ability to own or operate land, the most important asset for households that depend on agriculture. Women hold between 10 and 20 percent of total land in developing countries, generally of a lesser quality than men's.

less access than men to agricultural assets, inputs and services and to rural employment opportunities.

The gender gap to assets is largely dictated by social norms and extends to all dimensions of agriculture. Customary practices often restrict women's ability to own or operate land, the most important asset for households that depend on agriculture. Women hold between 10 and 20 percent of total land in developing countries, generally of a lesser quality than men's. They own fewer of the working animals needed in farming, like horses and cattle, and do not always have control over income from the typically small animals they manage, such as goats, sheep, pigs and poultry.

Women also have less access to education, which is strongly linked to the productive capacity of households, and to financial services such as credit. These factors hamper their capacity to adopt new technologies, invest in equipment and inputs liked fertilizers and improved seeds, take advantage of extension services and participate in modern high value agricultural activities.

The gender gap is manifest in other ways. Women are traditionally responsible for household obligations such as collecting water and fuel, working on household plots, processing and preparing food and maintaining the house. With scant availability of labor-saving technologies like water pumps and grain mills, these responsibilities significantly limit the time women can spend on productive activities.

The International Research Centre for Women (ICRW)

further notes in this regard that, "societal views of women's roles restrict their input in household decisions. Such beliefs also limit their access to land ownership, farm equipment and credit – all of which are needed to be economically successful. These barriers ultimately inhibit women's ability to produce, and make it difficult for them to escape poverty or to even provide food for their families."

For instance in Uganda particularly, women have a lower standard of health, less schooling, and fewer opportunities than men. For example, 39% of Ugandan women aged between 15-49 cannot read at all, compared to 16% of men, one-fifth of women (19%) have no formal education, compared to just 5% of men, and 30% of employed women receive no payment for their work, compared to just 13% of men (The 2006 Ugandan Demographic and Health survey).

As a result of these combined constraints, women farmers' yield is on average 20 to 30 percent lower than men farmers.'

So how can this be solved?

It is estimated by several studies that reducing inequalities in human capital, physical capital and current inputs between men and women farmers in Sub-Sahara Africa has the potential to increase agriculture productivity by 10-20 percent.

Thus, is women's access to natural resources the solution to this problem?

SOFA recommends that increasing women's access to land, livestock, education, financial services, extension, technology and rural employment can boost their productivity and generate gains in agricultural output, food security, economic growth and social welfare. This alone could lift 100–150 million people out of hunger and generate gains in food security, economic growth and social welfare.

Other policy recommendations that could help address this issue include;

- Eliminating discrimination under the law,
- Promoting equal access to resources and opportunities
- Ensuring that agricultural policies and programmes are gender-aware/ sensitive and;
- Making women's voices heard in decision-making at all levels.

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The late Wangari Muta Maathai. She was an advocate for tree planting, environmental conservation and women's rights in Kenya.

Women, Environmental Governance, and Conservation

Rebecca Murray

Natural resources must be used in a way that meets today's needs, while conserving them for future generations. This requires action to develop capacities of the people especially in the rural areas where the natural resources are mainly concentrated for their sustainable management and regulation.

In recent years, conservation NGOs working in developing countries have begun to recognise and

The first reason for promoting the participation of women is that it is an essential condition for conservation. The traditional division of domestic responsibilities in developing countries means that women interact with the local environment closely as the prime collectors of fuel, fodder and water in order to maintain their families' health. In this way, women are key custodians of the environment but also depend heavily upon it.

analyse the links between poverty and conservation. At the same time, the development sector has come to acknowledge that gender is an important dimension of poverty and that women tend to be poorer, more vulnerable and more marginalised than men.

However relatively few conservation organisations have proactively promoted a consideration of gender or the empowerment of women in their programmes, despite a number of international commitments. As a result, we know little about the extent to which women are equal participants in, or beneficiaries of, conservation projects – and we know even less about how their participation affects socio-economic or environmental outcomes.

In Uganda, more than 85% of the population live in rural areas and derive most of their income from agriculture. Levels of poverty are high and the country has some distance to travel before gender equality is a reality in all communities and every home. In this way, the participation of women in conservation efforts is as – if not more – important here than in most other countries.

The first reason for promoting the participation of women is that it is an essential condition for conservation. The traditional division of domestic responsibilities in developing countries means that women interact with the local environment closely as the prime collectors of fuel, fodder and water in order to maintain their families' health. In this way, women are key custodians of the environment but also depend heavily upon it.

As the environment degrades, basic necessities become difficult to collect and the amount of time a woman spends on gathering resources – as well as attending to household work, agricultural work and animal care – increases so she has to work harder to achieve the same results. Natural resources are often a significant source of livelihood and women act as the linchpin that connects the livelihood strategies of rural households with land-based wealth.

In this way, successful community-based resource management is difficult without the active involvement of women in influencing and enforcing institutional arrangements governing natural resources. Further, the exclusion – or lack of participation – of women in decision making over conservation and natural resource management can have negative implications for conservation outcomes because of their different roles and relationships with natural resources and their different knowledge of biodiversity.

The second reason for pursuing this agenda is that conservation efforts provide an opportunity to promote social and gender equality, with arguments to promote the inclusion of women in management of natural resources appearing to be compelling when viewed plainly as an issue of human rights and social justice.

Where women are enabled to voice preferences, make decisions and engage in local politics to self-govern natural resources, the process of participation has the potential to lead to greater empowerment both within women's households and in the public life of their communities.

In this way, commentators highlight the opportunities for promoting gender equality that could be triggered by conservation in terms of encouraging women to participate and become instrumental in positive development outcomes.

The need to consider gender is now fairly widely accepted but currently there remains a lack of awareness of how to go about this. Where research is available, it shows that men still participate in – and thus benefit from – conservation activities more than women across the developing world. Women are often excluded from decision making structures

which, at all levels, tend to be dominated by men. Low levels of education or a lack of awareness can also be a major constraint, alongside women's workloads and poverty which mean they don't have time or resources to invest in conservation.

However, a few studies have been conducted and have shown that projects are more efficient and effective in achieving conservation goals if a gender-responsive approach is employed. For example, research published by CAPRI in 2005 found that women's participation in the decentralised governance of community forests in Madhya Pradesh, India had substantial positive effects on regulating illicit grazing and felling. Specifically, they tested the strength of the effect according to level of participation – from membership of forest committees at the lowest level, through attendance of meetings in the middle to involvement in monitoring and sanctioning by patrolling the forest at the highest level – and found that the 'action effect' was more significant than the 'representation effect'.

Similarly, research published in 2010 by Bina Agarwal of Delhi University showed that women's inclusion in forest governance in Nepal and India had produced many demonstrable benefits. It enhanced women's effective voice in decision-making; influenced the nature of decisions made, especially the rules of forest use and their implementation; and improved forest condition. Improvement in forest canopy and regeneration, for instance, was found to be significantly greater among community forestry institutions with a higher presence of women on their executive committees.

For Uganda – and the entire developing world – moving forward, there is a clear need to recognise the importance of women's knowledge and skills for conservation. This involves analysing who uses what, understanding the nature of gender and other social relations, and recognising that these change over time. Through paying greater attention to these issues, we might improve the effectiveness of conservation efforts in terms of securing positive environmental outcomes whilst also ensuring that activities contribute to broader development goals through empowering communities and promoting social equality.

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- Advocacy for women and girls human rights based on CEDAW
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