



THE WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2014-2015 WOMEN'S CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA

# WOMEN'S CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA

WOMEN OF THE WORLD: URGE OUR LEADERS TO HALT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE; DEMAND A JUST AND NECESSARY TRANSITION TO GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AND; PRESENT A PLAN FOR OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE.

AUTHORED BY MEMBERS AND ALLIES OF THE WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



**WOMEN**  
ARE LIVING ON THE FRONT LINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND ARE READY TO BE ACTIVE PARTNERS IN DEALING  
WITH CLIMATE CHANGE. IF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY IS SERIOUS ABOUT ADDRESSING  
CLIMATE CHANGE, IT MUST RECOGNIZE WOMEN AS  
A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE CLIMATE SOLUTION.

**PROFESSOR WANGARI MAATHAI**  
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE  
1940-2011



# Women's Climate Action Agenda

**The views and statements in the Women's Climate Action Agenda (WCAA) are those of WECAN's Core Team, Members, and Allies. The views and statements were derived from the collective efforts of participants of the 2013 International Women's Earth and Climate Summit, held in New York. The WCAA does not necessarily reflect the views of all summit participants.**

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Lori Waseichuk

## ABOUT THE WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

The Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) envisions a just, equitable world in harmony with Nature. To achieve the aims of social, gender, Indigenous, and economic justice, and environmental sustainability, WECAN unites grassroots and Indigenous activists, current and former heads of state, scientists, artists, educators, religious leaders, students, financiers, business people, workers, policymakers, and environmental advocates to stop the escalation of climate change and community degradation, while accelerating the implementation of sustainability solutions. WECAN provides a platform for women and allies in the climate and justice movements to collaborate through women's empowerment, partnerships, hands-on trainings, advocacy campaigns, and political, economic, social and environmental action. Because smart, proactive use of time is crucial to addressing the global threat of climate change, decisive and coordinated group action is paramount to our philosophy. WECAN provides an inclusive, holistic framework and encourages united actions for amplified results.

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Lori Waselchuk

# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Decades of economic expansion have produced more material wealth, consumption and technological advances than humanity has ever seen, but have simultaneously compromised our most basic life support system: planet Earth. Humans are systematically destroying the ecosystems and biospheres of our planet, destabilizing the fragile environmental equilibrium that allows and accommodates life as we know it. Industrialization, fossil fuel combustion, land-use change and overexploitation of resources have raised the global mean surface temperature by almost 0.9 °Celsius since the end of the 19th century. The consequences include rising sea levels, loss of formerly arable lands, population displacement by extreme weather such as violent storms and floods, prolonged droughts, biodiversity loss, mass extinctions, watershed destabilization, and life-threatening food scarcity.

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underscores that if the global mean temperatures warm by more than 2 °Celsius, risks to ecosystems and livelihoods will surpass tolerable levels. Humans will likely no longer be able to inhabit many previously hospitable regions, and will

suffer from increasingly variable and extreme weather conditions, resulting in disastrous consequences already occurring in stark preview.<sup>1</sup>

WECAN also acknowledges the efforts of small island states who continue to advocate at United Nations Climate Negotiations for the agreed 2 °Celsius target, to be revised downwards to 1.5 °Celsius. We recognize that a 1.5 °Celsius ceiling is extremely difficult to achieve, but given the dire consequences, we think that the global community must rapidly acknowledge and rise to this challenge of aiming towards a target between 1.5 and 2 °Celsius.

With present warming already at 0.85 °Celsius, we are hurtling towards an irreversible climate crisis: if business as usual continues, the material costs of climate change by 2030 are estimated to average at 2.5% of global GDP. The human toll due to the direct and indirect effects of climate change is estimated at 6 million deaths per year by 2030.<sup>2</sup> Even if we were to cut all carbon emissions now, due to the inertia of the oceans and slow response of the carbon cycle to greenhouse gas reductions, Earth would still warm by at least 0.5 °Celsius, or 1 °Fahrenheit by the end of the century.<sup>3</sup> The dangerous future that scientists predict is coming—sooner rather than later.

The women of the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), and our allies worldwide, cannot and will not tolerate such a future. Nor do we tolerate the root injustices that undergird and perpetuate environmental destruction today. The same forces that drive an economy reliant on fossil fuel energy perpetuate the exploitation of workers and Indigenous Peoples, compromise community health and the environment, implement environmentally racist policies, and prevent people worldwide from achieving income security and food sovereignty. In order to live in harmony with the Earth and safeguard and foster a healthy world for present and future generations, we need to reform the destructive aspects of our modern life. This means advancing a new economy, based on social justice and environmental sustainability that recognizes the rights of people, and the Rights of Nature, and keeps in mind the finite carrying capacity of the Earth. We need a just transition to a new, clean-energy economy. We need a paradigm shift—for global environmental sustainability, for social justice, for new economies of scale, and for conducting all human activities with respect and understanding of Nature. All four of these factors are inextricably linked. We cannot bring one into stable being without tending to the others.

WECAN advocates an Earth-respecting cultural narrative, one of “restore, respect, and replenish” to replace the narrative of “dominate, deplete, and destroy.” As the late scientist and writer Stephen Jay Gould famously asserted,

*“We cannot win this battle to save the species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well—for we will not fight to save what we do not love.”<sup>4</sup>*

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1 Melillo, Jerry M., Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and Gary W. Yohe, Eds. 2014: *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*. U.S. Global Change Research Program. Web. 3 August 2014.

2 Climate vulnerability monitor. “a guide to the Cold Calculus of a hot Planet.” dara international and the Climate vulnerable forum. 2012. Web. 30 aug. 2014.

3 Solomon, Susan, et al. “Persistence of climate changes due to a range of greenhouse gases.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 107.43 (2010): 18354-18359.

4 Gould, Stephen Jay. *Eight Little Piggies: Reflections in Natural History*. New York: Norton, 1993. 40. Print.

The women of WECAN and our allies work within this narrative, reconnecting with Nature in order to understand the vital importance of living within the Earth's carrying capacity and to protect the gift that is our planet. Indeed, discovering our intimate relationship with the Earth is an essential part of discovering the nature of who we are and how we connect to the larger story of existence. Without an emotional connection, we will not be motivated to care. Without knowledge and experience of how we—personally, ecologically, culturally, and historically—are connected to Nature and the larger cosmos, we will neither seek nor find long-term solutions.

Given the real situation of climate change today, the dangerous implications of non-action for our collective future, and the demands of justice, the women and allies of WECAN advise, advocate and demand in the Women's Climate Action Agenda that we as earth citizens (policymakers, faith leaders, academics, business people, community activists, workers, and families) implement the following action plan:

### **Stop further global climate change.**

- Limit global warming to 1.5-2.0 °Celsius ceiling. In order to meet this ceiling, a global emissions peak must be reached by 2020 and all global CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions must go to net zero by mid-century at the very latest. To achieve this target, there must be an internationally legally binding agreement and every individual, and thereby every nation state, must decrease its carbon footprint to net zero.
- Divest from fossil fuel companies and invest in clean energy, end all governmental fossil fuel subsidies, and institute a strict regime of global carbon fees.
- Implement a Financial Transaction Tax to fund the research and adoption of green energy technology through development and installation, and to help vulnerable communities adapt to the real-time effects of climate change.
- Recognize that the transition to renewable energy does not justify or require a massive increase in mega-hydrodams, biofuels or major monoculture biomass plantations that cause displacement, food insecurity, human rights abuses and deforestation.
- Prioritize natural forest protection and increase funding for natural reforestation.
- Reject greenhouse gas emissions reductions schemes that come from high-risk technologies which create irreversible damage to human and planetary health including tar sands, shale gas, nuclear energy, and geo-engineering.
- Address unsustainable consumption and production in the Global North.
- Recognize and take action with common but differentiated responsibilities.
- Given that under the two-degree guardrail, which governments have agreed to, humanity can only afford to emit a maximum of 565 more gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>5</sup> we call upon all nations to:
  - Leave almost all of the remaining fossil fuel reserves in the ground and stop further fossil fuel exploration and development to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children and grandchildren.

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5 "Unburnable Carbon 2013: Wasted capital and stranded assets." *Carbon Tracker Initiative and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment*, 2013. Web. 16 Aug. 2014.

- Transition to a green energy economy based on 100% renewable sources. Decentralize and democratize ownership of this new energy economy.

### **Protect the Rights of Nature.**

- Recognize the rights of nature in law and practice. It is time to stop treating nature as property, but rather as a rights-bearing entity.
- End the commodification, ownership, and exploitation of all ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, deltas, rivers, and wildlife preserves.
- End market-based mechanisms that purport to protect ecosystems such as forests and jungles but in reality promote the industrial and monocultural destruction of biodiverse regions and hotspots.
- Promote biodiversity renewal and restore 30% of lost forests and other essential bioregions by 2030.
- Outlaw water privatization and oceanic colonization; recognize the human right to water and ocean access.
- Protect a minimum of 30% of vulnerable and threatened fisheries and coral reefs in marine sanctuaries (Marine Protected Areas) by 2020.
- Protect freshwater and saltwater resources and ecosystems.
- Support educational programs that encourage reconnecting with, and understanding, the natural world.

### **Democratize food, agriculture, and seeds.**

- Promote localized systems of agricultural production that support decentralized, “people-run” economies; natural, non-genetically modified foods; and cyclical and sustainable agro-ecological farming practices.
- Outlaw the ability of international trade agreements to determine seed “ownership” and “use” and outlaw the patenting of seeds.
- Organize campaigns and trainings to empower communities to take increasing ownership and direction of their local agricultural cultivation and nutrition; support such agro-economies.

### **Protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

- Respect all governmental treaties with Indigenous Peoples and defend their right to continue to inhabit traditional lands, undisturbed by industrial projects and extractive industries.
- Honor and use Indigenous knowledge and prioritize the conservation and veneration of Indigenous Peoples’ decision-making power at the national and international level.

## **Transform extractive, unjust, status-quo economics into new, socially just and environmentally sustainable economics.**

- Adopt a true-cost economic model to drive industry toward sustainable activities and thus internalize the external costs of fossil fuel consumption.
- Use the alternative measurements of happiness, sustainability, wellness, and community welfare to gauge human progress.
- Legislate laws that hold industries, corporations, and individuals responsible for any and all costs and negative externalities their economic activities impose on others.
- Call for a high price on carbon to be enforced immediately.
- Implement campaign finance reform in the United States to reduce the disproportionate power of capital-holders to direct political outcomes for their personal gain at the expense of the common good.
- Build economies with the Iroquois-inspired ‘seventh-generation’ philosophy as a core principle in all decisions.

## **Promote women’s rights and women’s leadership in all steps of climate change adaptation and mitigation.**

- Require gender-responsive climate policy implementation at the international negotiation table and at national and local levels.
- Recognize women’s rights and health as integral to any environmental sustainability effort.
- Acknowledge the unique and essential roles, responsibilities, solutions, needs, and desires of women in development and climate-change mitigation efforts.
- Acknowledge women’s traditional knowledge as central to climate solutions.
- Honor women’s rights to self-determination in all contexts.
- Ensure women’s full and equal participation in all aspects of climate policy, actions, and sustainable solutions, including decision-making power over financial investments at every level, from local communities to the international arena.
- Require that gender equality is strongly mandated in UNFCCC agreements by incorporating gender equality as a guiding principle and cross-cutting element of the agreement.
- Ensure that women can implement safe, sustainable and low carbon development projects at the grassroots levels.
- Recognize that women are half the world’s stakeholders, key advocates for the care of the Earth and all future generations.



Lori Waselchuk

WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit

## II. INTRODUCTION

### A. WE CAN ACT NOW, WE MUST ACT NOW: THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE SUMMIT

THE GREATEST DANGER TO OUR FUTURE IS APATHY.<sup>6</sup>

—DR. JANE GOODALL

When a crisis of planetary proportions looms, it sends clear warning signs. For decades, climate scientists have observed more prolonged droughts, freak storms, increased coastal erosion, and rising sea levels as never before seen. They have identified the origin of these phenomena as human-caused climate change, caused by rising carbon emissions. Scientists have catalogued how unprecedented and uncontrolled environmental degradation, and the economic and political systems that enable it, degrade our Earth and harm

6 "The Jane Goodall Institute." The Jane Goodall Institute, 1 Jan. 2013. Web. 4 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.janegoodall.org/>>.

its people. Social theorists, faith leaders, activists, academics, and united communities have all critiqued a capital-driven paradigm of unregulated extraction, endless economic growth, and heedless industrial expansion which are systematically undermining the ecosystems of our Earth—and thus destroying our only home.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming: climate change is a dangerous and rapidly worsening phenomenon and it demands an urgent, committed, global response. The opportunity to prevent the worst impacts of climate change will be lost forever unless the global community changes course immediately. We have very little time to cap global carbon emissions in order to reverse our current trajectory. We MUST act now. If we do not act now, our children will look back at us wondering why we did not act when we still could have made a difference. Climate change will be the defining issue of the 21st century—and any future it shapes.

In response to the urgency of our environmental predicament and the global gridlock that continues to halt committed and serious action on climate change, 100 women, global leaders, converged from September 20th to 23rd, 2013 in Suffern, New York to strategize an action plan. At the first International Women’s Earth and Climate Summit, the participants, hailing from diverse backgrounds in climate and related science, public policy, business, conservation, activism, academia, the arts, faith leadership, and education, met in New York to take stock of our present situation, reflect deeply on the origins of the climate crisis, and draft a way out. Collectively representing over 19 million people worldwide through their organizations, the delegates authored the initial Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network Declaration ([wecaninternational.org/declaration#.U\\_u7\\_ku-9ho](http://wecaninternational.org/declaration#.U_u7_ku-9ho)), which affirms that climate change threatens human rights, women’s rights, the rights of nature, and sustainable social justice for all people, and calls for specific, targeted action to change humanity’s course.

The Declaration nurtured the seeds of the WECAN Women’s Climate Action Agenda—a specific action plan that presents some of the best thinking from contemporary women leaders on what we must do to slow and eventually reverse climate change, in order to ultimately realize global sustainability.

At this point in time, WECAN hopes that the Women’s Climate Action Agenda will complement the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Rio+20 negotiation processes. It commends the efforts of the United Nations Open Working Group to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to build upon the Millennium Development Goals and inform the Post-2015 Development agenda.

At the same time, however, WECAN strongly urges these United Nations bodies and processes to overcome political roadblocks and take more serious, committed action needed to address the urgency and scale of climate change. It agrees with the Women’s Major Group Final Statement, published July 2014, that the proposed SDGs leave out crucial measures to dismantle existing systems that “channel wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries, and from people to corporations.”<sup>7</sup> More so, the SDGs need to set the stage

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<sup>7</sup> Women’s Major Group. *Women’s “8 Red Flags” following the conclusion of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. Women’s Major Group Final Statement, Women’s Major Group, 21 July 2014. Web. 03 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/womens-8-red-flags-following-the-conclusion-of-the-open-working-group-on-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/>>.



for climate and environmental protection and thereby address industrialized and developing nations alike. WECAN intends for the Women's Climate Action Agenda to both complement these UNFCCC and United Nations processes, as well as provide a platform of recommendations by women around the world that urges world leaders to push through real and ambitious action plans and measures.

The following pages outline the most urgently needed policies and actions we require to avert the worst effects of the looming global climate catastrophe. They boldly identify the root causes of climate change and large-scale environmental destruction, food insecurity, and ecosystems degradation. They synthesize the results of decades of academic research, policymaking, and activism. They take history as precedent, and the prospect of a livable future as principle. This document applies the core values of justice, peace, non-oppression, equity, and sustainability for current society and future generations, healthy economies, viable ecosystems, and a living planet. It calls for the transformative and just change that is necessary to a future anchored in our shared values: in human dignity, social flourishing, and ecological harmony. It demonstrates why such change is necessary, articulates what we must do, and explains how to do it. It is both a vision for tomorrow and a road map for principled action today.



## B. CLIMATE CHANGE 2014–2015

IF HUMANITY WISHES TO PRESERVE A PLANET SIMILAR TO THAT ON WHICH CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED AND TO WHICH LIFE ON EARTH IS ADAPTED, PALEOCLIMATE EVIDENCE AND ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE SUGGEST THAT CO<sub>2</sub> WILL NEED TO BE REDUCED ... TO AT MOST 350 PPM.<sup>8</sup>

—DR. JAMES HANSEN

The Women’s Climate Action Agenda arrives in a window of crucial human and planetary time: when climate change<sup>9</sup> is understood as a human-induced and rapidly worsening phenomenon, and when humans still have time to avert its worst impacts to ensure a habitable planet for future generations and for vulnerable populations now. Centuries of fossil fuel-driven industrial development have caused undeniable climactic change: the accelerating shrinking of glaciers, the 80% melting of the Arctic sea ice,<sup>10</sup> melting permafrost, rising sea levels, declining crop yields, increasingly extreme weather events, and swelling variability and force of natural weather systems. All plausible natural causes—modulations of the sun cycles, volcanic eruptions, oceanic oscillations, and natural planetary warming—contribute to a constantly dynamic climate, but the intensity and rate at which average global temperatures are rising is impossible to account for through natural systems alone, instead arising from anthropogenic (man-made) greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>11</sup>

Since 1750, fossil fuel-driven industrial development<sup>12</sup> and land use change have caused atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols to rise dramatically, and global mean surface temperatures to rise in consequence. Before 1750, CO<sub>2</sub> levels fluctuated between 180 and 210 parts per million (ppm) during ice ages and increased to 280–300 ppm during warmer interglacials, in all constituting about 2 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.<sup>13</sup> The U.S. Department of Energy’s Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center estimates that fossil fuel consumption has released approximately 1.5 trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide since 1751, 1 trillion of which remains in the atmosphere, unabsorbed by oceans or fauna.<sup>14 15</sup> As a result, the past three decades have been successively warmer than all previous decades on record, with the

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8 Hansen, James, Makiko Sato, Pushker Kharecha, David Beerling, Robert Berner, Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Mark Pagani, Maureen Raymo, Dana L. Royer, and James C. Zachos. “Target Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Where Should Humanity Aim?” *The Open Atmospheric Science Journal* 2.1 (2008): 217–31. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

9 Defined as a change of climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. Full Text of the Convention, Article 1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 9 May 1992. Web. 26 May 2014.

10 McKibben, Bill. “The Fossil Fuel Resistance.” *Rolling Stone Magazine* 11 Apr. 2013. 11 Apr. 2013. Web. 4 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-fossil-fuel-resistance-20130411>>.

11 Hansen, James. *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 2009. Print.

12 “Reference Article: Fossil Fuel.” *Science Daily*, 26 May 2014. Web. 26 May 2014.

13 Siegenthaler, U. “Stable Carbon Cycle-Climate Relationship During the Late Pleistocene.” *Science* 310.5752 (2005): 1313–317. Web. 05 July 2014.

14 Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. 2013. “Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions.” *Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A., 2013. Web. 26 May 2014.

15 Tans, Pieter. “An Accounting of the Observed Increase in Oceanic and Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and the Outlook for the Future.” *Oceanography* 22.4 (2009): 26–35. Web. 26 May 2014.

2000–2010 period logging the hottest temperatures yet.<sup>16</sup> In 2013, scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii recorded 400 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub>, the highest level of atmospheric carbon dioxide Earth has had in 3 million years.<sup>17</sup> This level corresponds to 3,112 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>, of which humans have added 937 gigatons (to the natural average level of 2,185). Human activity raised global temperatures 0.85°C (1.53°F) from 1880 to 2012,<sup>18</sup> and the average temperature continues to climb unabated.

Conservative climate models show that to avoid drastic, life-threatening global climate change, temperature increase must stay below 2 °Celsius. This means humanity can only afford to emit a maximum of 565 more gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>19</sup> However, estimates show that fossil fuel companies have about 2,795 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> in their reserves, sequestered in fuel that will be burned if contemporary priorities, policies, and practices do not change.<sup>20</sup> In other words, unless policymakers, business people, energy providers, faith leaders, Indigenous communities, civil society organizations, and citizens unite to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years, global mean temperature will heat up by minimum of 3.1 to a maximum of 4.8 °Celsius, or 5.8 to 7.8 °Fahrenheit by 2100, twice the level that most of world’s governments and atmospheric scientists accept as the maximum allowable for human civilization as we know it to continue.<sup>21</sup> This temperature increase would “likely be catastrophic rather than simply dangerous,” making life difficult, if not impossible, in much of the tropics and raising sea levels by many meters, and guaranteeing the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.<sup>22</sup> As many leaders have noted, we must leave most of the remaining fossil fuel reserves in the ground; it is irresponsible to pour any more collective resources into further fossil fuel exploration and development from either an environmental or an economic standpoint.

In short, today’s world is changing due to the cumulative actions of humanity. We have left the familiar Holocene epoch, marked by the generally stable conditions since the last ice age, and we have both created and entered the Anthropocene, a geologic era marked by the vast impacts that humans recently have had on the Earth, including large-scale changes in landscapes through land use, fresh water scarcity, fossil-fuel-engendered pollution and global warming, ecosystems degradation, ocean acidification, mass species extinctions, and extreme weather anomalies.

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16 Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. “Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions.” *Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A., 2013. Web. 26 May 2014.

17 Kunzig, Robert. “Climate Milestone: Earth’s CO<sub>2</sub> Level Passes 400 Ppm.” *National Geographic*. National Geographic Society, 09 May 2013. Web. 26 May 2014.

18 University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. “Global Warming & Climate Change—Frequently Asked Questions | UCAR — University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.” *Global Warming & Climate Change—Frequently Asked Questions | UCAR—University Corporation for Atmospheric Research*. National Center for Atmospheric Research., 2014. Web. 26 May 2014.

19 “Unburnable Carbon 2013: Wasted capital and stranded assets.” *Carbon Tracker Initiative and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment*, 2013. Web. 16 Aug. 2014.

20 “Carbon Bubble.” CarbonTracker Initiative, 2014. Web. 24 May 2014. <<http://www.carbontracker.org/site/carbonbubble>>.

21 “Technical Summary.” Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, 2014. Web. 29 June 2014. 26.

22 Carrington, Damian. “Planet Likely to Warm by 4C by 2100, Scientists Warn.”

## C. WOMEN, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

In her article “*How Science is Telling Us All to Revolt*,”<sup>23</sup> environmental activist Naomi Klein quotes Kevin Anderson, Deputy Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, to situate the environmental movement within global movements for social justice and human rights:

*Perhaps at the time of the 1992 Earth Summit, or even at the turn of the millennium, 2°C levels of mitigation could have been achieved through significant evolutionary changes within the political and economic hegemony. But climate change is a cumulative issue! Now, in 2013, we in high-emitting post-industrial nations face a very different prospect. Our ongoing and collective carbon profligacy has squandered any opportunity for the ‘evolutionary change’ afforded by our earlier (and larger) 2°C carbon budget. Today, after two decades of bluff and lies, the remaining 2°C budget demands revolutionary change to the political and economic hegemony (his emphasis).<sup>24</sup>*

The Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network is part of an international people’s movement that demands this revolutionary change and protests climate destruction, one of many symptoms of the underlying forces of class-based, hierarchical, capital-dominated economics that subordinate and disempower billions of people worldwide. Brad Werner, Director of the Complex Systems Laboratory at the Cecil and Ida Green Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, San Diego, praised “resistance”—movements of “people or groups of people” who “adopt a certain set of dynamics that does not fit within the capitalist culture” as necessary to catalyze coordinated global action on climate change. According to the abstract for his presentation at the Annual Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Society in 2013, this includes “environmental direct action, resistance taken from outside the dominant culture, as in protests, blockades and sabotage by Indigenous Peoples, workers, anarchists and other activist groups.”<sup>25</sup> WECAN endorses non-violent mass uprisings of people, along the lines of social movements around the world, representing the likeliest source of “friction” to slow down an economic machine that is careening out of control.

Social justice and environmental groups are not the only ones to recognize the need for such action; scientists, members of the financial sector, and policymakers also advocate such change. For example, financier and environmental philanthropist Jeremy Grantham has urged scientists to join this tradition and “be arrested if necessary,” because climate change “is not only the crisis of your lives—it is also the crisis of our species’ existence.”<sup>26</sup>

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23 Klein, Naomi. “How Science Is Telling Us All to Revolt.” *New Statesman*, 29 Oct. 2013. Web. 26 May 2014.

24 Anderson, Kevin. “Why Carbon Prices Can’t Deliver the 2°C Target.” *Kevinanderson.info*. N.p., 13 Aug. 2013. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

25 Klein, Naomi. “How Science Is Telling Us All to Revolt.”

26 Klein, Naomi. “How Science Is Telling Us All to Revolt.”

The lack of speed and insufficient ambition of international climate agreements and reluctance to engage with the root injustices that ground and perpetuate climate change only demonstrate the need for a justice-based approach to sustainability. Accordingly, the women and allies of the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network locate social and environmental justice at the heart of their work and advocacy. WECAN approaches “justice” as a multi-pronged concept that:

1. Affirms and promotes the right of every human being to a life of human dignity that is worth living, including access to the social, economic, academic, environmental and spiritual resources humans require;<sup>27</sup>
2. Defines worthy social ideals as equality between all people and peoples, shared and equitable social responsibilities, non-oppression and non-discrimination, and freedom of speech, action, and religion;
3. Promotes the speedy adoption of modes of living in harmony with the environment that simultaneously equitably distribute access to environmental resources, safeguard our planet for future generations and recognize the rights of nature;
4. Urges the guiding practices of honesty, integrity and compassion in caring for oneself, other human beings, society at large and the natural world.

WECAN’s viewpoint stems from our mission to ensure the rights of women and women’s empowerment in the midst of wholesale environmental degradation and during climate change mitigation and adaptation. Our work spans women’s issues in both the developing and developed worlds. As a population that still enjoys fewer rights and less access to land, power, resources, financing, mobility, and education, women in developing countries tend to suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation. The difficulties of gathering natural resources, managing agricultural and family finance in uncertain conditions, and care-giving for children and the elderly increase for women as environmental conditions worsen. However, women are also central to solutions for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Women stakeholders constitute more than half of the world’s population, produce 65–85% of household food in developing countries,<sup>28</sup> and hold 80% of the purchasing power in North America.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, women’s decision-making power when in governmental positions has important implications for climate change specifically. A study of 130 countries found that those with higher female parliamentary representation are much more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.<sup>30</sup> In both the developed and developing contexts, women’s empowerment through education and jobs strengthens economies, stabilizes populations, and improves community health. These conditions are essential for environmental and sustainability solutions to take hold.

Furthermore, as Indigenous Peoples are often the best stewards of natural ecosystems, inextricably tied to their livelihoods and cultures, while simultaneously situated at the forefront of the fight for environmental

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27 Rawls, John. *A theory of justice*. Harvard University Press, 2009.

28 Women in Development Service. “Women and Sustainable Food Security.” *Sustainable Development Dimensions*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, n.d. Web. 26 May 2014.

29 “Women as Consumers.” *Women & The Economy*. United Nations Platform for Action Committee Manitoba, Mar. 2011. Web. 26 May 2014.

30 Norgaard, Kari, and Richard York. “Gender equality and state environmentalism.” *Gender & Society* 19.4 (2005): 506-522. Web. 29 May 2014.

sustainability, we recognize a special commitment to promote the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This commitment accompanies our firm conviction that we are fighting not only for current social justice and environmental harmony, but also for the Rights of Nature and other species to exist and thrive in healthy and biodiverse ecosystems, and for the Rights of Future Generations to inherit, enjoy and care for this incredible gift.

As such, four Guiding Principles underscore the vision and mission of WECAN's dedication to climate justice and a rights-based approach to solutions: the Rights of Women, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Rights of Nature, the Rights of Future Generations. From promoting local, organic food and democratically-owned renewable energy models to advocating for a "rights-based" approach to sustainability, WECAN is dedicated to building a future where communities thrive and women are empowered with do-able, equitable and effective solutions. We hope "Initiatives Providing Solutions" (See Section VI) will provide ample inspiration for politicians and community members alike to support and actually implement clean, green ways of living. We welcome and call women and all allies everywhere to engage with us and spread the message of the WECAN Climate Declaration (see Section V) and Women's Climate Action Agenda worldwide. In order to transform our environmental and human trajectory for the better, we intend to build upon models of other movements that were successful in changing the course of history. Most importantly, we need your participation to help us build this movement together!



WECAN and SAFECO DR Congo Climate Training 2014



Lori Waselchuk

WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit

# III. THE WOMEN'S CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA

WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND TO THE NEXT GENERATION TO CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT SO THAT WE CAN BEQUEATH OUR CHILDREN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD THAT BENEFITS ALL.<sup>32</sup>

—WANGARI MAATHAI

# A. FOSSIL FUEL RESISTANCE & DIVESTMENT, TAR SANDS, PIPELINES, AND FRACKING

[CARBON NEUTRALITY] SHOULD BECOME A NO-BRAINER...EACH BUILDING SHOULD PRODUCE AT LEAST AS MUCH ENERGY AS IT'S GOING TO NEED, AND HAVE MORE TO PUT ON THE GRID. THEY SHOULD BE USING ALL OF THE NATURAL LIGHT AND NATURAL HEAT. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE STUPID CARS THAT USE LIQUID FOSSIL FUELS. COME ON, HOW OUTMODED IS THAT? WE HAVE TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE THIS IS NO LONGER A PART OF OUR EXPERIENCE<sup>32</sup>

—CHRISTIANA FIGUERES

Scientists have given humanity a clear carbon budget: we can emit only 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere to avoid exceeding an unprecedented and dangerous 2 °Celsius warming of the Earth. Any more CO<sub>2</sub> emitted after the 565 gigaton cap will surely usher in an increasingly variable climate, inhospitable to humans and many other species. Currently, fossil fuel companies have enough fossil fuels in their reserves that, if burned, would generate 2,795 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>, over five times the amount that scientists estimate is safe. We strongly advocate for the immediate necessity of transitioning to a carbon-neutral economy, a transition which will require the transformation of an economy dominated by fossil fuels to one reliant on clean, renewable sources.

However, this transition will not be possible without fighting against the monopoly that fossil fuel companies have on American and international politics. Their influence is, if not the biggest, certainly the most powerful obstacle to legislative action on climate change. The industry's multi-trillion dollar net worth grows daily with the guaranteed sale of fossil fuels to an energy infrastructure expressly built for fossil fuel consumption. In addition, the value of oil/gas/coal companies largely rests on the future exploitation of fossil fuel reserves — in other words, on the protraction and escalation of the climate crisis.

We also need to take into account that the International Monetary Fund estimates global fossil fuel subsidies total about \$1.9 trillion per year.<sup>33</sup> In contrast, the 2006 Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change<sup>34</sup> forecasted the annual costs of transitioning to a renewable energy economy at 1% of global gross domestic product, or about \$850 billion.<sup>35</sup>

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31 Kabiru, Joseph. "Farewell Wangari Maathai, You Were a Global Inspiration—and My Heroine." *Theguardian.com*. Guardian News and Media, 26 Sept. 2011. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

32 Brahic, Catherine. "We'll Live to See a Low-carbon World: UN Climate Chief." *Opinion*. *TheNewScientist.com*, 19 Mar. 2014. Web. 6 Aug. 2014.

33 "Energy Subsidy Reform." IMF Policy Advice. The International Monetary Fund, 27 Mar. 2013. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.imf.org/external/np/fad/subsidies/index.htm>>.

34 Stern, Nicholas, ed. *The economics of climate change: the Stern review*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. Print.

35 Osborne, Hilary, and Hilary Osborne. "Stern Report: The Key Points." *Theguardian.com*. Guardian News and Media, 30 Oct. 2006. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2006/oct/30/economy.uk>>.



The women and allies of WECAN oppose further fossil fuel extraction because Big Oil companies are largely responsible for continuing to embed fossil fuel reliance deep in our economy and preventing the just and necessary energy transition. We also oppose fossil fuel extraction because the continued race to extract all fossil fuel resources is already causing great harm to people and ecosystems on a day-to-day basis. For example, tar sands, a combination of crude oil, clay, sand and water, can yield burnable fossil fuel after heavy processes of extraction and processing. The exploitation of the Alberta, Canada Tar Sands represents about 40% of Canada's oil production,<sup>36</sup> 97% of which is exported to the United States, at the expense of the boreal forest ecosystem and the livelihoods of many First Nations. These are safeguarded in the Treaty Rights of First Nations peoples, which state their right to hunt, fish, trap, and forage for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.<sup>37</sup>

Another example is the practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in which high-pressure mixtures of water, chemicals, and/or gases (such as nitrogen) are injected into subterranean geologic formations to unlock trapped oil reserves. This creates small fractures in deep rock to allow natural gas and/or petroleum to migrate to wells, yet also causes widespread human harm and environmental damage. Toxic chemicals and carcinogens pollute soil and local water and air supplies, and cause respiratory, immune, dermatological, cardiovascular and neurological disease. Weak regulations allow companies to decline full disclosure of the specific chemicals they use and proceed with operations after dangerous explosions and breakdowns.

We call for urgent action towards a fossil fuel-free energy future and demand an end to the fossil fuel subsidies and the dominance of the fossil fuel industry. We applaud the efforts to divest from fossil fuel companies and stand in solidarity with the frontline communities currently resisting fossil fuel extraction and its infrastructure.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Campaign to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. Replace with investments redirected to a just transition from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy.
2. Campaign to keep four-fifths of remaining fossil fuel reserves in the ground in order to maintain global warming below 1.5–2°C (creating “stranded assets”). Create legal provisions for this by 2020. Build fossil-fuel-free energy infrastructure.
3. Call for urgent action prior to 2020 in order to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to close the gap between the necessary actions the scientific community has clearly delineated must be taken and existing national pledges; action is needed at all levels, from grassroots communities to the United Nations.
4. Demand that governments and companies reject fossil fuel exploration and extraction in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas, where communities “say no,” and where First Nations are asserting their right to self-determination. As Article 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states, “Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies

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36 “Tar Sands Basics.” 2012 *Oil Shale & Tar Sands Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://ostseis.anl.gov/guide/tarsands/>>.

37 “Tar Sands and Indigenous Rights.” Indigenous Environmental Network. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.wearepowershift.org/sites/wearepowershift.org/files/resources/IENFactsheet\\_2.pdf](http://www.wearepowershift.org/sites/wearepowershift.org/files/resources/IENFactsheet_2.pdf)>.

for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources. The governments must abide by legal obligations to consult and achieve the minimum international standard for free, prior and informed consent of the First Nations peoples where an activity has the potential to impact their rights.”<sup>38</sup> No new exploration; no new infrastructure. Leave existing reserves in the ground.

5. Demand that the governments follow due process in their Duty to Consult First Nations people; thus moving away from the systems of manufactured consent created outside of their communities and asserting and demanding that First Nations people determine what development will look like on their traditional lands and territories.
6. Expose false solutions, such as land-based biofuels and mega-hydropower projects. The pursuit and exploration of these options results in land grabbing, irreversible and harmful land use change, and the displacement of thousands of people from their land.
7. Legally require industry transparency by obligating government and industry to provide access to accurate information and share energy data.
8. Demand that fossil fuel companies, endowments of universities and other public funds analyze the impact of “unburnable carbon” and the “exposure to the risks associated with current and probable future policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.”<sup>39</sup> (WECAN acknowledges that 80% reduction by 2050 falls short of what science demands and cuts should be deeper. WECAN takes this position because it will help initiate important evaluations).

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Organize alliances with communities that are resisting new oil, shale gas and coal exploration/exploitation, including “fracking,” through education and SOS Urgent Action notifications when crisis situations arise.
2. Support communities on the ground to tell their own stories, envision real solutions, and further resist the current destructive proposals of fossil fuel “development.”
3. Amplify investment/divestment campaigns to support, recruit, and train women and allies to lead their communities, institutions, colleges, worship groups, and companies to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in clean energy technologies. Support campaigns to dissuade financiers from investing in areas that are home to communities resisting fossil fuel development and production, such as the Central South Ecuadorian Amazon, Indonesian forests and the Northwestern Tar Sands region in Canada.
4. Prioritize capacity-building and the training of women leaders by supporting the education of movement leaders, creating toolkits for organizing local fossil-fuel bans and resistance, and creating a “black-list” of oil companies to target for action.
5. Use WECAN communities to collaborate for action against those companies whose extraction activities destroy territories and violate human and Indigenous rights, via protests and boycotts, in the location where the damage is done, the location where the company is based and at the seat of local and national political power.
6. Address banks and institutions that hold fossil-fuel debt and investments. Lobby them to commit to a set of investment guidelines based on environmental and social justice.

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38 Beaver Lake Cree Nation. “Kétuskéno Declaration.” N.p., 14 May 2008. Web. 13 June 2014.

39 2014 *Investor Summit on Climate Risk*. Ceres.org, n.d. Web. 26 May 2014.



## B. TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY, HIGH EFFICIENCY, GREEN BUSINESS

CIVILIZATION IS FACING A GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS BROUGHT ON LARGELY BY OUR DEPENDENCE ON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. KEY TO RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS IS THE RAPID AND TOTAL SHIFT IN THE WAY SOCIETY SOURCES AND USES ENERGY.<sup>40</sup>

—THE RENEWABLES 100 POLICY INSTITUTE

Given the carbon budget and absolute geophysical limits that scientists have identified, it is clear that humanity must begin immediately transitioning out of an economy dependent on fossil fuels. A just transition will require adopting new renewable technologies, mandating efficient energy use, ushering in a new energy economy and creating new jobs for workers employed by current energy industries. Indeed, energy powers our world. It lights our households, schools, and hospitals; it heats buildings of government and places of worship, and our factories and their corollaries depend upon it. Therefore, the ubiquitous nature of energy makes it central to any and all sustainability goals we may have, as a society or individually: energy production and access interlace global social, economic and environmental issues. We must take advantage of the imperative to transition to 100% renewable energy as also an opportunity to rethink our global economic system to promote environmental sustainability, social equity, and democratic responsibility.<sup>41</sup>

It is evident that the speedy transition to 100% sustainable, renewable energy sources is necessary. Given the hazardous economics of conventional energy as resources wane, and the dire damage they cause every day to our Earth—including pollution, the buildup of nuclear waste, mining devastation, loss of biodiversity, geopolitical instability, industrial overuse of clean water, and, ultimately, climate change—common sense and the universal value of human flourishing as well as simple survival oblige us to make a concerted, radical effort to transition to renewable energy with all possible haste.<sup>42</sup> Indeed, Christiana Figueres, the United

40 The Renewables 100 Policy Institute. “What We Are.” Renewables 100 Policy Institute, 2007. Web. 07 Aug. 2014. <http://www.renewables100.org/index.php?id=we>.

41 Women’s Major Group. “Women’s Major Group: Creating a just and sustainable future.” Women’s Major Group, 2014. Web. 04 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/>>.

42 *Renewables 100: Home*. Renewables 100 Institute, 01 Jan. 2007. Web. 3 Aug. 2014.

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary, has mandated the transition to a carbon-neutral world by 2050.

This transition is more than possible. A study from the University of Delaware showed that by 2030 we could affordably power the nation 99.9 percent of the time on renewable energy.<sup>43</sup> Not only is it financially possible, but also imperative, given that non-renewable energy sources will, by definition diminish over time. According to industry data, these finite fuels could be completely depleted within the lifetime of children born today. However, utilitarian concerns only account for some of our motivation in calling for a transition to a 100% renewable energy economy. WECAN stresses that humans have a right to clean, affordable energy, just as we do to clean air and water. As such, social justice demands that our governments deliver energy services to households and businesses that match consumers' ability to pay, or that citizens support households, businesses, and institutions to generate their own energy. This is completely possible, given the ready availability of solar, hydro, geothermal, wind, and wave energy we can now harness with rapid efficiency, if not further impeded by those who profit from holding us back.

The women and allies of WECAN are calling for urgent action to realize this energy transition. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states,

*“Infrastructure developments and long-lived products that lock societies into GHG-intensive emissions pathways may be difficult or very costly to change, reinforcing the importance of early action for ambitious mitigation (robust evidence, high agreement).”<sup>44</sup>*

We must start building a forward-looking sustainable energy grid now in order to avoid the rising human and environmental costs of continued reliance on an outdated, expensive and harmful fossil fuel-powered grid. Our new energy infrastructure should create reliable, cheap, and environmentally-friendly power, as well as maintain or increase productivity, create local jobs, build community, and support economic prosperity. As the UN Women's Major Group states,

*“...Decentralized, democratically-controlled and renewable energy generation can greatly benefit women, who still face the challenges of unequal pay, social marginality and disproportionately large work burdens relative to men. By increasing access to energy for those whose fundamental energy needs are not currently met, eliminating harmful types of energy generation, and by creating income generating opportunities for women, especially in developing countries, we can move towards a global sustainable, productive energy system, for the long-term.”<sup>45</sup>*

Furthermore, we must transition away from reliance on risky energy industries, such as nuclear energy and land-based biofuels, which cause dire ecological disruption, public health crises, and economic

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43 Budischak, Cory, et al. “Cost-minimized combinations of wind power, solar power and electrochemical storage, powering the grid up to 99.9% of the time.” *Journal of Power Sources* 225 (2013): 60-74. Web. 16 Aug. 2014.

44 IPCC, 2014: Summary for Policymakers, In: Climate Change 2014, Mitigation of Climate Change. *Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, 2014. Web. 29 June 2014. 18.

45 Women's Major Group. *Energy Chapter for Post-2015 Agenda: Focus Area 5, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*. Women's Major Group., 2013. Web. 29 June 2014.

impoverishment due to their industrialized extraction, production, pollution, and waste practices. New fields of work could include community-owned local energy infrastructure and recycling facilities.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Prioritize renewable energy and energy efficiency as the norm, having the right policies, standard regulations, and safeguards for enabling a safe environment. Create and implement stringent renewable-energy standards on existing and future energy plants, appliances, vehicles, public transportation, and buildings. Regulate carbon emissions at the state and federal levels.
2. Establish an institutional set of incentives to foster local ownership to scale up adoption and ownership of renewable energy in local communities. Change development, planning, and permitting regulations to foster local community efforts and engagement to increase efficiency.
3. Support the participatory design of climate-sensitive development plans.
4. Eliminate corporate influence on political decision-making on energy policies.
5. Base energy solutions on the principle of energy sovereignty: decentralized and democratically-controlled energy generation and use.
6. Recognize and publicize that energy solutions should protect the climate, ecosystems, and communities.
7. Reject greenhouse gas emissions reductions schemes that come from high-risk technologies which create irreversible damage to human and planetary health including tar sands, shale gas, nuclear energy, and geo-engineering.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We need solutions that will foster quality jobs that meet people's needs while caring for natural resources and ecosystems.
2. Remove direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies, especially in developed nations, by 2020.
3. Redirect fossil fuel subsidies to furthering the development of technology for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and marine energy..
4. Incentivize the development of efficient, low carbon, renewable, and clean-energy infrastructure.
5. Establish a just energy transition program that promotes community-based decentralized renewable energy systems and grants energy workers decent employment, paying a living wage.
6. Build local living economies. Employ the "local living economies" model for communities, which centers on: zero waste, public transportation, clean community energy, regional food and water systems, ecosystem restoration, and environmental stewardship.
7. Mobilize local communities and neighborhoods to identify leverage points for moving towards "Zero Carbon" lifestyles.
8. Connect the "Water-Food-Energy Nexus" by referencing the African President's Climate Change Declaration of 2007.<sup>46</sup>
9. Create a climate education program for CEOs lead by women.

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<sup>46</sup> The African Union. *Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa*. Eighth Ordinary Session, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 30 Jan 2007. Web. 07 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.icsu.org/freedom-responsibility/science\\_human\\_rights/declaration-on-climate-change-and-development-in-africa-2007](http://www.icsu.org/freedom-responsibility/science_human_rights/declaration-on-climate-change-and-development-in-africa-2007)>.

## C. AGRICULTURE, FOOD, SEEDS

WE NEED TO DECENTRALISE OUR FOOD SYSTEM, AND IF WE NEED TO DECENTRALISE OUR FOOD SYSTEM, DECENTRALISE SEED PROVISIONING. SEED SOVEREIGNTY MUST BECOME VERY CENTRAL TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.<sup>47</sup>

—DR. VANDANA SHIVA

Food and nutrition security are at stake in the wake of climate change and corporate/industrial control of agriculture, two issues that are intimately tied. In the long term, changing weather patterns, precipitation variability, and fluctuating temperatures due to climate change will make agricultural cultivation increasingly difficult and risky. Smallholder farmers around the world, some of the best stewards of biodiversity and practitioners of low-carbon farming, will be hardest hit. Ironically, the companies and corporations that increasingly control global agricultural production will be most insulated from these impacts due to their financial and political power, even as their unsustainable monocultural farming practices contribute to climate change by generating heavy greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. For example, industrial agriculture contributes about 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>48</sup> Industrial agricultural systems rely on fertilizers and agro-chemicals, which are manufactured using natural gas (a process that releases carbon dioxide), and which emit nitrous oxide when applied to crops. It also mass-produces livestock which emit methane through digestion and manure and intensively uses fossil fuels and electricity. In fact, 80% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from agriculture occur before the agricultural product reaches the consumer.<sup>49</sup>

Furthermore, industrial agriculture is responsible for 75% of global deforestation; if current trends continue, about 10 million km<sup>2</sup> of land will be cleared to meet food demand by 2050, whereas sustainable, non-industrial methods would require only 2 million km<sup>2</sup> of land.<sup>50</sup> Finally, this food supply chain is also highly inefficient, because about one third of all food produced is either wasted or discarded before reaching consumers. Annually, this amounts to about 222 million tonnes of food wasted in high income countries, only 8 million tonnes less than the entire agricultural production of Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>51</sup>

This industrial system is neither democratically managed nor owned. The patenting of seeds, fertilizers and other biotechnology has aided the top ten seed companies to control about 90% of agro-chemical sales worldwide.<sup>52</sup> The patenting of seeds reduces small farmer autonomy and control of local food economies

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47 “Voices from the Film.” *Seeds of Freedom*. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.seedsoffreedom.info/about-the-film/voices-from-the-film/>>.

48 Nixon, Bonnie et al. “Unearthed: Agricultural Emissions in the Corporate Supply Chain.” CDP—*Driving Sustainable Economies*. Carbon Disclosure Project, 2011. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. 3. <<https://www.cdp.net/CDPResults/CDP-2011-Agriculture-report.pdf>>.

49 Nixon, Bonnie et al. “Unearthed: Agricultural Emissions in the Corporate Supply Chain.”

50 Bager, Simon, Bruce Campbell, Lucy Holt, Sonja Vermeulen, Simon Bager, Bruce Campbell, Lucy Holt, and Sonja Vermeulen. “Big Facts on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.” *CGIAR Big Facts*. Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research., Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://ccafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts2014/#theme=food-emissions>>.

51 Bager, Simon et al. “Big Facts on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.”

52 “Who Owns Nature? Corporate Power and the Final Frontier in the Commodification of Life.” 1 Nov. 2008. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.etcgroup.org/sites/www.etcgroup.org/files/publication/707/01/etc\\_won\\_report\\_final\\_color.pdf](http://www.etcgroup.org/sites/www.etcgroup.org/files/publication/707/01/etc_won_report_final_color.pdf)>.

and actively prevents the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. These include adding manure into soil through natural processes, managing pastures through rotated grazing, employing leguminous cover crops and using longer crop rotations, which are proven to increase organic matter in the soil. These processes also sequester atmospheric carbon and store it in agricultural soils, offering a promising option for cost effective, early action on climate change<sup>53</sup> However, their adoption continues to be blocked by financial unviability and legal restrictions.

Our industrial food system overproduces food and generates enormous waste, yet fails to provide nutritious, affordable food for people worldwide. In fact, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute, “by 2050, the decline in calorie availability will increase child malnutrition by 20% relative to a world with no climate change.”<sup>54</sup> According to a study produced by a University of Michigan team in 2009, this does not need to be our future. The researchers created a dataset based on 293 examples of studies that compared yields of non-organic with organic farms (farms that use no synthetic or petroleum-based pesticides or fertilizers). They observed that in developed countries, organic farms were anywhere from 60% to 97% as productive as their non-organic counterparts. In developing countries, yields typically increased anywhere from 120% to 197% of original yields when farmers converted to organic methods. Running a conservative model, in which the scientists applied the yield ratio for developed countries to the entire planet, they found that organic farming would yield “2,641 kilocalories (“calories”) per person per day, just under the world’s current production of 2,786 calories but significantly higher than the average caloric requirement for a healthy person of between 2,200 and 2,500.”<sup>55</sup> It would also increase food availability and security, as local food supply chains grow stronger and more reliable, and food prices adjust to peoples’ ability to pay. Hunger primarily results from income insecurity and distribution, not an absolute scarcity of food.<sup>56</sup>

Due to these political and social aspects of food, women, along with children, are likely to be most seriously affected by food shortages due to climate change. Currently, women in developing nations suffer disproportionately from high levels of malnutrition and anemia<sup>57</sup> due to their socialized roles as providers who eat after their husbands, children and family members and reduced access to fresh and healthy foods. However, women play an essential role in localized small-scale sustainable agriculture through the production, harvesting, storage, processing, marketing, and preparation of food products. Women are responsible for half of the world’s food production and produce between 60-80% of the food in most developing countries. At the same time, as caregivers and household managers, they bear the brunt of the harmful impacts of climate change on food systems. Therefore, women should be integral to decision-making processes on food and nutrition security and climate change mitigation.

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53 “Agricultural Practices and Carbon Sequestration.” *Union of Concerned Scientists*, N.p., 2009. Web. 26 May 2014.

54 Nelson, Gerald C., Mark W. Rosergrant et al. “Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation.” International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009. Web. 07 Aug. 2014.

55 Halweil, Brian. “Can Organic Farming Feed Us All?” *World Watch Magazine*, 1 June 2006. Print.

56 Halweil, Brian. “Can Organic Farming Feed Us All?”

57 Women in Development Service. “Women and Sustainable Food Security.” Sustainable Development Dimensions. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, n.d. Web. 26 May 2014.

Though the expansion of industrial agriculture has significantly contributed to rising greenhouse gas emissions, agriculture also has the potential to be an integral part of a low-carbon future and women's empowerment. Agriculture is a source of biodiversity, human well-being, financial security and environmental sustainability. Agriculture can also sequester large amounts of carbon and stabilize broken ecosystems. In this context, the development of localized, small scale, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture and food systems would both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester existing carbon via trees and soils. Furthermore, the protection and promotion of heritage seeds and seed banks, as well as the protection of agro-ecology-based multiple-cropping systems promoting sustainable local food systems, are key to achieving this in a gender-just manner. WECAN calls for the rejection of unsustainable agricultural practices, foremost among them the standard industrial agriculture practices leading to major greenhouse gas emissions. We also call for protection of seeds from genetic modification and for the promotion of local agro-ecology.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Prevent multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements from making legally binding decrees on any and all seeds, water, and natural resources. All such agreements should be declared illegal.
2. Outlaw the subjection of seeds to intellectual property rights laws and limits, which compromise communities' capacities to save, grow, and trade their seeds.
3. End all governmental subsidies for industrial farming beyond a human scale. Channel the funds towards encouraging local and agro-ecological production (including urban farming and community gardens) for local and regional markets.
4. Recognize and acknowledge women, Indigenous communities, and small-scale farm holders for their services to nature and society, and for their roles as "mitigators" of climate change. They are powerful knowledge holders on best practices and climate change and, as such, are key actors for developing policy on sustainable land use and mitigating and coping with the effects of climate change.
5. Mobilize these communities to engage actively in the climate change processes. Their voices and recommendations should shape laws pertaining to agriculture, food, seeds and water.
6. Support small-scale producers in adapting to climate change.
7. Completely end the practice of land clearing and deforestation for large-scale plantations, or by large-scale farmers producing for transnational corporations. This alone will bring about substantial reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Orient local agricultural production through local distribution to local markets, thereby encouraging local consumption. This decentralization of the food system is extremely important because the present food system (with its chemically intensive industrialized production and processing, fossil-fuel-dependent transportation and distribution through supermarket chains) has turned out to be a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Integrate agricultural practices to ensure sustainability. Encourage farming practices and systems that harness the symbiotic relationships of seeds, water, crops, soils, livestock, and forests.



#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create a global database of laws, policies, and agreements that impact small-scale farmers' access to seeds, water, and land. For example, see the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Seeds.
2. Create a widely-accessible database on ecological farming, fishing, pastoralism, and food preservation for women and small-scale producers and food processors.
3. Document success stories and case studies showcasing initiatives with holistic integrated approaches to agriculture and environmental sustainability and demonstrating best practices, activities for climate change mitigation, successful adaptation, sustainable development, and food security.
4. Create a database of training modules to empower women regarding local and international food security. This would include workshops and trainings on local and international acts and laws pertaining to the production and marketing of food and the creation of food chains, tools to build women's capacity to ensure food security for their families, and modules on seeds, biodiversity, and resource management.



## D. FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO THE FORESTS OF THE WORLD IS BUT A MIRROR REFLECTION OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO OURSELVES AND TO ONE ANOTHER.<sup>58</sup>

—CHRIS MASER

It is often said that our planet's forests and jungles are the lungs of the Earth. Indeed, their importance for environmental health and human livelihoods cannot be overestimated. Forests breathe for all of us, storing carbon reserves through biosequestration and, with the help of oceans, turn over oxygen. In fact, two average, healthy trees can provide a supply of oxygen for one person annually.<sup>59</sup> They regulate hydrological, carbon, nitrogen, and nutrient cycles; moderate temperatures; prevent erosion and replenish soils; and maintain the quantity and quality of Earth's freshwater supplies.<sup>60</sup> Forests are also the gatekeepers of biodiversity: though they now cover only 6% of the world's land surface, they harbor up to 90% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity,<sup>61</sup> and scientists forecast that many millions more species of plants, insects, and microorganisms remain undiscovered in tropical rainforests.<sup>62</sup> Forests are vital to the livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people, (who rely directly on these ecosystems for food, medicines, and fuel) and are essential providers of green space, clean air and a habitable climate for people worldwide.<sup>63</sup>

In the words of Olivier Langrand, Conservation International's policy chief,

*"Forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate to give room to pastures, agricultural land, mineral exploitation and sprawling urban areas, but by doing so we are destroying our own capacity to survive."*<sup>64</sup>

In fact, roughly 13 million hectares (about the size of Greece) of the world's forests are cut down and converted to other land uses every year.<sup>65</sup> As a consequence, Earth is undergoing the greatest mass extinction since the disappearance of dinosaurs.<sup>66</sup> Due to human activities and land use change, biodiversity loss is occurring

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58 Maser, Chris. *Forest Primeval: The Natural History of an Ancient Forest*. San Francisco: Sierra Club, 1989. Print.

59 McPherson, E. Gregory; Simpson, James R.; Peper, Paula J.; Gardner, Shelley L.; Vargas, Kelaine E.; Xiao, Qingfu. *Northeast community tree guide: benefits, costs, and strategic planting*. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-202. Albany, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. 106 p., Aug. 2007. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

60 United Nations Environment Programme. *About Forests*. N.d. Web. 3 Aug. 2014.

61 "Biodiversity and Forests At a Glance." The Global Environment Facility at the World Bank, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2014. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ESSDNETWORK/64158610111583197441/20488129/BiodiversityAndForestsAtAGlance.pdf>

62 Convention on Biological Diversity. *Forest Biodiversity: Biodiversity is our Life*. United Nations Environment Programme, 2010. Web. 3 Aug. 2014. < <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/factsheets/iyb-cbd-factsheet-forest-en.pdf> >

63 United Nations Environment Programme. *About Forests*. N.d. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

64 Bergen, Molly. *The World's 10 Most Threatened Forest Hotspots*. Conservation International, February 2011. Web. 26 May 2014.

65 Perry, David A. *Forest Ecosystems*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. Web. 27 May 2014.

66 Ernsting, Alumth and Isis Alvarez. *Analysis and Key Recommendations on Forests & Biodiversity*. Contribution to the Eighth Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG8), Women's Major Group, 2014. Web. 03 Aug. 2014. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6215women.pdf>

between 1,000 and 10,000 times the background rate, amounting to between 200 and 2,000 species extinctions per year.<sup>67</sup> Women in developing countries particularly are severely affected by biodiversity loss and the destruction and degradation of forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems due to exacerbated poverty and resource deprivation. As primary providers for children and families and the managers of household resource use, women bear a disproportionate burden for environmental degradation that compromises the life-supporting capacity of forests.<sup>68</sup> As such, women are particularly affected by freshwater depletion and pollution as well as by the loss of access to fuel wood and plants used for traditional medicines. Women are also especially vulnerable to resource degradation because they frequently invest time and energy in agro-ecological farming and reap benefits in kind, not in currency. In addition, women are more vulnerable to land loss (through land grabs, etc.) than men, because they are less likely to have formal/legal land titles and property ownership, and because they are commonly responsible for food production, including harvesting/collecting food from native ecosystems. The commodification of forests and the trend toward industrial plantations commonly marginalize these women, who “find their traditional social and economic status eroded due to policies and investments that restrict pastoralism and promote the conversion of grasslands to crop or tree plantations, as well as by REDD+ projects.”<sup>69</sup>

Unfortunately, market-based conservation mechanisms and other policies (such as biodiversity offsets and trade in genetic resources and knowledge) facilitate the increasing commercialization and financialization of biodiversity. Women typically are not able to access or profit from these markets. Due to their lower social statuses and gendered roles, they often have less access to market economies and fewer financial resources to procure or occupy lands under private ownership schemes. This disadvantage is compounded when their access to livelihood resources like food, medicine and firewood is consequentially reduced or eliminated.<sup>70</sup> Furthermore, defining “forests” and sustainable forest management to include industrial plantations, logging, and land conversion to plantations promotes the expansion of monoculture tree and other plantations as so-called carbon sinks or for biomass production, which further endangers biodiversity and women’s livelihoods. Tree plantations are also associated with water pollution and soil contamination by agro-chemicals. Moreover, expansion of monoculture tree plantations is a serious cause of rural depopulation, as tree plantations provide extremely little employment per hectare of land. Rural depopulation causes the deterioration of public services like schools, health centers, and community infrastructure, as well as the loss of local shops and markets, adding up to rural depression and the increasing need to depart for urban centers in hopes of a wage instead of a land-based livelihood.

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, climate change is likely to become one of the most significant drivers of biodiversity loss by the end of the century.<sup>71</sup> Climate change is already forcing diverse plants and animals to adapt through shifting habitat, changing life cycles, or the development of new traits. The

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67 “How Many Species Are We Losing?” World Wildlife Fund, n.d. Web. 23 May 2014.

68 Ernsting, Alumth and Isis Alvarez. *Analysis and Key Recommendations on Forests & Biodiversity*.

69 Ernsting, Alumth and Isis Alvarez. *Analysis and Key Recommendations on Forests & Biodiversity*.

70 Cardenas, A. “Life as Commerce: The impact of market-based conservation mechanisms on women.” Global Forest Coalition, 2012. Web. 16 Aug 2014.

71 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis*. World Resources Institute, 2005. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

huge biodiversity loss due to climate change risks human security in many ways, such as by weakening food chains, degrading water sources, and eroding resource bases.<sup>72</sup> Also, burning or cutting down rainforests (or converting them to other uses) causes decaying plant matter to release carbon into the atmosphere and eliminates carbon-sequestering organisms. After direct human fossil fuel combustion, this phenomenon is the second largest factor contributing to the greenhouse effect.<sup>73</sup> A vicious cycle thus threatens biodiversity and human quality of life, as deforestation contributes to increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which further causes our planet to warm.

In addition, maintaining biodiversity not only helps mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, but also empowers women. According to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity,

*“Conserving natural terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and restoring degraded ecosystems (including their genetic and species diversity) is essential for the overall goals of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change because ecosystems play a key role in the global carbon cycle and in adapting to climate change.”<sup>74</sup>*

Therefore, WECAN members and allies call for the urgent protection, conservation, and preservation of the world’s remaining forests and biodiversity. In doing so, we must ensure that national and international policies do not push for the creation of inviolate zones as this severely undermines the well-being and livelihoods of communities who depend on forests and have played a critical role in maintaining biodiversity. Policymakers must recognize that biodiversity conservation and a vibrant economy are possible and mutually reinforcing engines of human well-being. Accordingly, the women and allies of WECAN reject paradigms that assume the two are incompatible. Indeed, empowering communities that rely closely on forest resources will not only ensure better conservation but also ensure their continued access to forests, fundamental to strengthening their capacity to cope with climate change.

We must also resist any move to link these critical habitats to various climate offsets and trading regimes. Many times these schemes are said to be in communities’ self-interest, but in reality, the monetization of forests, even as carbon offsets or credits, severely undermines community rights and respect for culture.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recognize at the governmental level usufructory (common land use) rights over forests and other commons as essential to food sovereignty. Governments should respect and acknowledge their responsibility towards these commons and community rights over lands and related livelihood practices.

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72 Biodiversity and Climate Change Booklet, Convention on Biological Diversity. 2007. Web. 29 May 2014.

73 “Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data.” EPA. Environmental Protection Agency, 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 04 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html>>..

74 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity Including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, 3rd edition. United Nations Environment Programme, World Resources Institute and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), 2005. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

2. Oppose the monetization and financialization of forest carbon. Monetizing forest carbon, and schemes like these, increase the market value of forests and encourage governments to extend control over diverse ecosystems for the sole purpose of carbon sequestration. This is a huge setback for the process of decentralization for which many grassroots movements have been fighting. At the same time, we must also be cautious about other kinds of similar performance-based payments involving carbon that pave the way for governments, rather than local communities, to assert themselves as the primary or sole stakeholders in the guise of protecting national welfare, mitigating climate change, and being environmentally pro-active.
3. Shift the burden of action back to those responsible for global warming. Responsibility for real emissions reduction lies with those who created the climate crisis; therefore, shift focus to REFF (Reducing Emissions from Fossil Fuels) instead of schemes like REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation), which often wrongly and negatively impact the people who have had no role in creating the crisis.
4. Link forest policy activities with policy recommendations from World Future Council on Rwandan Forests, online at <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org>.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Organize trainings specifically for women to support and empower their struggles and facilitate access to knowledge, laws, and tools regarding forest protection and forest conservation practices.
2. Ensure interactivity in forest-related databases so that they will expand and change for the better according to feedback from their women users.
3. Create campaigns to directly link and support women activists campaigning to protect forest ecosystems and forest peoples.
4. Support tree planting and reforestation campaigns and projects.
5. Restore or allow natural regeneration of 50 million hectares of degraded or destroyed forest ecosystems by 2030.
6. Phase out all agricultural practices that cause soil erosion, depletion, and compaction by 2030.
7. Eliminate or redirect all governmental and business incentives that promote unsustainable consumption and production patterns that trigger biodiversity loss by 2030.
8. Fully document and recognize the territorial rights and customary conservation practices of Indigenous Peoples, women, and local communities by 2030.
9. Ensure and legally codify zero loss of forest cover by 2030 (based on a definition of forests that excludes industrial tree and shrub plantations).
10. Make available the widespread use of clean cook stoves.

## E. FRESH WATER

THE FIRST FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE WATER CRISIS. PEOPLE ARE FEELING THE WATER CRISIS DESPERATELY NOW, IN COMMUNITY AFTER COMMUNITY.<sup>75</sup>

—MAUDE BARLOW

Earth's freshwater heritage is threatened. Abuse, over-extraction, and displacement of water contribute in a major way to climate chaos. Essential to the recovery of climate stability is a strong plan to conserve, protect, and restore the world's watersheds and rebuild the health of aquatic ecosystems. The privatization of water is not an option. We must secure clean and safe water for human needs as a basic human right for everyone in every country. This will require not only changing our detrimental use of water, but also ensuring that no institutions or corporations infringe upon this life-sustaining right to water. Communities around the world are now engaged in critical struggles to protect their local waters, and it is time that we uphold water as a global commons for all. We also need to recognize in law each waterway's own rights to the healthy water they need to exist which also provides life-giving support to people and species. Please refer to the section on Rights of Nature for further development of ecosystems' rights (Section III K).

The impact of increased climate change on global fresh water availability is a major concern. Despite global increases in rainfall, many dry regions, including the Mediterranean, Saharan Africa, Australia, Central Asia and China, and the southwest United States, will suffer greatly from reduced rainfall and increased evaporation. In the coming decades, up to one billion people in dry regions will face increasing water scarcity as a result of climate change.<sup>76</sup>

We call for urgent action to protect the Earth's fresh water resources.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recognize intergenerational rights to water.
2. Include the Universal Human Right to Water and Waterway Right to Water in every national constitution.
3. Guarantee free access to water as necessary for basic human needs.
4. Recognize the right to clean water for all living beings, citing interspecies and intergenerational responsibilities.
5. Oppose water privatization at all costs and support decentralized, democratized water policies and stewardship.
6. Do not include water in any trade agreements. Where water and water access are already included in trade agreements, rescind these elements immediately as illegal and untenable.

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<sup>75</sup> Ostrander, Madeline. "Maude Barlow: Read Me My Environmental Rights." *YES! Magazine*. Yes Magazine, 3 Dec. 2010. Web. 04 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.yes-magazine.org/planet/maude-barlow-read-me-my-environmental-rights>>.

<sup>76</sup> Special Report: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, 2012. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

7. Implement water conservation and efficiency measures to protect ground water and aquifers. Do not deplete them beyond the ability for regeneration at original levels.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Organize actions for local and international implementation to coincide with World Water Day (March 22).
2. Ban or otherwise discourage bottled water in regions that have access to safe water.<sup>77</sup>
3. Organize water education and awareness programs and connect to existing water-issue organizations.
4. Organize local, regional and national “Blue October”<sup>78</sup> activities.

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77 Timm, Jane C. “San Francisco Bans Sale of Plastic Water Bottles on City Property.” Msnbc.com. NBC News Digital, 13 Mar. 2014. Web. 26 May 2014.

78 Blue October is an international month of action to challenge corporate control of water and to protect water as a shared natural resource available to all. On October 31, 2004, the people of Uruguay voted to amend their constitution to recognize this fundamental right. Blue October celebrates this historic move by challenging corporate control of water through global action. “What is Blue October?” Blue October. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.blueplanetproject.net/BlueOctober/>>.



## F. OCEANS

OCEANS AND CLIMATE ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED AND OCEANS PLAY A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE BY SERVING AS A MAJOR HEAT AND CARBON SINK. OCEANS ALSO BEAR THE BRUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AS EVIDENCED BY GROWING ACIDIFICATION, SEA LEVEL INCREASE, AND CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE AND CURRENTS, ALL OF WHICH IN TURN IMPACT THE HEALTH OF MARINE SPECIES, ECOSYSTEMS, AND OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES.<sup>79</sup>

—THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Earth's oceans are the largest solar energy collector on our planet. Holding about 97% of the world's water and covering more than 70% of Earth's surface area, oceans can absorb large amounts of heat without suffering large increases in temperature. This tremendous ability to store and release heat over long periods of time lends the oceans a central role in stabilizing Earth's climate system.<sup>80</sup>

Oceans are critical to human and environmental well-being. They cleanse our air, regulate weather and temperature, provide rich animal and plant resources and nutrition, and harbor unknown numbers of undiscovered species. We are just beginning to understand how critical oceans are to driving planetary chemistry and life cycles. Furthermore, people everywhere rely directly on marine resources for food, commercial fishing and aquaculture, and natural products for sale in other market-based livelihoods.

Earth's oceans have maintained a relatively stable acidity level for tens of millions of year. The rich and varied web of life in today's seas has flourished in a steady environment. But research now shows now that a recent and rapid drop in surface pH caused by CO<sub>2</sub> absorption can have devastating global consequences by undoing this ancient balance.

Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have increased the acidity of our oceans by 30% and our oceans are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts from human emissions of greenhouse gases. As National Geographic articulates, "The oceans currently absorb about a third of human-created CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, roughly 22 million tonnes a day."<sup>81</sup>

On the pH scale of 0 to 14, solutions with low numbers are considered acidic and those with higher numbers are basic (alkaline). Seven is neutral. Over the past 300 million years, ocean pH has been slightly basic, averaging about 8.2. Today, it is about 8.1, a drop of 0.1 pH units, representing a 25% increase in acidity over the past two centuries. Projections show that by the end of this century, continued emissions could reduce ocean

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79 The Oceans Foundation. "Resources: Oceans and Climate Change." *Oceans and Climate Change*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Aug. 2014.

80 "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*. United States Chamber of Commerce, 2014. Web. 6 June 2014. <http://www.noaa.gov/>.

81 "Ocean Acidification: Carbon Dioxide Is Putting Shelled Animals at Risk." National Geographic. National Geographic Society, n.d. Web. 21 Aug. 2014. <<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-ocean-acidification/>>.



pH by 0.5 units. Research shows that this rapid drop in surface pH balance is now affecting ocean life and will continue to cause damage unless we substantially reduce our carbon emissions.<sup>82</sup>

For example, when carbon dioxide dissolves in the ocean, carbonic acid is formed. This induces higher ocean acidity, which inhibits shell growth in marine animals and is suspected as a cause of reproductive disorders in some fish. As a result, shell-forming animals including corals, oysters, shrimp, lobster, many planktonic organisms, and some fish species will suffer enormously.<sup>83</sup> Other impacts include air and water temperature changes, coral bleaching, sea level rise, coastal inundation, coastal erosion, the creation of dead zones inhospitable to life, new diseases impacting marine life, loss of marine mammals, changes in levels of precipitation, and fishery deterioration.

As the oceans continue to absorb more CO<sub>2</sub>, their capacity as a carbon storehouse will only diminish. As a result, a larger proportion of human-emitted carbon dioxide will remain in the atmosphere than it currently does, further aggravating the advance of global climate change. Global warming unabated will continue to harm marine life and endanger those who depend on these global waters.

Carbon emissions are not the only way industrial civilization inflicts damage on the oceans. The oceans are also being overfished, which occurs when more fish are caught than the population can sustainably replace through natural reproduction. For example, at least 49 stocks of 29 species were overfished during 2013. As Xavier Pastor, Executive Director for Oceana Europe, stated about overfishing in Europe, “This is not a single event, but rather widespread behavior, that in many cases is carried out by the same nations and affects the same stocks year after year. What is the use of setting catch limits if there is no real will to control them? Clearly this is not the way to phase out overfishing in European waters, a greater commitment by the Member States is necessary.”<sup>84</sup>

In addition, human garbage plagues our oceans. We dump annually 14 billion pounds of trash—plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, glassware, electronics, tires, etc.—into the oceans. While some of it sinks and is digested by ocean creatures (much to their detriment), waves wash most of this refuse ashore, even in remote areas like Antarctica. Merchant ships generate almost 90 percent of all waste found in the world’s oceans. Trash is also dumped by military and cruise ships.<sup>85</sup>

This trash gathers into gyres, naturally occurring vortexes of wind and currents that rotate in a clockwise direction in the northern hemisphere and counter-clockwise in the southern hemisphere. These create a whirlpool effect, the vortexes of which move more slowly at the center, where marine plastic and other debris collects.

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82 IGBP, IOC, SCOR. *Ocean Acidification Summary for Policymakers—Third Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO<sub>2</sub> World*. International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, 2013. Web. 22 Aug. 2014. <http://www.igbp.net/publications/summariesforpolicymakers/summariesforpolicymakers/oceanacidificationsummaryforpolicymakers2013.5.30566fc6142425d6c9111f4.html>.

83 “Ocean Acidification: Carbon Dioxide Is Putting Shelled Animals at Risk.” *National Geographic*. National Geographic Society, n.d. Web. 21 Aug. 2014. <<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-ocean-acidification/>>.

84 “Oceana supports penalties for Member States that exceeded 2013 fishing quotas.” *Oceana*. Oceana. Org, 2013. Web. 21 Aug. 2014. <<http://oceana.org/en/eu/media-reports/press-releases/oceana-supports-penalties-for-member-states-that-exceeded-2013-fishing-quotas>>.

85 Katherine Butler, “New ocean garbage patch discovered” *Mother Nature Network* digital, Aug. 04, 2010 <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/new-ocean-garbage-patch-discovered#ixzz3BSd42ROI>

There are 5 major Gyres in the oceans worldwide, containing plastic and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). These consist of carbon-containing chemical compounds that to a varying degree, resist photochemical, biological and chemical degradation. The North Pacific Gyre, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is estimated to be twice the size of Texas and swirls in the Pacific Ocean roughly between the coast of California and Hawaii.<sup>86</sup>

Plastic comprises 90% of floating ocean debris. Floating plastic covers an area of nearly 5 million square miles in the Pacific Ocean. Plastic bags, single-use disposable plastic items, and Styrofoam containers comprise a majority of this refuse.<sup>87</sup> To illustrate this, plastic pieces outweigh surface zooplankton in the Central North Pacific ocean by a factor of 6 to 1, and many species mistake them for food. Of 500,000 albatross chicks born each year on Midway Atoll, about 200,000 die of starvation. Adult albatrosses mistake plastic trash for food and feed it to their chicks, who cannot properly digest nor derive nutrition from such materials.<sup>88</sup>

*“People ask: Why should I care about the ocean? Because the ocean is the cornerstone of Earth’s life support system, it shapes climate and weather. It holds most of life on Earth...It’s the blue heart of the planet — we should take care of our heart. It’s what makes life possible for us.”<sup>89</sup>*  
—Sylvia A. Earle

The women and allies of WECAN call for the urgent and dramatic reduction of the amount of carbon from emissions in the atmosphere in order to save and protect our oceans, as well as additional policies and actions to clean up and preserve ocean ecosystems.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Protect a minimum of 30% of vulnerable and threatened fisheries and coral reefs in marine sanctuaries (Marine Protected Areas) by 2020. Protect all areas that are still pristine.
2. Establish an international fund and action plan, and support technology innovations to address and clean up the gyres of plastic and trash in the world’s oceans by 2025.
3. End overfishing and support maintaining healthy, sustainable fish populations. This is fundamental to increasing the capacity of fisheries to replenish and adapt. Support penalties for nations which exceed existing fishing quotas.
4. Call all nations to negotiate a high seas biodiversity agreement, based upon the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach, essential for the sustainability of the oceans’ biodiversity, and to honor the commitment made by the world’s governments at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 Conference in the outcome document released on June 22, 2012.

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86 “The Ocean Cleanup Project.” The Ocean Cleanup Project, n.d. Web. 20 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.theoceancleanup.com/>>.

87 Barnes, David KA, et al. “Accumulation and fragmentation of plastic debris in global environments.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 364.1526 (2009): 1985-1998.

88 Weiss, Kenneth R. “Plague of Plastic Chokes the Seas.” *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, 2 Aug. 2006. Web. 22 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-me-ocean2aug02-story.html#page=2>>.

89 *Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?* Dir. Susan Beraza. Reelthing Films, 2010. Film.

## ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ignite and mobilize public support for a network of global marine-protected areas large enough to save and restore the oceans, using Mission Blue’s 31 new “Hope Spots” as the guideline. Use tools such as research, science, law, educational forums and seminars, social networking and media, radio, film and video, the web, community presentations, and college and business presentations.
2. Promote, support and organize actions for the development of ocean conservation campaigns, cleanup systems, and stewardship technologies. Implement these plans as soon as possible at the local, regional, national and international level, or to align with the UN International Day of the Ocean (June 8).
3. Support an international ban on all plastic bags, Styrofoam and single-use plastic containers. Replace the production and use of these with that of biodegradable materials and reusable bottles, bags and containers.
4. Support an international ban on the dumping of any plastic, garbage, chemicals, oil or other waste into ocean waters by merchant and military ships and private boats in all coastal and international waters.



Lori Wasechuk

WECAI International Women’s Earth and Climate Summit



## G. CITIES AND ECOCITIES, ECOVILLAGES, LIFESTYLES

TODAY WE NEED EVERY VILLAGE TO BECOME AN ECOVILLAGE AND EVERY CITY TO BECOME AN ECOCITY. THE WHOLE OF SOCIETY NEEDS TO TRANSITION TO A LOW-IMPACT LIFESTYLE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.<sup>90</sup>

—KOSHA JOUBERT

According to the World Health Organization, 60% of the world's population will live in cities or extended urban areas by 2030, growing to 70% of humanity by 2050.<sup>91</sup> As the world's urban population rapidly grows, so will its carbon footprint: today, cities alone emit up to a shocking 70% of global GHG emissions.<sup>92</sup> As humans flock to cities for housing, jobs, education and other social services, the pressure on urban centers to provide clean, safe and environmentally sustainable living situations will grow. Therefore, to fight climate change and safeguard human well-being, sustainably and justly structuring cities is key.

The cities in which we live must enable people to thrive in harmony with nature and, importantly, with one another. As such, urban design that prioritizes energy and transportation efficiency, durability and

90 Joubert, Kosha. "Kosha's Column." Global Ecovillage Network Europe. N.d. Web. 08 Aug 2014.

91 World Health Organization. "Urban Population Growth." Global Health Observatory, World Health Organization 2014. Web. 08 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.who.int/gho/urban\\_health/situation\\_trends/urban\\_population\\_growth\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/)>.

92 "Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements 2011." London: Earthscan, 2011. Web. 17 Aug. 2014.

accessibility is paramount. Close proximity (or easy and renewable transportation) to workplaces, schools, community centers and leisure activities also organizes ecocities. Such city planning also takes to heart the right of every citizen to healthy food, green space, and community-centered living arrangements. Ecocities constantly innovate through policy and infrastructure to consume less and live locally, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Ecocities and other similarly structured living centers, such as ecovillages, also help to address some of the root causes of climate change, including overconsumption and wasteful resource use. How we live on a day-to-day basis really does make a difference. A recent North American study demonstrated that doubling home energy efficiency, eliminating the need for a car, and consuming locally and organically produced food could significantly contribute to reducing overall demand on nature's resources and "services."<sup>93</sup> This includes reducing the amount of waste produced as well as energy and materials consumed, a necessary change high-consuming nations must make to their lifestyles in order to ensure a sustainable future. As the IPCC 2014 Adaptation Report: Summary for Policymakers states,

*"Behavior, lifestyle and culture have a considerable influence on energy use and associated emissions, with high mitigation potential in some sectors, in particular when complementing technological and structural change (medium evidence, medium agreement). Emissions can be substantially lowered through changes in consumption patterns (e.g., mobility demand and mode, energy use in households, choice of longer-lasting products) and dietary change and reduction in food wastes."*<sup>94</sup>

Reducing consumption is a key factor in mitigating climate change. Buying less and buying local, sustainable, and fair trade are consumer choices that directly challenge the inequitable global trade model. It helps reduce the greenhouse gases involved in transporting goods, and helps to promote viable and sustainable industries and economies.

Ecocities are built with an eye towards harmonious co-existence with the existing natural environment. They make efficient use of localized renewable energy sources to light, heat and power homes, buildings and factories. In addition, ecocities provide space for urban agriculture, the practice of permaculture and access to nature.<sup>95</sup> They welcome and accommodate the needs of surrounding wildlife and ecosystems, and therefore encourage a nurturing, conscientious culture in which people enjoy spending time outdoors and steward the natural environment.<sup>96</sup>

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93 Moore, Jennie, and William E. Rees. "Getting to One-Planet Living." *State of the World 2013*. Island Press/Center for Resource Economics, 2013. Print, 39-50.

94 IPCC, 2014: Summary for policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, pp. 21. Web. 29 May 2014.

95 Register, Richard. "Ecocities: Rebuilding Cities in Balance with Nature: Revised Edition." New Society Publishers, 2006. Print.

96 Coplák, Jaroslav and Peter Rakšányi. "Planning Sustainable Settlements." Slovak University of Technology Bratislava, 2003. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.



In addition to mitigating climate change, ecocities and ecovillages are able to persist, to renew and re-organize, despite disturbances,<sup>97</sup> such as weather-related events and demographic change. Resilience is an important attribute of sustainable communities, ecocities, and ecovillages as these enduring living centers can shelter people from harsh and sudden impacts, and encourage community adaptation measures. Furthermore, as the poor are often the hardest hit by sudden political, economic and environmental changes,<sup>98</sup> ecocities and ecovillages incorporate measures to ensure social protections for these vulnerable groups. They take measures to shelter those currently living in informal or unofficial settlements, and who have little to no access to fresh water, clean air, local food, or living-wage employment. Therefore, ecocities and villages take

97 Seeliger, Leanne, and Ivan Turok. "Averting a downward spiral: building resilience in informal urban settlements through adaptive governance." *Environment and Urbanization*, 2013. Web. 29 May 2014.

98 Satterthwaite, David. "How Does a Changing Climate Impact on Urban Poverty?" *News and Blogs*. International Institute for Environment and Development, 28 Mar. 2013. Web. 17 Aug. 2014.

an approach that simultaneously addresses the root causes of humanity’s unsustainable behavior as well as discerns appropriate local urban plans in order to minimize future climatic hazards.

Finally, we must design all cities, not just ecocities and ecovillages, to uplift and promote the rights of every individual to a safe, clean and green living environment. WECAN puts a special emphasis on the concerns of low-income communities and people of color, who are often pushed to marginal lands, have lower access to fresh foods and sustainable transport, and suffer from pollution and other negative externalities from industrialized infrastructures located close to their homes and places of work. Environmental issues factor into the daily lives of low-income communities as both health and economic concerns—rising gas prices and energy bills accompany the usual environmental damages, including asthma, exposure to toxic waste, and water and energy shortages.<sup>99</sup> We must consistently fight against environmentally racist policies that put people of color and low-income communities at the frontlines of environmental hazards.

While national governments are slow to take concrete, urgent steps to fight climate change, cities are already leading the way with active local initiatives, including drafting and implementing municipal, regional, and statewide climate action plans. Additionally, many sustainable lifestyle and development methodologies are being pioneered in the global movement to create eco-cities and eco-villages. We call for increased support at all levels for local initiatives to combat climate change and for policies that encourage lifestyle practices of sustainability.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Support a new global urban agenda according to the following principles that will serve as its building blocks, as the World Urban Campaign articulates:
  - A. Accessible land, infrastructure, services, mobility and housing;
  - B. Socially inclusive, gender sensitive, healthy and safe development;
  - C. Environmentally sound and carbon-efficient built environment;
  - D. Participatory planning and decision making;
  - E. Vibrant, creative, and competitive local economies promoting decent work and livelihoods;
  - F. Assurance of non-discrimination and equal rights;
  - G. Empowering cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity and change.<sup>100</sup>
2. Create local citizen/government task forces connected at the city and county level to create Climate Action Policies and Action Plans.
3. Research climate impacts on local natural systems, including marshes, watersheds, and forests, and make policy recommendations for their protection.

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99 “Climate Change and Communities of Color: Key Poll Findings and Top Lines.” *Green For All*. 2014. Web. 22 Aug 2014. <<http://greenforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ExecutiveReport.pdf>>.

100 “Manifesto for Cities | World Urban Campaign.” *World Urban Campaign*. N.p., 01 July 2013. Web. 26 May 2014. <<http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/manifesto-for-cities/>>.

4. Develop strategies for municipal investment in “climate proof” local power grids.
5. Write and pass ordinances to develop publicly owned municipal and regional utilities using climate-friendly energy sources.
6. Require the input of grassroots women’s organization in city planning, budgeting and local development processes. Mandate the appointment of a locally appropriate number of women to formal public service roles to help develop and monitor projects undertaken by the city.
7. Support communities’ rights to self-determination, including fiscal and legal support for collective use and ownership of land and infrastructure.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide safe shelter, water, sanitation, security of land tenure, and food security for all citizens and with priority to the urban and rural poor in an ecologically sound manner to improve the quality of lives and human health.
2. Build cities for people, not cars. Roll back sprawl development. Minimize the loss of rural land by all effective measures, including regional, urban, and peri-urban ecological planning.
3. Use “ecocity mapping” to identify ecologically sensitive areas, define the carrying capacity of regional life-support systems, and identify areas where nature, agriculture, and the built environment should be restored. Also identify those areas where more dense and diverse development should be focused in centers of social and economic vitality. Use this information to plan and construct environmentally friendly, low-carbon-footprint, compact cities.
4. Design cities for energy conservation, renewable energy uses, and the reduction, re-use, and recycling of materials.
5. Build cities for safe pedestrian and non-motorized transport with efficient, convenient, and low-cost public transportation, bicycle lanes and bridges, and pedestrian-only areas.
6. End automobile subsidies and increase taxation on vehicle fuels and cars; spend the revenue on ecocity projects and public transportation.
7. Provide strong economic incentives to businesses for ecocity building and rebuilding. Tax activities that work against ecologically healthy development, including those that produce greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Develop and enhance government policies that encourage investment in ecocity building.
8. Provide adequate, accessible education and training programs, capacity building and local skills development workshops and classes to increase community participation and awareness of ecocity design, and the management and restoration of the local natural environment. Support community initiatives in ecocity building.
9. Create a government agency at each level—village, city, regional, national, and international—to craft and execute policy to build ecocities and promote associated ecological development. These agencies will coordinate and monitor functions such as transportation, energy, water, and land use in holistic planning and management, and facilitate projects and plans.



10. Address in policy at all levels of government, and in the decision-making bodies of universities, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and professional associations, specifically what can be done through the institutions' physical design and layout relative to their local communities to address global warming, the coming end of fossil fuels, and the global crisis of mass species extinction.
11. Encourage and initiate international, inter-city, and community-to-community cooperation to share experiences, lessons, and resources in ecocity development.
12. Work with mayors, local authorities, and city councils to draft and approve local ordinances for mitigating and adapting to climate change.
13. Develop climate resilience through the construction, repair, and remodeling of local infrastructure. This would include bridges, roads, housing developments, public buildings, transportation systems, water delivery from source to end user, and waste disposal.
14. Organize briefings for local policy makers on the science and solutions to climate change.
15. Organize on the local level to buy back utilities; municipalize and localize the ownership of (green) energy production; and decommission/remove fossil fuel and nuclear plants.
16. Organize to ensure women's participation (especially poor and disenfranchised women) in all levels of planning and implementation of local initiatives for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.



## H. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS, CLIMATE FINANCE, CARBON FEES, FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

[CLIMATE CHANGE] IS THE DEFINING CHALLENGE OF OUR TIME. THE LONGER WE DELAY, THE MORE WE WILL PAY — THE SOONER WE ACT, THE GREATER THE BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.<sup>101</sup>

—BAN KI-MOON, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

Mitigating and adapting to climate change will require an enormous amount of resources. Lest we wonder where such funds would come from, global military spending in 2013 totaled just over \$1.75 trillion USD, with all but \$3 billion of that coming from the top 15 military-spending countries. The United States alone has an annual military budget of about \$600 billion, followed by the next two big spenders—China and Russia—at \$166 billion and \$90.7 billion, respectively. Given that women suffer disproportionately not only from the impacts of climate change but also from the impacts of war and military intervention, WECAN emphatically supports the diversion of funds from the military to initiatives that fight climate change—the real threat to the future and to national and international security.

Without adequate financing, government and industry’s commitments to stopping and reversing increasingly dangerous climate disruption is just talk. Activists and global thinkers have proposed numerous innovative mechanisms to not only divert funds from existing budgets but also create new revenues; for example, by placing a fee on carbon and instigating a financial transaction tax that would fund climate mitigation and adaptation.

A carbon price, properly designed, must do four things: internalize the social cost of carbon, rapidly achieve large emission reductions, minimize economic disruption and recruit global participation. An escalating revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend with border adjustments can achieve these outcomes. Until fossil fuels pay their fair price, they will be exploited and burned. A rising carbon emission fee signals that change is coming. And when all the fees collected are returned to households, the economic impact turns into a stimulus, giving political staying power to the legislation. Business planners need that certainty to shift investment to zero-carbon investment.

WECAN calls for new and additional funding for the Green Climate Fund<sup>102</sup> and other international, national, regional, and local mechanisms to support innovative initiatives for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

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101 “Ban Ki-moon Praises UAE Efforts on Climate Change.” *Environment*. Al Nisr Publishing LLC, 29 Apr. 2014. Web. 06 Aug. 2014.

102 “Green Climate Fund.” *Newsroom*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2014. Web. 04 Aug. 2014.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Raise adequate financing of at least 2 % of global GDP through equitable and fair measures, including re-allocating a significant part of the military budget, halting public financing for fossil fuel companies, implementing the Financial Transaction Tax, and closing tax havens and tax loopholes for the wealthy in order to stop tax evasion and thus stabilize, and make more equitable, the public income tax.
2. Require a global price on carbon enacted in every country, fees that gradually increase until imported fossil fuel energy is significantly more expensive than the available clean energy options.
3. Phase out and then abolish existing carbon trading and carbon offset schemes in favor of more practicable green-energy-promoting finance structures.
4. Commit to implementing 100% of financing for climate action in a gender-responsive way.
5. Institute a Mandatory Corporate Ecological Impact Disclosure in all countries by 2025 to hold businesses accountable to sustainability and generating the data we need to institute effective legislation.<sup>103</sup>
6. Prioritize funding for forest protection, particularly in areas of high biodiversity and/or ancestral domains. Uphold and protect customary land rights.
7. Ensure that a significant percentage of funding for climate action (both mitigation and adaptation) in developing countries is reserved for small-scale, community-based, locally designed and implemented projects and programs.

## ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Build a collective women's network of climate finance experts and advisors.
2. Build the capacity of grassroots women's organizations to develop and implement climate finance networks.
3. Support socially responsible investing (SRI) and shareholder activism to support climate-friendly financing.

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103 Foundation Earth. *Mandatory Corporate Ecological Impact Disclosure: A Working Paper*. Foundation Earth, 2014. Web. 16 Aug 2014. <<http://www.fdnearth.org/files/2012/11/Mandatory-Ecological-Impact-Disclosure-Report-Final-v3.pdf>>.



# I. NEW ECONOMICS

CURRENTLY, THE 65 RICHEST INDIVIDUALS OWN AS MUCH AS THE BOTTOM 50% WORLD-WIDE. JUST 5% OF THE 46.2 TRILLION-DOLLAR WEALTH OF THE WORLD'S SO-CALLED 'HIGH NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS' IS ENOUGH TO COVER THE ANNUAL COST OF A GLOBAL SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION COMBINED.<sup>104</sup>

—WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

THE GREAT PROBLEM CONFRONTING US TODAY IS THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED THE MEANS WITH WHICH WE LIVE TO OUTDISTANCE THE ENDS FOR WHICH WE LIVE.<sup>105</sup>

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In a new project coordinated by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate (GCEC), an entity that seven countries—Colombia, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, South Korea, Ethiopia and the UK—recently created, an \$8.9 million analysis will be undertaken to consider the economic impacts of climate change. One of their goals, according to Global Commission Chair former Mexican President Felipe Calderon, is to “...urgently identify how we can achieve economic growth and job creation while also reducing emissions and tackling climate change.”

While WECAN commends governments for taking a serious look at the economic impacts of climate change, the analysis falls short if it is reliant on the belief that continuing perpetual economic growth is a fundamental requirement. In fact, groups like the New Economy Coalition, comprised of economists, policymakers, and grassroots advocates, question whether perpetual economic growth and sustainability are, in fact, mutually exclusive realities. They are offering and promoting model alternatives.

In order to live in harmony with the Earth and to halt the most destructive aspects of our modern life, we need to advance a new economy founded upon the reality of Earth's carrying capacity and finite planetary boundaries. We need a fundamental redirection of the world economy, necessitating that we adhere to precepts that uphold the ecological design and boundaries of nature. We need to question the unlimited-growth orientation of our development models, which fuels consumerism and the commodification of natural resources. We need laws that reveal and uphold a “true-cost economy,” so that industry, corporations, and individuals take responsibility for costs associated with any economic activity—costs that have been previously externalized and passed on to others. These laws will ensure the integrity and well-being of ecosystems for the entire cycle of activities of production and transportation. A true-cost economic model will drive industry toward sustainable activities and practices because it becomes cost-prohibitive, as well as legally forbidden, to pollute and harm humans and nature in the name of commerce.

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<sup>104</sup> Women's Major Group. *Press Release on Proposed Adoption of SDGs*. Women's Major Group, 21 Jul. 2014. Web. 08 Aug. 2014.

<sup>105</sup> “The Archive.” *The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change*. The King Center, 1 Jan. 2014. Web. 4 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/quotes>>.

We need legislation that will encourage the formulation and implementation of new economic structures and indicators, such as Gross National Happiness (as in Butan), Genuine Progress Indicator, Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, and others that do not rely upon GDP (gross domestic product) as the only true or acceptable metric. We must question defining worth, wealth, value, and well-being by only measuring money and material goods. We call for the implementation of an economics that empowers local communities and supports Indigenous Peoples' ways of life; and that measures and values "Gross Happiness" instead of "Gross Product." We call for economics that create development opportunities without destroying the surrounding ecosystems that all living things on the planet depend upon for life.

WECAN calls for the accountability of the "private sector," whose role in our economic and financial systems is paramount. The private sector must be urged to comply with ex-ante and ex-post ecological- and human-rights impact assessments before they are allowed to pursue investments. An accountable and responsible private sector is critical in addressing the challenges of climate change and the divestment from fossil fuels.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create common renewable energy and efficiency policies—like the Pacific Coast Plan in the USA—at the state level.
2. Create common renewable energy and efficiency policies at the national level.
3. Put a high, "true-cost," price on carbon pollution.
4. Demand "true-cost accounting" of development projects and all business practices.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Work with Rights of Nature activists and experts to develop strategies for economic development within the natural boundaries of the Earth's ecosystems and widely disseminate those strategies at all levels—public, governmental, educational, etc.
2. Develop educational materials on "true-cost accounting" of consumer goods.
3. Transform the "consumer culture" of the developed nations, particularly in the USA.
4. Work with ecological economists to promote community-based economic models that enhance climate resilience as well as adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
5. Implement sustainability labeling of products.
6. Implement a Sustainability Index for measuring GDP.



Lori Waseichuk

## J. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WHEN ONE SITS IN THE HOOP OF THE PEOPLE  
ONE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE  
ALL OF CREATION IS RELATED.  
AND THE HURT OF ONE IS THE HURT OF ALL.  
AND THE HONOR OF ONE IS THE HONOR OF ALL.  
AND WHATEVER WE DO EFFECTS EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE.  
—NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER

Earth is home to between 250 and 300 million Indigenous Peoples. Although they comprise only four percent of the world’s population, they inhabit 22 percent of the world’s land surface.<sup>106</sup> Climate change poses a serious threat to many Indigenous communities, where lives depend on natural resources. In spite of this, Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land are often not recognized, and they are often excluded from national and international political processes. This is unjust because well-intended but misguided decisions, policies and actions on climate change are often undertaken without their input or consent, proving inadequate or even harmful. It is also unreasonable, as “indigenous knowledge, although new to climate science, has been long recognized as a key source of information and insight in domains such as agroforestry, traditional medicine, biodiversity conservation, customary resource management, impact assessment, and natural disaster preparedness and response.”<sup>107</sup> Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples are some of the best stewards of biodiverse ecosystems and the best observers of environmental change, making them key collaborators in any climate change adaptation-mitigation agenda.

106 Raygorodetsky, Gleb. “Why Traditional Knowledge Holds the Key to Climate Change.” United Nations University, 13 Dec. 2011. Web. 29 July 2014.

107 Raygorodetsky, Gleb. “Why Traditional Knowledge Holds the Key to Climate Change.” United Nations University, 13 Dec. 2011. Web. 29 July 2014.

As a 2012 report published jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations University (UNU) states: “*There is therefore a need to understand the specific vulnerabilities, concerns, adaptation capacities and longer-term aspirations of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities throughout the world.*”<sup>108</sup>

Indigenous Peoples collectively have contributed very little to the growing climate crisis while at the same time are on the front lines of climate destruction. Their presence is indispensable in the fight for the Rights of Nature, as they make up a strong presence in the international community of environmental and land defenders. They also suffer from the crimes perpetrated against such defenders, 908 who were killed worldwide between 2002 and 2013.<sup>109</sup> Not only do they defend their traditional rights to land and the land itself, but in the process contribute crucially to the global environmental battle for all humans dependent on planet Earth. From the perspective of justice, this is simply unacceptable. From melting glaciers removing traditional water sources from the Andes of Peru and the Himalaya of Ladakh and disrupted agriculture in Southern Ethiopia and the pastoral range lands in Kenya, to threatened caribou herds in Alaska and disrupted fisheries in the Pacific, along with events like the disappearance of entire island and coastal communities around the world, Indigenous Peoples daily feel the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis.

WECAN calls for the support and implementation of the provisions of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including Article 28, Paragraph 1:

*“Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.”*

We further call for the full empowerment and participation of Indigenous Peoples, with the equal and effective inclusion of Indigenous women in all global decision-making processes on climate change, climate change financing, and sustainable development.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Finance Indigenous Peoples, and other uniquely vulnerable groups for capacity building on key issues. These include defining and understanding Indigenous Peoples’ and women’s rights; creating and publicizing global instruments to define and protect those rights (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Labour Organization Convention 169, etc.); and educating the global community about Indigenous Peoples and the situation of Indigenous women in the world.
2. Mandate the implementation of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for Indigenous Peoples in all climate agreements.

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108 “State of the World’s Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2012.” Minority Rights Group International, June 2012. Web. 25 May 2014. <<http://www.unesco.org/library/PDF/MRG.pdf>>.

109 “Deadly Environment: the Dramatic Rise in Killings of Environmental and Land Defenders 1.1.2002—31.12.2013.” Global Witness, 2013. Web. 2 Jun. 2014. <<http://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/library/Deadly%20Environment.pdf>>.

3. Ensure full, effective, and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and specifically Indigenous women in the implementation and enforcement of climate policies at the local, national, and international levels.
4. Ensure Indigenous Peoples' well-being through the enforcement of legal protections of the natural systems and environments where they live (as protected areas), against extractive projects and oil exploration.
5. Ensure financial and logistic assistance to vulnerable Indigenous groups so that they may mount an effective response to the extreme weather and other impactful events related to climate change.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Finance resistance work of Indigenous groups through work in the media.
2. Create partnership alliances with faith communities, cultural groups, and community networks.
3. Create culturally appropriate educational resources.
4. Send statements to governments outlining opposition to dangerous land use policies and practices concerning extractive industries, farming, logging, and dam building.
5. Educate about, finance and implement Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (also known as TEK) refers to forms of Indigenous traditional knowledge handed down through generations regarding the relationship of living beings with their traditional groups and with the Earth.
6. Work against barriers to success, which include lack of financial support, the violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the delay of implementation of existing policies that defend Indigenous Peoples' rights.



WECAN and SAFECO DR Congo Climate Training 2014



## K. RIGHTS OF NATURE

RATHER THAN TREATING NATURE AS PROPERTY UNDER THE LAW, RIGHTS OF NATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NATURE IN ALL ITS LIFE FORMS HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST, PERSIST, MAINTAIN AND REGENERATE ITS VITAL CYCLES.<sup>110</sup>

—GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Despite achieving some notable successes, current environmental laws have been unable to prevent increasingly grave challenges such as climate change, depleted waterways, and disappearing species and habitats—all of which contribute to the unmet water, shelter, food, and essential needs of human populations. These dilemmas occur in large part because our overarching legal and economic systems treat the natural world as property to be exploited and degraded, rather than as an integral ecological partner with its own rights to exist and thrive. As a result, current environmental protection laws only slow, rather than stop, the downward slide of ecosystem health. As Indigenous Peoples have long recognized, because we are inextricably intertwined with our environment, a framework that only views nature as a commodity bodes ill for humans as well.

We must recognize, in law and economics, our fundamental interconnections with the natural world, with which we co-evolved. Through promotion of governance alternatives that reflect our oneness with each other and the planet, we will create a needed change of consciousness that will ensure we live in harmony with the Earth. Fundamental to these changes is the recognition in law and economics of the inherent rights of the natural world to exist, thrive, and evolve.

A Rights of Nature approach promotes a structure of law that guides our human behavior in recognition of the limits of the Earth's systems and in celebration of those systems' well-being. Under a Rights of Nature legal framework, activities that may harm the ability of ecosystems, our climate, and natural communities to thrive and naturally restore themselves would be in legal violation of nature's rights, and we would need to choose other paths that better reflected our obligations toward the natural world.

A Rights of Nature approach does not stop development for the well-being of human communities, but rather re-orientes these developments to simultaneously protect ecosystem balance and respect the regenerative capacity of Nature's vital cycles.

In 2006, the community of Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania in the United States passed an ordinance recognizing nature as a rights bearing entity. Since then over twenty-four communities in the United States have passed local ordinances, which recognize Rights of Nature to protect their ecosystems. These local ordinances are protecting communities from harmful practices such as shale gas drilling and fracking.

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110 "Home." *TheRightsofNature.org*. Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, 2014. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <<http://therightsofnature.org/>>.

At the national level, in 2008, Ecuador became the first country in the world to recognize Rights of Nature in its constitution. Chapter 7 of the Constitution of Ecuador explicitly states that nature has the right to exist, the right to be cared for according to its natural life cycles and ecosystems, and the right to restoration in the event of environmental harm. Additionally, Bolivia has established eleven Rights of Nature laws and in 2012, in New Zealand, a river was legally declared a person with standing (with the help of guardians) to bring legal actions to protect its interests.

The Rights of Nature governing framework recognizes the inherent meaning, sacredness, and value of the natural world, and rejects a worldview that nature is a tradable commodity or subject to commerce. Accordingly, WECAN supports development and implementation of a Rights of Nature legal and economic framework.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Work from both a human rights approach and a nature's rights approach, recognizing that the success of each is dependent on the other.
2. Disseminate information about and organize support for adoption of Rights of Nature laws and economic policies.
3. Connect Rights of Nature strategies to the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth and Indigenous rights.
4. Connect Rights of Nature to climate change—through the human right to a healthy atmosphere and the right of the Earth's atmosphere to remain clean.
5. Make the connection between Rights of Nature and land tenure issues.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Seek further Indigenous input into the refinement of Rights of Nature messaging, including translation into Indigenous languages.
2. Develop a women's solidarity network for the Rights of Nature within WECAN.
3. Tell personal stories about/connections to the Rights of Nature in the media.
4. Organize support and endorsements for the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth and the Rights of Nature; encourage other NGOs to incorporate a Rights of Nature perspective in their work.
5. Draft and organize support for laws and economic policies that recognize Rights of Nature. Stop the commodification and financialization of Nature.
6. Research, write, and disseminate case studies of the application of the Rights of Nature in climate change and social justice campaigning.
7. Recognize and incorporate the Indigenous concepts of *Buen Vivir* or *Sumak Kawsay* as foundational to a healthy and respectful relationship to Nature, each other and the entire Earth community. Examine worldviews.

# L. NEW CULTURAL NARRATIVES AND CONNECTION TO NATURE

WE CANNOT WIN THIS BATTLE TO SAVE THE SPECIES AND ENVIRONMENTS WITHOUT FORGING AN EMOTIONAL BOND BETWEEN OURSELVES AND NATURE AS WELL—FOR WE WILL NOT FIGHT TO SAVE WHAT WE DO NOT LOVE.<sup>111</sup>

—STEPHEN JAY GOULD

WECAN advocates an Earth-respecting cultural narrative, one of “restore, respect, replenish,” to replace the narrative of “domination, depletion, and destruction” of nature. The new narrative explores questions such as: What does transitioning to a clean and just energy future mean in your region? What can women do personally in their daily lives and in their communities to collaborate with others to implement holistic action plans?

Women are working in the new narrative to protect and defend the Earth’s ecosystems and biodiversity, and all future generations. This work includes reconnecting with nature and understanding the vital importance of living within the Earth’s carrying capacity.

Discovering our relationship with our Earth is an essential part of discovering the nature of who we are and how we connect to the larger story of existence. Without an emotional connection, we will not be motivated to care. Without knowledge of how we—personally, ecologically, culturally, and historically—are connected to nature and the larger cosmos, we will not find long-term solutions.

Women’s voices about the Earth have been historically silenced. At this time, the health and well-being of the Earth is dependent on lifting up the voices of women speaking out for Nature.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Connect people’s origin stories, their stories of what gives life meaning, with the origin stories of an emerging Universe, Earth, Life in all its forms, and the co-evolving human community.
2. Create organizations and programs that work with schools, both public and private, to educate and inform children of their interdependent, interconnected relationships with nature.
3. Establish field trips and immersion experiences for children and adults to explore and enhance their experience of awe and wonder regarding the natural world.
4. Engage with artists, visionaries, cultural workers, Indigenous Peoples, faith leaders, and policymakers to redefine humanity’s response to nature from one of domination to one of care for, and protection of, the Rights of Nature.
5. Require climate, biodiversity, and energy literacy programs as part of public and private school curricula.

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111 Gould, Stephen Jay. *Eight Little Piggies: Reflections in Natural History*. New York: Norton, 1993. 40. Print.

## ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Research and identify artists in multiple international bioregions who, through their visual, interactive, media, and/or performing art, communicate a love, respect, and reverence for nature.
2. Work with artists, ecological economists, renewable energy advocates, Indigenous Peoples, and community leaders in framing the consequences of climate change and ecological destruction into a story of cultural opportunities to build solidarity, resistance, and communal resiliency.
3. Connect with faith leaders of diverse traditions who translate and/or re-interpret their origin stories from a position of human domination to one of interdependency and respect of nature. Encourage them to be vocal and bold in advancing a story of a human duty to care for and revere nature.
4. Work with educational materials and leaders to create an Earth or nature literacy curriculum that promotes the experience of immersion into a “sense of place.”
5. Encourage children and adults to go outdoors more; deepen awareness and gratitude for nature’s gifts to all beings.



## M. WOMEN AND CLIMATE POLICY

WOMEN ARE LIVING ON THE FRONTLINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ARE READY TO BE ACTIVE PARTNERS IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE. IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS SERIOUS ABOUT ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE, IT MUST RECOGNIZE WOMEN AS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE CLIMATE SOLUTION.

—WANGARI MAATHAI

*A few historical events (by no means complete) of the contemporary movement of women's policy initiatives on environment, sustainability and climate change from 1990 to the present:*

At the international level, women in climate policy became highly visible in parallel to the preparations for United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the “Earth Summit”, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, where the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was initiated. In October 1990 former US Congresswoman Bella Abzug, together with her lifelong collaborator, Mim Kelber, formed the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and invited four dozen women environmental leaders from every region of the world to form a women’s “International Policy Action Committee” (IPAC). The IPAC elected a Board representative for each of the global regions that included future Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, founder of Kenya’s Greenbelt Movement; Indian scientist and renowned environmental activist Vandana Shiva; Thais Corral, leader of women’s rights and environmental issues in Brazil; and Norwegian feminist and development activist Elin Enge. Together, the IPAC strategized and organized “The World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet” that took place in Miami, Florida in November 1991. The Congress was attended by 1500 women from 83 countries who collectively created and ratified the *Women’s Action Agenda 21*. *The Women’s Action Agenda 21* had hundreds of specific recommendations related to the action agenda that was to be negotiated by governments (*Agenda 21*) attending the “Earth Summit.”

Hundreds of women who helped to draft the *Women’s Action Agenda 21* attended the last Preparatory meeting for UNCED in March 1992 and launched a global Women’s Caucus that met every day to strategize how to place women’s concerns in the official outcome documents. They were joined by thousands more in Rio at the Planeta Femea pavilion outside the official meeting as well as inside UNCED where the Women’s Caucus worked throughout the Earth Summit to lobby for the provisions of the Women’s Action Agenda 21. Ultimately, 43 additional references to women and the environment, women’s participation in implementing sustainable development, and in decision-making were added to Agenda 21, including a chapter on Women and Sustainable Development; additionally, dozens of other issues within the women’s overall agenda on the environment were included in the final documents.

Following Rio, the Women’s Caucus continued to work together at the UN Population Conference in Cairo in 1994, the 4th UN World Congress on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the UN Habitat Conference in Istanbul in 1996 (partial list).

Also, in 1995, at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) German environmentalist and feminist women organized “Women in the Solar Greenhouse,” the first major women’s conference at the UNFCCC, which brought together women from around the world to address climate change challenges and sustainable solutions. The first formal “Women’s Caucus” at the UNFCCC was held in 1997 during COP 3 in Kyoto, Japan. Organized by INOCHI’s Plutonium Free Future Women’s Network, with online support from international women’s organizations, the women in Kyoto drafted and ratified the “*Women’s Witness at COP 3*”—a women’s critique of COP 3 and policy recommendations for follow up to the negotiations in Kyoto—endorsed overnight by over 400 individuals and groups around the world in one of the first-ever internet sign-on campaigns for the women’s environmental movement.

Following COP 3, the next Women’s Caucus was not organized until the Gender CC Network launched daily meetings at COP 9 in Milan in 2003. These meetings have continued to this day as the Women’s Caucus. As the UNFCCC decided to develop Constituencies that were similar to the Major Groups defined in Agenda 21, the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) was initially formed in 2009 by women’s organizations accredited to the UNFCCC (GenderCC, Life E.V., WEDO, WECF, ENERGIA, Huairou Commission) and was officially recognized in 2011 at the UNFCCC as a Constituency, as a formal vehicle for input to the UNFCCC. Other networks and groups including Southern policy groups, Indigenous women’s groups, climate justice groups, women’s faith groups, professional women’s organizations, et al, have linked to women’s action and policy influence at the UNFCCC, including the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), which was formed in 2007 and the Women’s Major Group for sustainable development (active since the 1992 Earth Summit).

Additional organizations that have played major roles coordinating women’s input include DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era), Voices of African Mothers, Global Forest Coalition, the Baha’i Community, et al. Many key networks in the South and North have held numerous major local and international gatherings and conferences over the past 22 years on women and the environment in general and women and climate specifically. This brief summary is unable to document all the grassroots networks and local women’s contributions that have informed the international policy action but it should be noted that importantly, women from every part of the world and from every major constituency have been increasingly and actively engaged in advocating forward-thinking climate policy at the local, national, and international levels while taking action to implement innovative solutions for the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

Adding to a long tradition of bringing women together to strategize and organize on environmental and climate policy, in September 2013, the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network hosted the first International Women’s Earth and Climate Summit in Suffern, New York. The Summit aimed to gather and synthesize the visions and wisdom of the ever-greater number of women involved in the effort to increase participation in climate change solutions.

As stated previously in the WECAN Women’s Climate Action Agenda, women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and yet key to implementing climate solutions. From women’s central participation in the family and frequent roles as farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and providers of food and fuel for

the home and the community, to increasing roles in the workforce and in decision making both locally and globally, along with traditional roles in many Indigenous communities where women historically have been in positions of leadership, women have shown again and again that solutions in which they are involved in a meaningful way have far better outcomes for all involved.

Thus, the fulfillment of women's rights—full access to education, health, food, water, jobs, and other resources and the right to self-determination (as an individual, in choosing a partner, and in family planning)—is essential to our goal of achieving a healthy planet. WECAN calls for women's full and equal participation in all aspects of climate policy, actions, and sustainable solutions, including decision-making power over financial investments at every level, from local communities to the international arena.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Require accountability in international negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); specifically, that:
  - A. All climate-related policies must be gender responsive.
  - B. Gender-responsive climate policy must be implemented at the national level.
  - C. Incorporate gender-sensitive provisions into climate finance protocols.
  - D. Link gender knowledge and information to key climate sectors.
  - E. Ensure that national climate change-related communications and adaptation plans “mainstream” gender concerns.
  - F. Support the International Union for Conservation of Nature's continuing work on the Environment and Gender Index.
2. Require that gender equality is strongly mandated in UNFCCC agreements by incorporating gender equality as a guiding principle and cross-cutting element of the agreement, and promoting the empowerment and full and effective participation of women and men in all climate change activities and decision-making spheres.
3. Connect international women's human rights frameworks and women's rights policies to the Green Climate Fund so that women are well able to access these and other such funds.
4. Ensure that women can implement safe, sustainable and low carbon development projects at the grassroots levels.
5. Support and promote reproductive rights in international legislation on medical technologies, subsidies, and women's health initiatives.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Make climate change an election issue at the local and national levels, which will only be possible after appropriate constituency building, training, and awareness-raising.
2. Expand the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network—for example, form regional groups.
3. Organize WECAN capacity-building and training workshops.
4. Bring more women into visibility in the climate movement.



# IV. ORGANIZING WOMEN IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

## A. STORIES, MEDIA, AND MESSAGING

Everyone, at one time or another, has learned from stories. Stories carry the currency of ideas, inspiration, and innovation from one person to another. Stories carry the history of an individual, a family, a community, a society, a way of life. Stories carry traditional knowledge, wisdom, and insights into the nature of all things: humans, animals, plants, the Earth, and indeed, the universe itself. In our fast-moving modern world, where a single phrase, idea, or image can be instantly “tweeted” to millions of “followers” to every spot on the globe, words and images swell with new potential to inspire us to action. Additionally, with an inundation of communications moving more widely and quickly than ever before, we have the challenge not only to get our message out, but also to grab the attention of the individuals who see it. This reality directs us back to stories, as a good story will always capture the imagination and interest of others.



Women have been storytellers and communicators of knowledge for millennia. Adapting our message about what we know needs to be done within contemporary modes of communication is key. The tried and true method of speaking one-to-one has not lost its importance, and stories from our friends and families told during conferences and to policymakers is a critical part of conveying messages. Developing a simple, clear, inspiring message is essential to organizing the fight for sane and sustainable climate policy.

We call for women's voices on climate change to be heard at the widest possible range in every form of media available.

#### ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Engage women as mothers, consumers, and family members, and engage them through the following frameworks:
  - A. Moral: act to benefit other women who are on the front lines of adaptation to climate change
  - B. Health: for their health and the health of their children and families.
  - C. Future generations: so that children and grandchildren can grow up in a healthy, safe place, full of hope for their futures
  - D. Economic: job opportunities, prosperity, and thrift: saving money through energy efficiency in the home and workplace
2. Leverage other organizations and events in order to coordinate our message with that of others, and include all possible partners and expressions to grow our community of concerned women and their allies.
3. Organize women's own events and strategies. Take, for example, the idea of a global "Dance for a Better World," in which each representative organizes a day of dance, and uploads videos for worldwide viewing of the dance, with dances specific to our cultures, attire, communities, and messages.
4. Communicate effectively to engage allies and make action happen by:
  - A. The way we live our lives
  - B. Changing lifestyles to be increasingly sustainable, questioning our own habits as well as those of others, and adopting environmentally-conscious practices
  - C. Integrating our values with actions ("walk our talk")
  - D. Discussing the inherent contradictions of choices we make every day and how to navigate contradictions to keep moving towards a just transition and a more sustainable approach to the crisis
5. Create our own messages and campaigns, including but not limited to the following themes:
  - A. Creating a healthier future
  - B. The negative impacts we are facing, and how to create a positive vision for a better future
  - C. Why the need to take action is so urgent and necessary
6. Create a global vision for addressing and sharing local and personal impacts of climate change and the impacts of extractive industries.
7. Communicate a Big Message vision:

- Be part of the change. Be part of the solution.
  - We can act now. We must act now.
  - System change, not climate change.
  - To change everything, we need everyone.
  - Zero emissions: because the first step to making things better is to stop making things worse.
  - Women for 100% Renewable Energy.
8. Organize collaboration between WECAN and ad agencies and marketing/PR firms, targeting and tapping into specific geographical areas and demographics.
  9. Organize a Solutions Communications Summit.
  10. Add a community focus with actions and activities that highlight women as guardians of their communities, and women who are guardians of natural heritage. Put community at the core of a media campaign. Focus on the solutions, successes, and implementation of low-carbon lifestyles.
  11. Support fundraising by generating greater financial investment in women’s solutions and developing resources for network expansion and training.
  12. Promote messaging about the sun as a universal “commons,” with careful wording; for example, *The sun (and, therefore, sunlight) cannot be owned by a company or a corporation; the sun (and, therefore, solar energy) is a gift given to everyone on Earth, forever.*



## B. DIRECT ACTION

WE WHO ENGAGE IN NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION ARE NOT THE CREATORS OF TENSION. WE MERELY BRING TO THE SURFACE HIDDEN TENSION THAT IS ALREADY ALIVE.<sup>112</sup>

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Non-violent protest and resistance has a track record of transforming conflicts and achieving social reform unrivaled by almost any other form of politics. WECAN supports non-violent direct action as part of a comprehensive strategy for social change just as was done through the non-violent tactics of Tainui-Waikato during World War II; the resistance led by anti-apartheid activists Steve Biko and Nelson Mandela; the mass movements engendered by Mahatma Gandhi and Aung San Suu Kyi; and numerous and indispensable collaborators WECAN thanks but unfortunately does not have the space to list here. Indeed, resistance has been instrumental to the environmental movement with protests against fracking, extractive industries, deforestation, pipelines and offshore drilling increasing internationally.

We applaud the power of the Chipko Movement in India where women saved entire forests, Suffrage Movements in different countries to gain women the right to vote, the Rural Women's movement internationally and the Liberian Women's Peace Movement. There is a profound way women create an unstoppable force when united together.

The women of WECAN and its allies support non-violent direct action as a necessary, if not central, component of our strategy and philosophy. We stress that we support non-violent direct action not only as a necessary, effective component of any social justice endeavor, but also as a symbolic action that unites and empowers people to demand action from the leaders we elect. At this point in the climate fight, a crucial window of time in planetary history that we must take advantage of, direct action and popular resistance have become crucial strategies to pressure our leaders into taking action and unite the public around fighting for the common good.

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112 "The Archive." *The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change*. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 1 Jan. 2014. Web. 5 Aug. 2014.



## ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Organize a Global Day (or week!) of Action. Create a “Women’s Climate Action Alert” and listserv to mobilize women in the environmental justice movement throughout the year.
2. Organize an International Women’s Day of Civil Disobedience to protest issues such as: lack of action to halt fossil-fuel production and use; moving dangerous tar-sands derivatives through populated areas; activating nuclear power plants, etc.
3. Organize a Day of Action to deliver the WECAN Women’s Climate Action Agenda to every state and provincial capital, to heads of state, to delegates to the UNFCCC/COP and other decision-makers and policy fora around the world.
4. Organize a “Blackout Day” to reduce energy emissions, and simultaneously prohibit the purchase of anything made of plastic.
5. Protest consumer ads: promote and organize for an “environmental values panel” that determines what ads can be placed on television (as the FDA does with food in the US) and what disclaimers must be added to alert consumers to existing hazards of product use or manufacture.
6. Expand the existing networks of women and connect movements:
  - A. Conduct more grassroots outreach
  - B. Strengthen linkages between the Global South and North
  - C. Create regional and national hubs on gender and climate change
  - D. Connect movements: promote a stronger convergence of social justice and environmental groups and encourage them to host a national debate, join forces
  - E. Channel collaboration at UN meetings
  - F. Create a fund to bring more women to negotiations
  - G. Use social media to explain, publicize, and expand the movement
7. An expanded movement should be 2-pronged:
  1. Internal actions with negotiators and governments to push for policy
  2. External action that should be both visible and parallel to negotiations
8. Conduct trainings for young women on advocacy techniques and policy making.
9. Organize a Day of Civil Disobedience (CD) as a media strategy:
  - A. Positive Messages/Community Solutions
  - B. Women as Mothers: women as grandmothers, mothers, daughters, consumers
  - C. Building Global Awareness to mobilize and ignite women
  - D. Supporting strong UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - E. Boycott bottled water in appropriate regions
  - F. Free access to clean water for all
10. Implement local, national, and international coordinated actions for climate solutions and stability.



Lori Waselchuk

# V. WE CAN WOMEN'S CLIMATE DECLARATION

THIS DECLARATION WAS RATIFIED BY DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2013, NEW YORK, USA

The Declaration has been translated into five languages and has been signed by thousands worldwide including: Dr. Jane Goodall, Hon. Mary Robinson, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Nobel Laureate Jody Williams, Hon. Mohamed Nasheed, Ted Turner, Bineta Diop, Patricia Gualinga, Mayalú Waura Txucarramae, Richenda Van Leeuwen, Casey Camp-Horinek, May Boeve and Tzeporah Berman. To see a full list of the original drafters and signatories to the Declaration, please see <http://wecandecclaration.org>.

## Women's Earth and Climate Action Network

### A DECLARATION

#### Women of the World Call for Urgent Action on Climate Change & Sustainability Solutions

*We are* the mothers and the grandmothers, sisters and daughters, nieces and aunts, who stand together to care for all generations across our professions, affiliations and national identities.

*We are* teachers and scientists, farmers and fishers, healers and helpers, workers and business people, writers and artists, decision-makers and activists, leaders and thinkers. We work in the halls of power, the halls of faith and the halls of our homes.

*We are gathering* to raise our voices to advocate for an Earth-respecting cultural narrative, one of “restore, respect, replenish” to replace the narrative of “domination, depletion and destruction” of nature.

*We are committed* to a transition from a future of peril to a future of promise, to rally the women around the world to join together in action at all levels until the climate crisis is solved.

### PREAMBLE

Climate change threatens life as we know it on our one and only home planet. Our children, our grandchildren and all future generations are in danger. Natural systems upon which all living things depend are in jeopardy.

The world's governments have committed to avoiding a global temperature rise of 2.0 C degrees. But emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GhGs) are setting us on a course toward a likely 4.0 C (7.2 degrees F) temperature rise. Scientists repeatedly warn this will cause unprecedented, large-scale disruptions of human and natural systems, food and water insecurity, and untold loss of life.

We are experiencing more frequent, extreme weather events, droughts, floods and displacement of millions around the world.

International commitments and national responses of governments have not been equivalent to the escalating urgency and local communities are bearing the brunt.

Humanity is in a crisis—a dangerous, carbon fueled, urgent climate crisis. This crisis is not only a scientific reality, but also demands the moral imperative to act. Future generations depend upon our capacity to solve climate change before it is too late.

The time is now to usher in a sustainable future.

Among the most severely vulnerable to climate change are women, Indigenous Peoples, and those who live in extreme poverty. Climate disruption, including disasters and their enduring effects, is jeopardizing livelihoods and well-being around the world.

Unsustainable consumption and production reverses development gains in the global North and the global South: Women and men of industrialized nations have a responsibility to educate themselves, examine their worldviews, commit to action, and lead by example.

No one person, organization, community, province, region, or nation is capable of solving the challenge of climate change alone. This is a time for collaboration at a global level as never before required.

We are coming together to demand a just and necessary transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, to reduce consumption by our families and communities and to actively embrace a high quality-low footprint lifestyle.

We are coming together to embrace a new way of living with each other and the Earth.

We have a choice: between a path of continued peril and a path towards climate justice and a safe and clean energy future. We can and must join together as women to take action with common but differentiated responsibilities for achieving sustainability.

We must act now for ourselves, for future generations, for all living things on Mother Earth.

## DECLARATION

*We are gathering* from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

*We are gathering* from diverse nationalities, faiths, families and professions.

*We are gathering* in defense of our children, grandchildren, and the generations beyond.

*We are gathering* in defense of the animals, plants and natural systems that are under siege.

*We are gathering* and uniting in solidarity to grow the global women's movement for climate action and sustainable solutions.

*We are gathering* to put the world on notice that women will take action at all levels to avert the trajectory of a 4 degrees C (7.2 degrees F) rise in global temperatures.

*We are gathering* to ensure that the sovereignty of communities to design and determine their own destinies into a thriving future is respected.

*We are gathering* to take action and chart a new course.

The science is clear. There is no more debate. The time for action is NOW.

We will answer humanity's increased vulnerability with our increased commitment.

We know that while women are among the most negatively impacted by climate disruption, we are also key to creating climate solutions.

We stand together to accelerate a Global Women's Climate Action Movement.

*We, the undersigned, call on ourselves, our communities, and our governments to:*

Cancel plans for future carbon developments and deforestation and bring atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations back below 350 ppm;

Divest from dangerous and dirty fossil fuel developments—coal fired power plants, oil shale fracking, deep-water oil drilling and Tar Sands and rapidly phase out fossil fuel subsidies;

Put a price on carbon and implement carbon-fees and Financial Transaction Taxes;

Call for urgent action prior to 2020, in order to accelerate the phase-out of greenhouse gas pollution and to close the gap between the science and national pledges; action is needed at all levels, from the grassroots to the United Nations;

Negotiate and ratify a binding, international climate treaty of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce carbon emissions;

Prioritize adaptation funding to build community resilience for those most affected by climate change in existing climate funds under the UNFCCC;

Increase available funding for adaptation and ensure that community-based groups, including women's groups, have direct access to those adaptation funds;

Invest in an energy revolution with massive and swift expansion of conservation, energy efficiency, and safe energy by:

- implementing radically increased efficiency standards
- generating 100% of all new electricity from renewables
- incentivizing conservation and reduction of consumption, especially in the Global North

Recognize that the transition to renewable energy does not justify or require a massive increase in mega hydro dams, biofuels and major monoculture biomass plantations that cause displacement, food insecurity, human rights abuses and deforestation;

Prioritize natural forest protection and increase funding for natural reforestation;

Reject Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions schemes that come from high-risk technologies which create irreversible damage to human and planetary health including tar sands, shale gas, nuclear energy, and geo-engineering;

Embrace and implement common but differentiated responsibilities to solve the climate crisis between the global North and global South;

Implement new economic indicators and structures that encourage sustainability, Buen Vivir (living well), and abandon models for limitless economic growth;

Recognize that the planet's freshwater heritage is under threat and that abuse, over-extraction and displacement of water is a major cause of climate chaos. Essential to the recovery of climate stability is a strong plan to conserve, protect and restore the world's watersheds and rebuild the health of aquatic ecosystems;

Take action to protect one of our essential life support systems—the world's wild oceans—as a start, protect 20% of the world's oceans by 2020 and 40% by 2040 in marine preserves and sanctuaries;

Fulfill existing international agreements on women's equality and climate change by:

- ensuring implementation of gender-responsive climate change policy and programs
- ensuring all climate financial mechanisms embrace the internationally agreed principles on gender equality, non-discrimination, human rights and women's empowerment
- recognizing that gender-sensitive climate policy benefits men, women, children and the planet

Respect and learn from the Traditional Ecological Knowledge, wisdom and experience of the world's Indigenous Peoples;

Respect and implement the Rights of Women, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Rights of Nature and the Rights of Future Generations;

Take individual action on a daily basis to avert climate chaos and to implement solutions at all levels.

This is the clarion call to the women and men of the world.

Please join us by sharing this Declaration and by taking urgent action for climate change and sustainability solutions.





Solar Sister in action 2014

## VI. INITIATIVES PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

The ever-growing number of innovative, effective solutions to climate change that people are implementing today constantly inspires WECAN. At this point in the Agenda, we would like to name a few solutions to show how the transition we are advocating is possible. There are a plethora of solutions that exist to address the climate and social injustices we have detailed. This only further evidences our conviction that a just and necessary transition to sustainability has so far been delayed not due to a lack of solutions, but a lack of political will and commitment. Further, every participant in WECAN is involved with their own organization(s) and offers a host of solutions. We encourage readers to research their incredible work, as well as that of the many other allies of WECAN worldwide who are also making a huge difference on a day-to-day basis.<sup>113</sup>

1. **ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT** A Ghanaian NGO that works to empower women's voices in development, peace building and climate change adaptation and mitigation. [abantu-rowa.org](http://abantu-rowa.org)
2. **ASOCIACIÓN DE COMUNIDADES FORESTALES DE PETEN** Communities in the North Guatemala Maya Biosphere Reserve sustainably manage their legally recognized forest, harvesting timber and non-timber products that generate thousands of U.S. dollars in monthly income for the community. [acofop.org](http://acofop.org)
3. **THE BLUE COMMUNITIES PROJECT** A joint initiative by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees to help communities adopt a water commons framework. [canadians.org/bluecommunities](http://canadians.org/bluecommunities)
4. **WOMEN FOR FORESTS AND FOSSIL FUEL/MINING/MEGA-DAM RESISTANCE** A WECAN program that unites women from around the world to protect their forests. [wecaninternational.org/pages/forests-fossil-fuel-resistance](http://wecaninternational.org/pages/forests-fossil-fuel-resistance)

<sup>113</sup> Please understand that due to space considerations, we are not able to list all of the incredible organizations, individuals and ideas we have the pleasure to know and work with.

5. **COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS** A worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of corporate social responsibility, community organizing, and sustainable food. The CIW is also a leader in the growing movement to end human trafficking due to its groundbreaking work to combat modern-day slavery and other labor abuses common in agriculture. Notable wins include the Fair Food Program. [ciw-online.org](http://ciw-online.org)
6. **NAVDANYA** A network of seed keepers and organic producers spread across 17 states in India. It has helped set up 111 community seed banks across the country, trained over 500,000 farmers in seed sovereignty, food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture over the past two decades, and helped establish the largest direct marketing, fair trade organic network in the country. [navdanya.org](http://navdanya.org)
7. **TAR SANDS BLOCKADE** A campaign of peaceful, sustained direct action to stop the construction of TransCanada's Keystone XL South tar sands pipeline. [tarsandsblockade.org](http://tarsandsblockade.org)
8. **TAKE BACK THE TAP** A campaign by Food and Water Watch to ban plastic bottles in favor of tap water. [foodandwaterwatch.org/water/take-back-the-tap](http://foodandwaterwatch.org/water/take-back-the-tap)
9. **CAMPAIGN FOR SEED SOVEREIGNTY/VIA CAMPESINA** Since 1996, in memory of the massacre of 19 Brazilian landless peasants who were brutally assassinated by the military police and—indirectly—by the agri-business model, Via Campesina has declared April 17th to be the International Day of Farmer and Peasant Struggles, organizing actions to highlight the struggles that are taking place in different parts of the world. At the same time, Via Campesina is seeking to create a dialogue with society in the construction of a large international alliance for the sovereignty of our peoples, in building an agricultural and social model that puts back into place justice and human dignity. [seed-sovereignty.org](http://seed-sovereignty.org)
10. **THE ETC GROUP** This organization produces high-quality research on farmer's rights, seed sovereignty, the ecological impacts of biotechnology/genetically modified foods, and corporate control of agriculture. [etcgroup.org](http://etcgroup.org)
11. **SOLAR SISTER** As women comprise 70% of the planet's population living without access to reliable electricity, Solar Sister aims to alleviate energy poverty while promoting women's empowerment in developing countries. [solarsister.org/what-we-do](http://solarsister.org/what-we-do)
12. **THE BOMA PROJECT** Helps vulnerable women in Kenya's arid lands adapt to climate change by starting small businesses in their villages, which enables them to develop a diversified livelihood. [bomaproject.org](http://bomaproject.org)
13. **350.ORG** An international organization whose Fossil Free Campaign and support for university, business, community and faith groups Divestment campaigns has been effective and transparent. [350.org](http://350.org) and [gofossilfree.org](http://gofossilfree.org)
14. **WOMEN WORKING FOR OCEANS** Educating to encourage advocacy and action for the health of our world's oceans. [womenworkingforoceans.org](http://womenworkingforoceans.org)
15. **IDLE NO MORE** Idle No More calls on people to join in a peaceful revolution to honor Indigenous sovereignty and to protect the land and water. [idlenomore.ca](http://idlenomore.ca)

16. **THE WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION** WEDO is a global women's advocacy organization that works closely with UN and UNFCCC processes to ensure provisions for women's rights and sustainable development in climate change policies. [wedo.org](http://wedo.org)
17. **THE ASIAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK** Supports the various efforts of Indigenous women in Asia to critically understand the roots of their marginalized situation and to empower themselves by becoming aware of their rights as women and as Indigenous Peoples, and by developing their own organizations or structures for empowerment. [asianindigenouswomen.org](http://asianindigenouswomen.org)
18. **COMMON CAUSE** A network of people working to help rebalance cultural values to create a more equitable, sustainable and democratic society. [valuesandframes.org](http://valuesandframes.org)
19. **THE PACHAMAMA ALLIANCE** Empowers Indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest to preserve their lands and culture and, using insights gained from that work, to educate and inspire individuals everywhere to bring forth a thriving, just and sustainable world. [pachamama.org](http://pachamama.org)
20. **1 MILLION WOMEN** An Australian organization that mobilizes women to make change to their day-to-day lives in order to adopt sustainable lifestyles and advocate for greater social change. [1millionwomen.com.au](http://1millionwomen.com.au)
21. **GHANA BAMBOO BIKES INITIATIVE** This organization promotes ecological stewardship and local economic strength by teaching women, men and students how to sustainably harvest bamboo and transform the raw materials into bikes for domestic consumption and export. Has been endorsed by Christina Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [ghanabamboobikes.org](http://ghanabamboobikes.org)
22. **PHILIPPINES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FINANCE (SEF) PROGRAM** Has catalyzed investments in 66 sustainable energy projects, which will reduce more than 700,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. [ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/035d14804756f9909fcabf37b5ac3532/A2F\\_Product\\_Card\\_SEF\\_SEP2010\\_EN.pdf?MOD=AJPERES](http://ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/035d14804756f9909fcabf37b5ac3532/A2F_Product_Card_SEF_SEP2010_EN.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)
23. **WOMEN IN EUROPE FOR A COMMON FUTURE** An international network of over 100 women's, environmental and health organizations implementing projects in 40 countries and advocating globally for a healthy environment for all. Focusing in five main areas, WECF has implemented a series of innovative projects, from implementing solar collectors in ECC countries to supporting Armenian women to stand up for chemical-free rural development. [wecf.org](http://wecf.org)
24. **GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE** A worldwide movement creating communities that respect and defend the rights of nature. [therightsofnature.org](http://therightsofnature.org)
25. **ASSOCIATION OF SÁPARA WOMEN OF ECUADOR "ASHIÑWAKA"** Organizes Indigenous women to protest fossil fuel drilling and mining on their lands in the Amazon Rainforest, Ecuador. [wecaninternational.org/pages/forests-fossil-fuel-resistance](http://wecaninternational.org/pages/forests-fossil-fuel-resistance)
26. **WOMEN OF WIND ENERGY** Promotes the education, professional development, and advancement of women to achieve a strong diversified workforce and support a robust renewable energy economy. [womenofwindenergy.org](http://womenofwindenergy.org)

27. **WECAN'S EARTH ECONOMICS PROGRAM** Research and seminars about living within the Earth's carrying capacity and redefining wealth and development. [wecaninternational.org/pages/earth-economics-program](http://wecaninternational.org/pages/earth-economics-program)
28. **HONOR THE EARTH** Addresses the two primary needs of the Native environmental movement: the need to break the geographic and political isolation of Native communities and the need to increase financial resources for organizing and change. [honorearth.org](http://honorearth.org)
29. **THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND MYTHOLOGY** Supports the work of those whose scholarly/creative endeavors explore or elucidate aspects of the sacred feminine, women and mythology. [womenandmyth.org](http://womenandmyth.org)
30. **DEGRADED LANDSCAPES SAVORY GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT** Turns severely degraded land into productive grasslands using various low-cost, high impact techniques. [savorygrasslandmanagement.com](http://savorygrasslandmanagement.com)
31. **THE WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK** Connects women's health and well-being to environmental issues, working directly with women in the UK to provide information, training and workshops on matters of local food growing, health, and climate change and to encourage and inspire women to make change in their lives, families and wider networks. [wen.org.uk](http://wen.org.uk)
32. **PROJECT GAIA** Promotes clean, safe, efficient cook stoves powered by alcohol fuels. [projectgaia.com](http://projectgaia.com)
33. **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGY AND CULTURE** Protects and renews ecological and social well-being by promoting a systemic shift away from economic globalization towards localization. [localfutures.org](http://localfutures.org)
34. **MISSION BLUE** Ignites support for the conservation and protection of our world's marine areas and oceans. [mission-blue.org](http://mission-blue.org)
35. **ERADICATING ECOCIDE GLOBAL INITIATIVE** An international initiative to make ecocide a crime against peace globally by 2020. [eradicatingecocide.com](http://eradicatingecocide.com)
36. **THE RENEWABLES 100 POLICY INSTITUTE** Educates and empowers citizens and policymakers to make real change on renewable energy. [renewables100.org/index.php?id=home](http://renewables100.org/index.php?id=home)
37. **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL** Conducts campaigns on today's most urgent environmental and social issues, challenges the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promotes solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies. [foei.org](http://foei.org)
38. **INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK** Formed by grassroots Indigenous Peoples and individuals to address environmental and economic justice issues. IEN's activities include building the capacity of Indigenous communities and tribal governments to develop mechanisms to protect sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources, health of people and all living things, and to build economically sustainable communities. [ienearth.org](http://ienearth.org)

39. **THE WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP** Takes responsibility for facilitating women's civil society input into the policy space provided by the United Nations (participation, speaking, submission of proposals, access to documents). The WMG is self-organized and open to all interested organizations working to promote human rights based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights, women's empowerment and gender equality. [womenmajorgroup.org](http://womenmajorgroup.org)
40. **DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WITH WOMEN FOR A NEW ERA (DAWN)** A network of women scholars and activists from the economic South who engage in feminist research and analysis of the global environment and are committed to working for economic justice, gender justice and democracy. [dawnnet.org/feminist-resources](http://dawnnet.org/feminist-resources)
41. **THE MARY ROBINSON FOUNDATION—CLIMATE JUSTICE** A center for thought leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change who are usually forgotten—the poor, the disempowered and the marginalized across the world. [mrfcj.org](http://mrfcj.org)
42. **NEW ECONOMY COALITION** Convenes and supports all those who might contribute to an economy that is restorative to people, place, and planet, and which operates according to principles of democracy, justice and appropriate scale. They support a just transition to a new economy that enables both thriving communities and ecological health. [neweconomy.net/new-economy-coalition](http://neweconomy.net/new-economy-coalition)
43. **AMAZON WATCH** In the Amazon region of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, Amazon Watch is working directly with Indigenous communities to build local capacity and advance the long-term protection of their lands. [amazonwatch.org](http://amazonwatch.org)
44. **ECOCITY BUILDERS** Reshapes cities for the long-term health of human and natural systems. [ecocitybuilders.org](http://ecocitybuilders.org)
45. **GLOBAL ECOVILLAGE NETWORK** An umbrella organization for ecovillages, transition town initiatives, intentional communities, and ecologically-minded individuals worldwide. [gen.ecovillage.org](http://gen.ecovillage.org)
46. **SUSTAINABLE WASTE DESIGN** Provides complete waste solutions that integrate waste disposal, environmental protection, energy production, and material recycling and repurposing within the context of creating closed loop, economically justified, and intelligently designed systems. [sustainablewastedesign.com](http://sustainablewastedesign.com)
47. **CARE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INITIATIVES** Equips communities in Africa, Asia and South America to adapt to climate change through a Community-based Adaptation framework (among other activities.) [careclimatechange.org/adaptation-initiatives/alp](http://careclimatechange.org/adaptation-initiatives/alp)
48. **BAREFOOT COLLEGE** Barefoot College is a non-governmental organization that has been providing basic services and solutions to problems in rural communities for more than 40 years, with the objective of making them self-sufficient and sustainable. These 'Barefoot solutions' can be broadly categorized into the delivery of Solar Electrification, Clean Water, Education, Livelihood Development, and Activism. With a geographic focus on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), they believe strongly in Empowering Women as agents of sustainable change. [barefootcollege.org](http://barefootcollege.org)

49. **PATAGONIA** Patagonia products are produced under safe, fair, legal and humane working conditions throughout the supply chain. [patagonia.com/us/home](http://patagonia.com/us/home)
50. **AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK** ABN accompanies Africans in voicing their views on issues such as food and seed sovereignty, genetic engineering, agrofuels, biodiversity protection, extractive industries and the rights of small-holder farmers. They focus on Indigenous knowledge, ecological agriculture and biodiversity related rights, policy and legislation. They pioneer culturally-centred approaches to social and ecological problems in Africa through sharing experiences, co-developing methodologies and creating a united African voice on the continent on these issues. [africanbiodiversity.org](http://africanbiodiversity.org)
51. **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK** Rainforest Action Network campaigns for the forests, their inhabitants and the natural systems that sustain life by transforming the global marketplace through education, grassroots organizing and non-violent direct action. [ran.org](http://ran.org)
52. **MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE** is an initiative spearheaded by the UN Climate Change secretariat to shine a light on the enormous groundswell of activities underway across the globe that are moving the world toward a highly resilient, low-carbon future. [unfccc.int/secretariat/momentum\\_for\\_change/items/6214.php](http://unfccc.int/secretariat/momentum_for_change/items/6214.php)
53. **AREI** programs showcase innovative solutions and visions developed by leading thinkers in clean technology, renewable energy and sustainability. AREI operates under the fundamental principles of five “E’s”— Energy, Environment, Economy, Education and Employment. [areday.net](http://areday.net)
54. **THIRD WORLD NETWORK (TWN)** is an independent non-profit international network of organizations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, developing countries and North-South affairs. [twinside.org.sg/twnintro.htm](http://twinside.org.sg/twnintro.htm)



Lori Waselchuk

WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit

# VII. RESOLUTIONS, REFERENCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

## RESOLUTIONS

In addition to signing on to the Women’s Climate Declaration and participating in the collective drafting of the WECAN Women’s Climate Action Agenda, Summit Delegates also brought a number of special resolutions and letters to the plenary floor of the Summit for consideration. The proponents of each of the following letters and statements presented their tenants individually and delegates were invited to sign on as they wished. (A vote on each resolution was not taken by the group as a whole.) The delegates who first brought these proposals forward agreed to take responsibility to follow up and deliver each of these statements to their intended destination.

To view the contents of the resolutions, please visit the IWECI Summit Page on the WECAN website, then click the “Summit Resolutions” link. [wecaninternational.org](http://wecaninternational.org)

### THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS ARE:

1. Letter to President Barack Obama on the Keystone XL Pipeline
2. Special Statement on Fukushima
3. Special Statement on the Defense of (Women) Environmental and Human Rights Activists and Defenders
4. Special Statement on Indigenous Peoples and United Nations REDD Programs

# REFERENCES

PLEASE SEE BELOW A SHORT LIST OF RESOURCES WE CAN HAS FOUND HELPFUL AS SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION.

**Ansar et al.** *Stranded assets and the fossil fuel divestment campaign: what does divestment mean for the valuation of fossil fuel assets?* SAP Divestment Report of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Oxford University, 2014

**Araujo, Katia.** *Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements.* Position paper, OWG7 Sustainable Development Goals, UN Women's Major Group, 6 January 2014

**Carrington, Damian.** *Planet likely to warm by 4C by 2100, scientists warn.* The Guardian, 31 December 2013

**Davenport, Coral.** *Large Companies Prepared to Pay Price on Carbon.* New York Times, 5 December 2013.

**Gore, Al and Bloodai, David.** *The Coming Carbon Asset Bubble.* Wall Street Journal, 29 October 2013

**Grantham Institute, Imperial College, London.** *How will climate change impact on fresh water security?* The Guardian, 21 December 2012

**Klein, Naomi.** *How Science is Telling Us All to Revolt.* New Statesman, 29 October 2013

**Krause, Matthias B.** *Thousands of German Cities and Villages Looking to Buy Back Their Power Grids: What do Boulder, Colorado and Hamburg, Germany have in common?* Greentech Media, 11 October 2013.

**Lake, Osprey Orielle.** *Rights of Nature and an Earth Community Economy.* Tikkun, 28 Jan 2013

**McDonnell, Tim.** *Why This Red-State Republican Mayor Backs Obama on Climate Change.* Mother Jones, 1 November 2013

**Nakashima et al.** *Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation.* UN University, 23 July 2012

**Oxfam Canada.** *Women and Climate Change.*  
<http://www.oxfam.ca/our-work/campaigns/women-and-climate-change>

**UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.** *Recommendations on Energy.* Policy Brief #2, 2013/14

**What's Next Forum.** *A Vision for Equity.* UNFCCC COP 19, November 2013

**Woody, Todd.** *Meet the Pacific Rim's new environmental superpower.* Quartz, 30 October 2013



## ADDITIONAL ONLINE REFERENCE ORGANIZATIONS

### **ActionAid**

[actionaid.org](http://actionaid.org)

### **American Forests**

[americanforests.org/conservation-programs/forests-and-climate-change](http://americanforests.org/conservation-programs/forests-and-climate-change)

### **Ceres 2014 UN Investors Summit on Climate Risk**

[ceres.org/investor-network/investor-summit](http://ceres.org/investor-network/investor-summit)

### **Citizens' Climate Lobby**

[citizensclimatelobby.org/about-us/faq](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/about-us/faq)

### **Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change**

[ccaafs.cgiar.org/commission#.UuKKIKWtsy4](http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/commission#.UuKKIKWtsy4)

### **Convention on Biodiversity**

[cbd.int/climate](http://cbd.int/climate)

### **Conversations with the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change**

[stories.conversationsearth.org](http://stories.conversationsearth.org)

### **David Suzuki Foundation**

[david Suzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/impacts/forest-impacts](http://david Suzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/impacts/forest-impacts)

### **Do the Math/350.org**

[math.350.org](http://math.350.org)

### **Earth in Brackets**

[earthinbrackets.org](http://earthinbrackets.org)

### **Food Emergency Response Network**

[fernlab.org](http://fernlab.org)

### **Foundation Earth**

[fdnearth.org](http://fdnearth.org)

### **Friends of the Earth**

[foe.org](http://foe.org) [foei.org](http://foei.org)

### **Go Fossil Free Campaign**

[gofossilfree.org/about](http://gofossilfree.org/about)

### **Green Grants**

[greengrants.org/2014/07/21/women-climate-articles-resources](http://greengrants.org/2014/07/21/women-climate-articles-resources)

**Greenpeace UK**

[greenpeace.org.uk/forests/what-we-are-doing](http://greenpeace.org.uk/forests/what-we-are-doing)

**Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy**

[iatp.org](http://iatp.org)

**Institute for Policy Studies**

[ips-dc.org](http://ips-dc.org)

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

[ipcc.ch](http://ipcc.ch)

**Jubilee South**

[jubileesouth.org](http://jubileesouth.org)

**Knowledge Center on Cities and Climate Change**

[citiesandclimatechange.org](http://citiesandclimatechange.org)

**LDC Watch**

[ldcwatch.org](http://ldcwatch.org)

**New Economy Coalition**

[neweconomy.net](http://neweconomy.net)

**The Ocean Foundation**

[oceanfdn.org/newsroom/oceans-and-climate-change](http://oceanfdn.org/newsroom/oceans-and-climate-change)

**Pan African Climate Justice Alliance**

[pacja.org](http://pacja.org)

**Responding to Climate Change**

[rtcc.org/2013/09/24/lord-stern-participates-in-new-8-9m-climate-change-project](http://rtcc.org/2013/09/24/lord-stern-participates-in-new-8-9m-climate-change-project)

**Richard Register**

[sustainablecityblog.com/2009/03/richard-register-interview](http://sustainablecityblog.com/2009/03/richard-register-interview)

**Third World Network**

[twinside.org.sg](http://twinside.org.sg)

**Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)**

[wedo.org/category/learn/campaigns/climatechange](http://wedo.org/category/learn/campaigns/climatechange)

**Women's Major Group (Policy Statements)**

[womenrio20.org/policy\\_statements.php](http://womenrio20.org/policy_statements.php)

**World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory**

[who.int/gho/urban\\_health/situation\\_trends/urban\\_population\\_growth\\_text/en](http://who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en)

# TERMS

COP	Conference of the Parties (Annual Meeting of the UNFCCC)
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY	Asserts the right of people to define their own food systems. Advocates of food sovereignty put the individuals who produce, distribute, and consume food at the center of decisions on food systems and policies, rather than the corporations and market institutions they believe have come to dominate the global food system.
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIGATON	One billion tons
GREEN CLIMATE FUND	A fund within the framework of the UNFCCC founded as a mechanism to transfer money from the developed to the developing world, in order to assist the developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change.
PPM	Parts per million. Used to refer to atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.
REDD/REDD+	The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries.
RIO+20	The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 20-22, 2012.
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit



## WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (WE CAN)

WE CAN is a project of the Women's Earth and Climate Caucus, a California-based 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, and its partner, eraGlobal Alliance, a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

[wecaninternational.org/contact](http://wecaninternational.org/contact)

### WEB:

[wecaninternational.org](http://wecaninternational.org)

### FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/pages/Womens-Earth-and-Climate-Caucus/153704007991524](https://facebook.com/pages/Womens-Earth-and-Climate-Caucus/153704007991524)

### TWITTER:

@WE CAN\_INTL





# WECAN

Women's Earth & Climate Action Network, International

[WWW.WECANINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.WECANINTERNATIONAL.ORG)



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