WECAN
Women's Earth & Climate Action Network, International

WOMEN'S CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA

AUTHORED BY MEMBERS AND ALLIES OF THE WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK, INTERNATIONAL (WECAN)







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 originally 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. Revisions and additions to the WCAA have been made in 2015.

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Cover photos from WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit by Lori Waselchuk


Lori Waselchuk

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 harms to people worldwide, while accelerating the implementation of sustainability solutions. WECAN provides a platform for women and allies in the climate and allied intersectional justice movements to collaborate through women's empowerment, partnerships, hands-on trainings, advocacy campaigns, and political, economic, social and environmental action. Because the smart, proactive use of time is crucial to addressing the global threat of climate change, decisive and coordinated group action is paramount to our strategy. WECAN provides an inclusive, holistic framework and encourages united actions for amplified results.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CLIMATE CHANGE DETONATES THE IDEOLOGICAL SCAFFOLDING UPON WHICH CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATISM RESTS.

—NAOMI KLEIN

THE EXTERNAL DESERTS IN THE WORLD ARE GROWING, BECAUSE THE INTERNAL DESERTS HAVE BECOME SO VAST. FOR THIS REASON, THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IS ALSO A SUMMONS TO PROFOUND INTERIOR CONVERSION.

—POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI

When a crisis of planetary proportions looms, it sends clear warning signs. For decades, scientists have catalogued unprecedented, extreme changes to our climate system and acute, localized environmental degradation as never before seen. With these changes have come an onslaught of critical harms to human, plant and animal life. The age of economic expansion has produced more material wealth and technological innovation than humanity has ever seen, but has simultaneously compromised our most basic life support system: planet Earth. Humans are drastically altering the biospheres of our planet, destabilizing the fragile environmental equilibrium that allows for life as we know it. Industrialization, fossil fuel combustion, land-use change and the overexploitation of resources have raised the global mean surface temperature by 0.85 °Celsius since the end of the 19th century.[1] The consequences include more and more extreme weather events, such as cyclones, floods and droughts, rising sea levels, desertification, mass toxic pollution, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, water and food scarcity, and the onslaught of the Earth's sixth mass extinction. With these impacts have come untold harms to human life, through the destruction of lives and livelihoods in processes both rapid and slow.

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) unequivocally states that if the global mean temperatures warm by more than 2 °Celsius, risks to ecosystems and livelihoods will surpass tolerable levels. The Group of Seven (G7) countries, an informal bloc of industrialized democracies that include the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom pledged in their 2015 meeting to keep the world below a 2° Celsius warming. The Women's Earth and Climate Network, though acknowledging this target and urging speedy action, affirms the concerns of over 100 developing and small island states who argue that a world warmed by 2 °Celsius will usher in extremely harmful impacts to their people, economies and vulnerable areas, like low-lying cities. The 2 °Celsius warming target is simply not ambitious enough. Humans have never lived in a post-2 °Celsius world. In that world, coral reefs will not exist; the coniferous forests of western North America will experience massive tree mortality; wildfires in the United States will increase 400 to 800 percent in size; hurricanes will become 2 to 8 percent more intense; 20 to 30 percent of animal and plant species will go extinct; the Arctic will lose its annual sea ice at an annual rate of 30 percent, pushing sea level rise of 6–10 feet; crop yields in North America, India and Africa will decrease by 10 to 30 percent; freshwater availability will decline worldwide by at least 20 percent; extreme weather events will become all-too-common; and a host of other impacts will occur we cannot predict. [2]

We recognize that a 1.5 °Celsius or lower warming ceiling will be politically difficult to achieve, but given the dire consequences, the global community must acknowledge this challenge, rise to the task at hand, and prepare to meet a target of 1.5 °Celsius warming.[3]

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 percent of global GDP. The human toll due to the direct and indirect effects of climate change is estimated at 6 million

1 Lovejoy, Thomas E. "The Climate Change Endgame." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 21 Jan. 2013. Web. 22 Aug. 2015.

2 Sutter, John D. "Climate Change: 7 Questions on 2 Degrees." CNN. Cable News Network, 24 Apr. 2015. Web. 05 Sept. 2015.

3 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.

deaths per year by 2030.[4] 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, the Earth would still warm by an additional 0.5 – 1 °Celsius by 2100.[5] 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 condone the root injustices that undergird and perpetuate environmental destruction today. These forces—a capitalist, neoliberal economic model, extreme inequality in political and economic power, and the corruption of our democracy—drive a fossil fuel-reliant economy that exploits workers and Indigenous Peoples, sacrifices community health and the environment for profit, perpetrates violence and militarization, reproduces patterns of racial and gender oppression, and prevents people worldwide from living healthy and empowered lives. In order to live in harmony with the Earth and safeguard our world for present and future generations, we must take back power and revolutionize the roots of modern society. We must advance a new economy based on communitarian and egalitarian ideals of human rights, the reality that the Earth has a finite carrying capacity, and the Rights of Nature. We need a paradigm shift—for global environmental sustainability, for social justice, for local economies that are owned and operated by people, not corporations, and for conducting all human activities with respect and understanding of Nature. All four of these principles 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 scientist and writer Stephen Jay Gould 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."*[6]

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 inaction for our collective future, and the demands of justice, the women and allies of WECAN strongly advocate in the Women's Climate Action Agenda that our leaders and every person that is able implement the following action plan:

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4 Climate Vulnerability Monitor. "A Guide to the Cold Calculus of a Hot Planet." *Data International and the Climate Vulnerable Forum*. 2012. Web. 30 Aug. 2014..

5 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.

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

Stop further global climate change while protecting human well-being.

- Commit to a firm and binding international emissions-reduction plan that: limits global temperature rise to 1.5 °Celsius and transitions the global economy to zero-carbon by 2025; respects and promotes human rights and gender equality; abides by the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR); safeguards the rights of Indigenous Peoples; prioritizes adaptation action and resources for the most impacted and vulnerable communities, including women; provides for new and comprehensive climate finance measures for developing countries while offering resources to repair loss and damages already incurred; ensures sustainable development and ushers in a new paradigm of democratized economies and people and the planet over profit.
- Prepare now, with financial commitments and infrastructure, for a future of zero-carbon emissions, mandating that all current industrial processes which release CO2 convert to renewable, zero-emissions energy sources. This zero-carbon target does not rely upon the extensive use of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology or carbon offsetting; in fact, it rejects these as false solutions, because CCS technologies and market-based solutions are cost-prohibitive and not grounded in the realities of the short timeline to phase out emissions from fossil fuels.
- Divest our governments, businesses and non-profits from fossil fuel companies, end all governmental fossil fuel subsidies, and institute a strict regime of global carbon fees. Reinvest in clean energy and create renewable energy subsidies as needed.
- 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 deforestation, food insecurity, population displacement and human rights abuses.
- 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, such as tar sands extraction, shale gas production, nuclear energy development, and geo-engineering programs.
- Decrease unsustainable consumption and production in the Global North.
- Leave upwards of 80 percent of the remaining fossil fuel reserves in the ground; outlaw further fossil fuel exploration and development.
- Transition to a green energy economy based on 100 percent renewable sources. Decentralize and democratize ownership of this new energy economy. Ensure a safe and healthy planet for our children and grandchildren to grow and thrive. To achieve this target, countries must reach an internationally legally binding agreement and every individual, and thereby every nation state, must decrease its carbon footprint.

Protect the Rights of Nature.

- Recognize the Rights of Nature in law and practice, and treat nature as a rights-bearing entity. Nature in all its life forms has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles. We, as limited humans, cannot determine the spiritual or essential worth of the rich ecosystems on our planet, and cannot say definitively that one life form has the right to destroy other, 'lesser' ones. Our planet is a gift to us and we must protect it. To this end, outlaw the commodification, ownership, and exploitation of all ecosystems such as oceans, deserts, mountain ranges, grasslands, deltas, rivers, and wildlife preserves.
- Phase out 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 percent of lost forests and other essential bioregions by 2030.
- Outlaw water privatization and oceanic colonization.
- Protect via an international treaty a minimum of 30 percent 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, sustainable agro-ecological farming practices.
- Make it illegal for 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 levels.

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.
- Pass laws that hold industries, corporations, and individuals responsible for any and all costs and negative externalities that 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 Haudenosaunee-inspired 'seventh-generation' philosophy as a core principle in all decisions.
- Factor in the negative social and environmental externalities of current production into a regulated economic model that will drive industry.

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 level.
- Recognize that women are half the world's stakeholders, key advocates for the care of the Earth and all future generations.

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.[7]
—DR. JANE GOODALL

The scientific evidence is overwhelming: climate change is a dangerous and rapidly worsening phenomenon and it demands an urgent, committed, global response. Social theorists, faith leaders, activists, academics, and united communities continue to critique a capital-driven paradigm of unregulated extraction, endless economic growth, and heedless industrial expansion which systematically undermines the ecosystems of

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

our earth—and destroys our only home. We know that 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, for the 7 billion people with whom we share the planet, for our children and grandchildren, and for all life that may come to be. Climate change is 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 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), 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 (2014) and the Women's and Gender Constituency Working Paper (2015) that we must dismantle existing systems that "channel wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries, and from people to corporations."[8] More so, the SDGs must set the stage 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.

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8 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/>.

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 IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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 CO2 WILL NEED TO BE REDUCED ... TO AT MOST 350 PPM.[9]

—DR. JAMES HANSEN

We are living in a window of crucial human and planetary time: when climate change[10] 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 the accelerating shrinking of glaciers, the 30 percent melting of the Arctic sea ice,[11] 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.[12]

Since 1750, fossil fuel-driven industrial development[13] 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, CO2 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 CO2 in the atmosphere.[14] 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.[15] [16] As a result, the past three decades have been successively warmer than all previous decades on record, with the

9 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 CO2: Where Should Humanity Aim?" *The Open Atmospheric Science Journal* 2.1 (2008): 217-31. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

10 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.

11 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>.

12 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.

13 "Reference Article: Fossil Fuel." Science Daily, 26 May 2014. Web. 26 May 2014.

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

15 Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. 2013. "Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO2 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.

16 Tans, Pieter. "An Accounting of the Observed Increase in Oceanic and Atmospheric CO2 and the Outlook for the Future." *Oceanography* 22.4 (2009): 26-35. Web. 26 May 2014.

2000–2010 period logging the hottest temperatures yet.[17] Furthermore, the rate of warming is accelerating. A 2015 study showed that the last 15 years of warming have occurred as fast or faster as warming from 1950-2000.[18] In 2013, scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii recorded 400 parts per million CO_2, the highest level of atmospheric carbon dioxide the Earth has had in 3 million years.[19] This level corresponds to 3,112 gigatons of CO_2, 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,[20] 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 500 more gigatons of CO_2.[21] However, estimates show that fossil fuel companies have about 2,795 gigatons of CO_2 in their reserves, sequestered in fuel that will be burned if contemporary priorities, policies, and practices do not change.[22] 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, the global mean temperature will rise 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.[23] 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.[24] 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. WECAN uses the 2 °Celsius benchmark to convey the imperative to keep fossil fuels in the ground, while advocating an almost immediate halt to fossil fuel extraction and combustion to keep warming at 1.5 °Celsius.

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, destructive impacts that humans recently have had on the Earth. These impacts are dire and growing more and more extreme—you only need to read the headlines for a glimpse of what is to come if we do not change course.

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17 Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. "Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO_2 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.

18 Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. "Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO_2 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.

19 Kunzig, Robert. "Climate Milestone: Earth's CO_2 Level Passes 400 Ppm." *National Geographic*. National Geographic Society, 09 May 2013. Web. 26 May 2014.

20 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.

21 "Do the Math, Fossil Fuel Investments Add up to Climate Chaos." *Fossil Free*. 350.org, 2015. Web. 28 Aug. 2015.

22 "Do the Math, Fossil Fuel Investments Add up to Climate Chaos." *Fossil Free*. 350.org, 2015. Web. 28 Aug. 2015.

23 "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.

24 Carrington, Damian. "Planet Likely to Warm by 4C by 2100, Scientists Warn." *Climate Change*. The Guardian, 31 Dec. 2013. Web. 7 Sept. 2015

C. WOMEN AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

Kevin Anderson, Deputy Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, situates the climate justice movement within a revolutionary framework:

> *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*.[25]

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."[26] 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."[27]

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

25 Anderson, Kevin. "Why Carbon Prices Can't Deliver the 2°C Target." *Kevinanderson.info*. N.p., 13 Aug. 2013. Web. 03 Aug. 2014.

26 Klein, Naomi. "How Science Is Telling Us All to Revolt." Energy. The Newstatesman, 29 Oct. 2013. Web. 20 Sept. 2015.

27 Ibid.

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;[28]
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 affirms the centrality of gender and women's rights to climate justice. Our mission, to promote women's well-being and empowerment, extends from responding and adapting to environmental degradation to maintaining livelihoods and political power during climate change mitigation and adaptation. Our work spans women's issues in both the developing and developed worlds. The gender perspective is crucial to our work because women, as the "second sex" subaltern to men in much of the world, are socially conditioned in ways that result in their disproportionate vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. Women's gendered roles in much of the world include gathering water, food, fuel, subsistence farming, caregiving, and cleaning. For example, data from 25 sub-Saharan African countries, representing 48 percent of the world's population, demonstrate that three-quarters of households rely on water sources distant from their homes, and that women collectively spend 15 million hours each day fetching and carrying water. Men spend about six million hours, and children, four million hours.[29] Because of these duties, women rely on primary natural resources to a large extent, whereas the monetization of men's work, such as business-owning or wage-earning, insulates men from the livelihoods impacts of resource degradation. Furthermore, women still enjoy fewer rights and less access to land, power, resources, financing, transportation and education. These social disadvantages render them disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in developing countries.

- Women comprise 20 million of the 26 million people estimated to have been displaced by climate change. Global warming and its impacts on food production, severe storms, and drought impact the world's poorest nations the hardest. Consequently, women make up 80 percent of "climate refugees."[30]
- "The poor are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and the majority of the 1.5 billion people living on $1 a day or less are women."[31]

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28 Rawls, John. "A Theory of Justice." Harvard University Press, 2009.

29 UNICEF and World Health Organization. Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, New York: 2012.

30 Women's Environmental Network. "Gender and the Climate Change Agenda. The impacts of climate change on women and public policy." 2010. http://www.wen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Gender-and-the-climate-change-agenda-21.pdf

31 "Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate." State of World Population 2009, United Nations Population Fund. 2009. http://www.unfpa.org/publications/state-world-population-2009

- In a sample of 141 countries over the period 1981–2002, it was found that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. In inequitable societies, more women than men die from disaster.[32]
- Sri Lanka's 2004 Tsunami killed nearly one in five displaced women, more than two times the mortality of displaced men.[33]
- Women in poor countries engage disproportionately in subsistence farming and water collecting, exposing them more to the adverse repercussions of environmental degradation.[34]
- Women and children are generally more susceptible to the harmful effects of coal-fired power plants, including increased asthma and mercury toxins. Approximately one in six women of childbearing age now have unsafe levels of mercury in their blood and it is estimated that between 300,000 and 600,000 children are at serious risk of severe neurological and developmental impairment from mercury exposure each year.[35]

32 Neumayer and Plumper, The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002. 2007; Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 97(3), 2007, pp. 551–566.

33 Nishikiori, Abe, Costa, Dharmaratne, Kunii and Moji, Timing of mortality among internally displaced persons due to the tsunami in Sri Lanka: cross sectional household survey. 2006.

34 "Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate." State of World Population 2009, United Nations Population Fund. 2009. http://www.unfpa.org/publications/state-world-population-2009

35 Healthy Environments for Children Alliance , HECANET April, 2005. online http://who.int/heca/infomaterials/HECANETApril2005.pdf

Women from poor countries lack access to the necessary information and financial resources to adapt to the changing climate:

- Though agriculture is the most common source of work for rural women in most developing regions, women enjoy less access than men to assets, inputs and complementary services—for example, just 20 percent of landholders in developing countries are women, and their landholdings are smaller than those of men.[36]
- Worldwide, women predominate in food production (accounting for 50-80 percent of all food production), but own less than 10 percent of land.[37]
- Women in the developed world have a much greater carbon footprint than women in the developing world. While climate change is already touching the lives of the world's most vulnerable, women in the developed world are not immune from its impacts. They too must prepare for water shortages, floods, food scarcity, and extreme weather events.

In addition, women are much more vulnerable than men to the adverse impacts of natural disaster.[38] Women face high rates of both sexual violence and health problems after floods, monsoons, and landslides. Without the protection afforded by housing and families, women are more vulnerable to sexual advances. "After the devastating Bangladesh floods of 1998, women and girls reported an increase in rash and urinary tract infections because they were unable to wash the damp rags they had been wearing during their periods in the days after floods," according to a report by the World Health Organization. "Critics have said aid agencies are often ill equipped to deal with specific female health issues."[39] Women's gendered roles also restrict their mobility, as male relatives are sometimes required to evacuate women or transport them to safer places. Women often lack the physical strength required to survive a mudslide or a flood, or haven't been taught how to swim. These factors compound into increased vulnerability to poverty, disease and even death during extreme climatic events.

At the same time, women are central to solutions for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. In fact, only with the encouragement, support and active engagement of women in solutions will the global community have a chance to meet the demands of a fast warming planet:

- Women produce half of the world's food and are responsible for growing and processing between 60-80 percent of the food consumed in most developing countries."[40]
- In India and other developing countries, women are the keepers of native seed banks.

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36 Food and Agriculture Organization. "The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011." 2010.

37 International Union for the Conservation of Nature, United Nations Development Programme, Global Gender and Climate Alliance "Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change." 2009. https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2009-012.pdf

38 World Health Organization. *Gender, Climate Change and Health*. 2014. Online. <http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/reports/gender_climate_change/en/>

39 World Health Organization. *Gender, Climate Change and Health*. 2014. Online. <http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/reports/gender_climate_change/en/>

40 Food and Agriculture Organization. "Women and Sustainable Food Security." Economic and Social Development Department of the FAO, 2010. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0171e/x0171e02.htm>

- Women and girls are primarily responsible for collecting water and taking care of the environment in their households and communities—women are responsible for collecting water in almost two-thirds of households in developing countries.[41]
- In order for water programs to be successful, women must be engaged at all levels of planning, decision-making and implementation.
- Communities in the Pacific Islands have experienced first-hand the devastation of climate change in rapidly urbanizing, low-lying areas. In response, women have established media networks and monitoring groups to broadcast the impacts of climate change in Fiji around the world. [42]
- Women's involvement in decision-making has important implications for climate change—a study of 130 countries found that countries with higher female parliamentary representation are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.[43]

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41 "Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change." United Nations Development Programme. 6 May 2009. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/resource-guide-on-gender-and-climate-change/>

42 "Meet Ulamila: Climate Activist in the Pacific." Greenpeace.org, 02 July 2009. http://www.greenpeace.org.au/blog/meet-ulamila-climate-activist-in-the-pacific/

43 Norgaard, Kari, and Richard York. "Gender equality and state environmentalism." Gender & Society 19.4 (2005): 506-522.

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- Women in North America determine an estimated 70 to 80 percent of all consumer purchases. This market power is untapped and could be organized and mobilized to demand from the markets clean energy solutions.[44] Gender equality in political representation is crucial to advancing the twin aims of social and climate justice. The more perspectives that are brought to the table, the better the diversity of stakeholders and the more wholesome the decisions.
- As the family's primary caretaker and conveyor of values, women can play a powerful role in ushering in a new paradigm to promote a just and sustainable future. Largely due to their socialized gender roles, women in North America determine an estimated 70 to 80 percent of all consumer purchases. As consumers, women should be just as empowered as men to demand sustainable products and to raise their voices to fight the wastefulness of production and consumption in the Global North.

Because climate change and environmental degradation are large-scale problems of literally global concern, solutions are often discussed in terms of sweeping measures and top-down initiatives. However, this is counter-intuitive: it is precisely the centralized, monopolized and profit-driven processes of our current industrial system, energy grid, food production network and even governmental structure which have facilitated the twin plundering of people and the planet, by design. As such, it is the reclamation of power at the local level—and the restructuring of systems of production towards circular economies and locally-tailored solutions—that is needed. Women are central to this process, because they are among the most powerful actors that hold the localized knowledge and social capital necessary to urgently implement adaptive and innovative measures.

- For example, Indigenous women in Nicaragua constructed a system of seed banking through which they pooled their seed resources to protect them from worsening hurricanes and climatic conditions. Women empowered themselves to conserve seeds their families rely upon for subsistence and income, while simultaneously preserving a wealth of biodiverse seeds, crucial to local ecosystems, that industrialized agriculture can never offer.[45]
- Bottom-up approaches that empower women to be community leaders in small-scale initiatives are proven to be more sustainable and socially just than large-scale and corporate initiatives controlled by outside actors. For example, women's community networks and knowledge enable them to organize local ecosystem adaptation, energy transitioning and community-led agroforestry.
- For example, a group of women in Bangladesh developed wind and flood-resistant housing foundations to increase the longevity of their ancestral homes.[46]
- In Sudan, women living in rural communities formed the first-ever Women's Farmers Union. With the knowledge and money pooled from their organization, they have been able to improve food security

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44 Brennan, Bridget. Why She Buys: The New Strategy for Reaching the World's Most Powerful Consumers. New York: Crown Business, 2009. Print.

45 "Nicaragua: Harvesting Hope." MADRE Demanding Rights, Resources and Results for Women Worldwide. N.d. http://www.madre.org/page/nicaragua-harvesting-hope-34.html

46 Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. "Building on Local Knowledge for Safer Homes." Building Safer Communities in South Asia, Case Study 3. Jan. 2008. http://www.adpc.net/v2007/IKM/ONLINE%20DOCUMENTS/downloads/2008/3_CaseStudyShelterI.pdf

for themselves and their families, as well as spearhead other community initiatives. Examples are the building of an adult education center for women and bringing electricity to their communities.[47]

- Women routinely serve as key leaders of social and environmental movements. Women living in rural environments or as part of Indigenous communities have the necessary knowledge base and social capital to bring constituents behind social innovations. For example, the women of the Sápara people of Ecuador led a movement to protest the Ecuadorian government's decision to auction off their territory as part of the 11th Oil Round. Chinese conglomerate Andes Petroleum has submitted bids on blocks 79 and 83 in the Ecuadorian Amazon, which encompass 100 percent of Sápara territory. The Kichwa women of Ecuador have also stood up to prevent oil drilling in Yasuni National Park, one of the world's most biodiverse regions which holds an estimated $18 billion of oil wealth.[48]

WECAN notes that not all iterations of womanhood are the same. Each woman's experience of adversity or discrimination tied to her gender is also shaped by her race, class, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ability, religious beliefs and political empowerment. WECAN affirms the human rights of all women and holds a sensitive and specific approach to the various ways people can experience womanhood.

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 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. Top on our agenda is completing the just transition off of fossil fuel energy as soon as possible. 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 in which 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!

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47 "Sudan: Women Farmers Unite." MADRE Demanding Rights, Resources and Results for Women Worldwide. N.d. http://www.madre.org/page/sudan-women-farmers-unite-41.html

48 Dene, David. "Ecuador's Tribes Declare 'national Mobilization' against Oil and Mining." *The Ecologist*. N.p., 24 May 2014. Web. 25 Jan. 2015.

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.

—WANGARI MAATHAI

A. FOSSIL FUELS AND EXTRACTIVE ENERGY: THE END OF THE ROAD

ELIMINATING CARBON EMISSIONS 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.[49]

—CHRISTIANA FIGUERES

Scientists have given humanity a clear carbon budget: we can emit only 500 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 CO2 emitted after the 500 gigaton cap will 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, will emit 2,795 gigatons of CO2, over five times the amount that scientists estimate is safe. WECAN strongly advocates for the immediate transition to a zero-carbon economy, a transition which will require the transformation of an economy dominated by fossil fuels to one reliant on clean, renewable sources, and the transfer of power and wealth from an elite 1 percent to a democratic community.

However, the 2 °Celsius target is conservative, as it was unilaterally agreed upon by representatives from over 100 different countries at the IPCC. It represents the lowest common denominator of both ambition and justice. The carbon budget of the 2° Celsius target includes the possibility for a 20 percent overshoot of the emissions target and allows for too many severe impacts (see the IPCC 2014 report for more details). Therefore we strongly advocate to keep warming under 1.5 °Celsius, to ensure that lives and livelihoods are protected in developing countries and to ally ourselves with frontline communities who fight fossil fuel extraction every day. As such, scientists warn that if business as usual continues, we will exhaust our carbon budget for 1.5 ° Celsius warming in six years. This is because total emissions since 1750 (beginning of the industrial period) cannot exceed 2250 billion tonnes of CO2 if we are to remain under 1.5° Celsius warming, and subtracting historical emissions leaves us with just 243 billion tonnes to burn.[50]

Though recognizing the scale of the climate problem and the imperative to act, many skeptics throw up their hands and ask, "I agree that we need to transition quickly, but transition is impossible because it is surely too expensive." In response, WECAN notes that the International Monetary Fund estimates global fossil fuel subsidies total about $1.9 trillion per year.[51] In contrast, the 2006 Stern Report on the Economics of Climate

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

50 Pidcock, Roz and Rosamund Pearce. "Six years worth of current emissions would blow the carbon budget for 1.5 degrees." The Carbon Brief: Climate Brief Ltd, 12 Nov. 2014.

51 "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>.

Change[52] forecasted the annual costs of transitioning to a renewable energy economy at 1 percent of global gross domestic product, or about $850 billion.[53]

The women and allies of WECAN oppose further current and future fossil fuel extraction because fossil fuel energy is expensive, unsafe, and environmentally harmful. The continued race to extract all fossil fuel resources is already causing great harm to people and ecosystems on a day-to-day basis. Worldwide, fossil fuel extraction has devastated pristine ecosystems and poisoned local communities on a massive scale. From the Niger River Delta, Nigeria to the Ecuadorian Amazon, from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the oil spill in the Kerch Strait, Ukraine, from the Alberta tar sands to Chinese coal fields, extraction pollutes and destroys local ecosystems and communities. For example, tar sands, a combination of crude oil, clay, sand and water, can yield burnable fossil fuels only after heavy resource-intensive processes of extraction and processing. The exploitation of the Alberta, Canada tar sands represents about 40 percent of Canada's oil production,[54] 97 percent of which is exported to the United States, at the expense of the boreal forest ecosystem and the well-being of many First Nations. Their right to reject fossil fuel extraction on First Nations lands is 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.[55]

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, from which it is then pumped out and exported in fossil fuel-intensive industrial processes. Fracking 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 more than 80 percent of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground in order to keep warming below 1.5 °Celsius. Create legal provisions for this by 2020. Build fossil fuel-free energy infrastructure.

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

53 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>.

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

55 "Tar Sands and Indigenous Rights." Indigenous Environmental Network. Web. 6 Aug. 2014. <http://www.wearepowershift.org/sites/wearepowershift.org/files/resources/IENFactsheet_2.pdf>.

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 for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources. 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."[56] No new exploration; no new infrastructure. Leave existing reserves in the ground.
5. Demand that 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 to absolute zero by 2050, meaning 100 percent renewable energy." (WECAN acknowledges that 80 percent 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 reinvestment and 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 "blacklist" of oil companies to target for action.

56 Beaver Lake Cree Nation. "Kétuskéno Declaration." N.p., 14 May 2008. Web. 13 June 2014.

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.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

Climate change and fossil fuel extraction pose serious risks to human health worldwide. Health is an intersectional dimension of human well-being, because it is often socially determined: who is exposed to toxic chemicals, heavy metals and radioactive materials, who can access affordable and quality healthcare, who has the opportunity to live in a healthy and safe ecosystem, who breathes clean air and drinks clean water, are all social and political questions. Because climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health, it is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050, due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress.[57] The worst impacts will occur in poorer regions of the world with weak health infrastructure, mostly in developing countries, that will be least able to prepare and respond to the stress of climate change on health systems. Women are also particularly vulnerable to environmental health impacts, suffering most from indoor air pollution due to cookfires, inefficient cookstoves and kerosene lamps, and as mothers and childbearers.

After only 0.85° Celsius warming, women, men and children are feeling the impacts far and wide from incidents such as the European heat wave of 2003, the East African drought of 2011, and the extreme precipitation of 2013 in India.[58] The World Health Organization estimates that the direct damage costs to health, excluding costs in "health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation," will add up to between US$ 2-4 billion per year by 2030.[59] In the long term, the health impacts of climate change are staggering and broad-based. However, the short term impacts of fossil fuel combustion and extraction are equally concerning. This chapter will attempt to expose at both levels of analysis the links between health and environmental degradation, poverty and gender.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

Extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, pose perhaps the most obvious climate-related health risks. Because climate change will make hot regions hotter and cold regions colder, the risks of asthma,

57 World Health Organization. "Climate Change and Health." Climate Change and Health. World Health Organization, Aug. 2014. Web. 04 July 2015.

58 Stott PA, Stone DA, Allen MR. Human contribution to the European heatwave of 2003. Nature 2004; 432: 610–14. ; Grace K, Davenport F, Funk C, Lerner AM. Child malnutrition and climate in Sub-Saharan Africa: An analysis of recent trends in Kenya. Appl Geogr 2012; 35: 405–13. ; Singh, Deepti, et al. "Severe precipitation in Northern India in June 2013: Causes, Historical Context, and Changes in Probability." Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, September 2014.

59 Ibid.

cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and exposure-related death will increase for vulnerable populations. There may be some reductions in cold-related deaths, but the bad outweighs the good globally, especially regarding heat waves. For example, the European heat wave of summer 2003 caused over 70,000 deaths.[60] In 2010, Russia experienced a heat wave that magnified the instance of summer forest fires, which released carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and particulate matter. As a result, concentrations of harmful air pollution doubled from normal levels, which resulted in about 11,000 additional deaths as compared to 2009's heat wave.[61] The Lancet Commission reported that by the end of the century, more than 3 billion elderly people will suffer from more hot temperatures and heat waves than ever.[62]

During the hottest months of the year, some parts of the globe already exceed the international standard for safe work activity, and the capacity of the human body to thermoregulate in excessive heat will be more regularly exceeded.[63] As the globe continues to warm, high temperatures and water scarcity will result in decreased labor productivity and undernutrition in poorer areas, as well as occupational health risks and mental stress.[64] Hotter weather also increases the production of airborne allergens, like fungal spores and plant pollen, and magnifies the effects of air pollutants like ozone and particulate matter. Children are particularly vulnerable to these impacts, especially in big cities, as ground ozone levels rise with increased industrial activity, CO2 emissions, humidity, heat and sunlight. Even more concerning, global population growth, migration patterns, and increasing urbanization will inflate the number of people exposed to extreme heat.[65] Though more research is needed to measure the scope of impacts in different areas of the world, the IPCC has high confidence that continued CO2 emissions make and will continue to make living, breathing and working in warm and hot areas increasingly difficult.

Vector-borne diseases are among the most sensitive to climatic change, due to their susceptibility to weather and climate. Malaria, dengue fever, tick-borne encephalitis, Lyme disease, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome and the plague count among such diseases, with the correlation between higher temperatures and increased malarial transmission best documented. The area of the planet climatically suited for dengue fever will also increase with climate change.[66] Furthermore, climate change is associated with increased risk of food- and water-borne infections. Countries with endemic cholera demonstrate a positive relationship between increased rainfall and hotter weather and higher disease incidence.[67] Rotavirus and diarrheal

60 Robine JM et al. Death toll exceeded 70 000 in Europe during the summer of 2003. Les Comptes Rendus/Série Biologies, 2008, 331:171–78.

61 Revitch B, Shaposhnikov D. Climate change, heat and cold waves as risk factors of increased mortality in Russia. Ecoforum 2012; 2: 122–38.

62 The Lancet Commission. "Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health." *The Lancet*: Vol. 373, No. 9676. 23 June 2015. Web. 16 Sep. 2015. < http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/climate-change>

63 Smith, K.R., A.Woodward, D. Campbell-Lendrum, D.D. Chadee, Y. Honda, Q. Liu, J.M. Olwoch, B. Revich, and R. Sauerborn, 2014: Human health: impacts, adaptation, and co-benefits. 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 [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel,A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L.White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 709-754.

64 Ibid.

65 The Lancet Commission. "Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health." *The Lancet*: Vol. 373, No. 9676. 23 June 2015. Web. 16 Sep. 2015. < http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/climate-change>

66 Van Kleef, Esther, Hilary Bambrick, and Simon Hales. "The geographic distribution of dengue fever and the potential influence of global climate change." TropIKA. net AHEAD (2010): 0-0.

67 Patz, J.A., Githeko, A.K., J.P. McCarty, S. Hussein, U. Calfonieri, and N. de Wet. "Chapter 6: Climate Change and Infectious Disease." *Climate Change and Human Health*: World Health Organization, 2011. Web. 16 September 2015.

disease, which kill children in high numbers, and harmful algal blooms are also associated with higher temperatures. About 150 million people currently live in cities affected by chronic water shortages and by 2050, unless there are rapid improvements in urban environments, the number will rise to almost a billion.[68]

FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION AND HEALTH

Fracking and unconventional oil and gas extraction are linked to infertility, miscarriages, and birth defects in fetuses. A meta-analysis of 150 papers published from 1974 to 2014 on the health impacts of hydraulic fracturing produced scary results: one study found a "higher rate of birth defects within 10 miles of natural gas wells in rural Colorado, most notably congenital heart and neural tube defects—both of which can occur from maternal exposure to benzene."[69] Another 2002 paper found that women who were exposed to toluene had unusual menstrual cycles and were unable to conceive. Other studies discovered that some of the chemicals present in fracking fluid were apparent endocrine disrupters that can dismantle hormone functions. One study published by researchers from Yale University and the University of Washington found that residents living within a kilometer of a well had up to twice the number of health problems as those living at least 2 kilometers away. Many people who live near shale oil and gas sites lack the money needed to move away and insulate themselves from these health impacts.

From 2001–2010, most global growth in energy was in the coal sector (44 percent) to generate electricity. Governments and people should work to rapidly reverse this sobering trend, because coal extraction and consumption endangers human health through mining, preparation, combustion, waste storage, and transport. Among the risks are reduction in life expectancy due to exposure to particulates, sulfur dioxide, benzene, radionuclides, ozone and heavy metals; black lung from coal dust; congestive heart failure; non-fatal cancer, osteroporosia, ataxia, renal dysfunction; chronic bronchitis and asthma attacks; and nervous system damage. In China, a country in which coal accounts for 74 percent of energy consumption, resulting health problems are on the rise. China suffers from crippling air pollution, dangerous water pollution and resulting clean water shortages, and mineworker deaths that occur all too frequently—nearly 80 percent of the world's total deaths in coal mines happen in China.[70] Other developing countries suffer the health crisis endemic to fossil fuel extraction, with ordinary citizens suffering most as they try to meet their energy needs in growing economies. Take the case of Jugal Munda, a 30-year-old man who works in India's coalfields. He suffers from tuberculosis and asthma, but cannot stop working to support his family.[71]

Women often participate in small-scale mining, a significant source of income and energy in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bolivia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mali and Zimbabwe. Yet women working in these industries face a double burden: exposure to dust from manganese and heavy metals and disease from toxic chemical exposure, and mental and physical health stresses common to struggling mothers. Women are at risk of

68 McDonald, Robert I. et al. "Urban Growth, Climate Change, and Freshwater Availability." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 108.15 (2011): 6312–6317. PMC. Web. 23 Aug. 2015

69 Webb, Bushkin-Bedient et al. Reviews on Environmental Health. Volume 29, Issue 4, Pages 307–318.

70 Yang, Yang. A China Environmental Health Project Research Brief: Coal Mining and Environmental Health in China. Woodrow Wilson Center, 2 April 2007.

71 Chanda, Arup. "The Hazards of Coal Mining in India." The Wall Street Journal. 2 July 2012.

miscarriages due to exposure and injury in mines, the chemicals from which not only poison them but also any unborn children they may carry.[72]

SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

More than four years after BP spilled 4.9 billion tonnes of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Deepwater Horizon spill, the environment and nearby communities are still feeling the impact. Just months after the spill, more than 160 spill-related health complaints were filed with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, mostly from first-response workers complaining from respiratory, eye and skin irritation.[73] "Oily materials still wash into coastal marshes and beaches, once-thriving oyster beds are decimated, fishermen have not been fully compensated for their losses, and countless clean-up workers and local residents still suffer from health issues caused by exposure to oil and toxic dispersants," said Cherri Foytlin, an activist from the Gulf Coast.[74] Volunteers who were eager to clean up their local environment now suffer from chronic pneumonia, while other community members suffer from anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorders.

Oil spills are equally as concerning around the globe, such that the U.S. Department of State lists international oil spills as a significant source of marine pollution and ecosystem damage. Greenpeace International has investigated the impacts of the Russian oil industry in particular, which spills more than 30 million barrels of crude oil on land each year, and more than four million barrels into the Arctic Ocean every 18 months. These oil spills are felt most by indigenous groups of the Russian North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia. Their lifestyles and economy are reliant on fishing, hunting, deer farming and gathering. Their way of life is disappearing, and as this occurs, more and more young people and working-age families are driven into economic depression, with resultant mental illness and suicide rates increasing to three times the national level.[75] In the Niger River Delta, Nigeria, an average of 240,000 barrels of crude oil are spilled per year. The spillage causes contaminated drinking water, air pollution from hydrocarbons and known carcinogens, and trace metals that render some food crops unsafe to eat. The reduction in the ascorbic acid content of vegetables and protein retention of the cassava root resulted in a 24 percent increase in the prevalence of childhood malnutrition, one study estimated.[76]

The brunt of health impacts from fossil fuel extraction are felt most often by frontline communities: people living in developing countries like China and Nigeria, people living on oil pipelines in Europe and the United States, and racial/ethnic minorities around the world in marginalized social positions.

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72 Sharma, Sanjay. "The impact of mining on women: lessons from the coal mining Bowen Basin of Queensland, Australia." Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal 28.3 (2010): 201-215.

73 Krisberg, Kim. "U.S. Gulf oil spill poses public health threat: Response targeting workers, residents, food and air quality." The Nation's Health The American Public Health Assocation. 2010.

74 Foytlin, Cherri. "Louisiana mother shares BP clean-up nightmare, warms Canada about risks of energy pipeline." IdleNoMore. 5 November 2014.

75 "Russian Oil Disaster: The Ongoing Arctic oil spill crisis." Greenpeace.com. July 2015.

76 Ordinioha, Best and Seiyefa Brisbe. "The human health implications of crude oil spills in the Niger delta, Nigeria: An interpretation of published studies." Nigerian Medical Journal: 54 (1): 10-15. 2013.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Keep more than 80 percent of fossil fuels in the ground, and transition to 100 percent renewable energy that is community owned and run by 2050. Fossil fuels are causing the health problems we see in stark relief. It is time to transition!
2. Scale up financing for climate-resilient health systems worldwide.
3. Establish a rapid plan to protect high-risk areas and dense cities from vulnerability to fossil fuel pollution and heat.
4. Rapidly expand access to clean energy in developing countries.
5. Make an international covenant between Ministries of Health to make climate change a priority issue.
6. Provide extra support and resources to women via women's health clinics and access to crucial gynecological services.
7. Make the transition to 100 percent renewable energy a crucial public health outcome of national plans.

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Stop all coal mining and combustion.
2. Bring powerful lawsuits against fossil fuel companies for causing death and chronic disease across the globe.
3. Organize an international day of action for health and against fossil fuel extraction and combustion.
4. Campaign to outlaw fossil fuel extraction, but focus especially on communities with weak health infrastructure.
5. Create an online testimonial guide from around the world to tell the stories of people whose health is compromised by fossil fuel extraction and combustion.

Lori Waselchuk

WECAN International Women's Earth and Climate Summit

C. TRANSITION TO 100 PERCENT 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.[77]

—THE RENEWABLES 100 POLICY INSTITUTE

Energy can no longer be a source of injustice. Given the carbon budget of just 243 gigatonnes of CO_2, we must begin immediately transitioning out of a fossil fuel-dependent economy. Energy is at the heart of this transition. 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. 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 issues interlace problems of global social, economic and environmental importance. Our sources of energy should pave the way to a better future, not doom us to climate destruction. We must take advantage of the imperative to transition to 100 percent renewable energy as also an opportunity to rethink our global economic system to promote environmental sustainability, social equity, and democratic responsibility.[78] The transition to 100 percent renewable energy should help institute more decentralized and locally-owned energy businesses and co-ops, while providing financing and technology transfer assistance to developing countries. The just transition should be born in the spirit of "common but differentiated responsibilities."

It is evident that the speedy transition to 100 percent 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,

77 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.

78 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/>.

radical effort to transition to renewable energy with all possible haste.[79] Indeed, Christiana Figueres, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary, has mandated the transition to a zero-carbon world by 2050.

It is not merely a financial and technical possibility which compels the transition to 100 percent renewable energy—it is also the moral imperative to leave carbon in the ground and build energy infrastructure that will last into the future. Fossil fuels are due to run out by the end of the lifetime of children born today. 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)."*[80]

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."*[81]

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 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.

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

80 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.

81 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.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Prioritize 100 percent renewable energy and energy efficiency as the expectation and the norm. Institute policies and standard regulations in order to enable the safe and people-friendly transition to such an energy economy. 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 such that they are drastically cut to zero by 2030 ideally and 2050 at the absolute latest.
2. Establish an institutional set of incentives 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.[82]
9. Create a climate education program for CEOs led by women.

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82 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>.

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.[94]

—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.[95] 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.[96] Forests are also the gatekeepers of biodiversity: though they now cover only 6 percent of the world's land surface, they harbor up to 90 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity,[97] and scientists forecast that many millions more species of plants, insects, and microorganisms remain undiscovered in tropical rainforests.[98] 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.[99]

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."*[100]

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.[101] As a consequence, Earth is undergoing the greatest mass extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs.[102] Due to human activities and land use change, biodiversity loss

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

95 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.

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

97 "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

98 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>

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

100 Bergen, Molly. T*he World's 10 Most Threatened Forest Hotspots*. Conservation International, February 2011.Web. 26 May 2014.

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

102 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

is occurring between 1,000 and 10,000 times the background rate, amounting to between 200 and 2,000 species extinctions per year.[103] 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 from environmental degradation that compromises the life-supporting capacity of forests.[104] 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."[105]

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.[106] 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, the 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.[107] Climate change is already forcing diverse plants and animals to adapt through shifting habitat, changing life cycles, or the development of new traits.

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103 "How Many Species Are We Losing?" World Wildlife Fund, n.d. Web. 23 May 2014.

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

105 Ibid.

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

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

The 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.[108] 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.[109] A vicious cycle thus threatens biodiversity and human quality of life, as deforestation contributes to increased CO2 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."*[110]

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

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

110 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 proactive.
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. 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.[83]

—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 accounts for about 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.[84] 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 percent of CO2 emissions from agriculture occur before the agricultural product reaches the consumer.[85]

Furthermore, industrial agriculture is responsible for 75 percent of global deforestation; if current trends continue, about 10 million km^2 of land will be cleared to meet food demand by 2050, whereas sustainable, non-industrial methods would require only 2 million km^2 of land.[86] 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.[87]

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 percent of agro-chemical sales worldwide.[88] The patenting of seeds reduces small farmer autonomy and control of local food econo-

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

84 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>.

85 Ibid.

86 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>.

87 Ibid.

88 "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>.

mies 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.[89] 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 percent relative to a world with no climate change."[90] 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 percent as productive as their non-organic counterparts. In developing countries, yields typically increased anywhere from 120 to 197 percent 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."[91] 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.[92]

Because of 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[93] 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 percent 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.

89 "Agricultural Practices and Carbon Sequestration." *Union of Concerned Scientists*, N.p., 2009. Web. 26 May 2014.

90 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.

91 Halweil, Brian. "Can Organic Farming Feed Us All?" *World Watch Magazine*, 1 June 2006. Print.

92 Ibid.

93 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.
10. Do not acquiesce to the pressures of the market to institute market-based mechanisms to 'facilitate' the 100 percent renewable energy transition. Private funds, the supposed 'free' market, banks and

investment groups that hold it as their goal the return to profit and nothing else are NOT allies in this fight. Market-based mechanisms will always sacrifice human rights, worker's compensation, the fair and dignified treatment of women, people of color, Indigenous Peoples and disabled people, and the Rights of Nature to profit. The market should be subservient to the realities of our planet and to the mandate for human dignity all people command—not the other way around.

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.

F. FRESH WATER

THE FIRST FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE WATER CRISIS. PEOPLE ARE FEELING THE WATER CRISIS DESPERATELY NOW, IN COMMUNITY AFTER COMMUNITY.[111]

—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 unacceptable. 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 the Rights of Nature for further development of ecosystems' rights (Section III L).

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.[112]

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

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Guarantee free access to water as necessary for basic human needs.
2. Include the Universal Human Right to Water and Waterway Right to Water in every national constitution.
3. Recognize intergenerational rights to water.
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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111 Ostrander, Madeline. "Maude Barlow: Read Me My Environmental Rights." *YES! Magazine*. Yes Magazine, 3 Dec. 2010. Web. 04 Aug. 2014. <http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/maude-barlow-read-me-my-environmental-rights>.

112 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 their 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.[113]
3. Organize water education and awareness programs and connect to existing water-issue organizations.
4. Organize local, regional and national "Blue October"[114] activities.

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113 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.

114 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/>.

G. 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.[115]

—THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

The earth's oceans are crucial to human life and planetary stability. They cleanse our air, regulate weather and temperature, provide rich animal and plant resources and nutrition, and harbor unknown numbers of undiscovered species. They hold about 97 percent of the world's water and cover more than 70 percent of earth's surface area, and 4.5 billion people worldwide get at least 15 percent of their per capita intake of protein from sea life.[116] People everywhere rely directly on marine resources for employment in commercial fishing and aquaculture, and for natural products to sell in market-based livelihoods. Worldwide, the oceans are conservatively valued at USD $24 trillion, and produce the equivalent of USD $2.5 trillion per year in economic gains to humans. Ocean products are so in demand that projections estimate we will need to double the farming of fish and other aquatic products by 2030 to meet increasing demand.[117] As such, even without climate change, we would have plenty of incentive to conserve our oceans.

However, taking into account the past century of emissions and warming, the oceans have proved more crucial than ever before. The oceans absorb one fourth of carbon emissions generated from fossil fuel burning, cement manufacturing, and land-use change,[118] making them the largest carbon sink on Earth. They also store heat, making them the largest solar energy collector on our planet and lending them a central role in stabilizing earth's climate system. This absorbed heat doesn't simply disappear: the oceans store and release heat over long periods of time, meaning that heat absorbed now will eventually re-enter Earth's other systems, melting ice shelves, evaporating water, or reheating the atmosphere. This delayed reaction effect further cements the necessity of rapidly cutting carbon emissions—in the present, we have yet to feel many of the impacts of past and current warming, and we don't have the advantage of hindsight to cut current emissions after feeling their impacts 50 years into the future.[119] Perhaps the most scary feature of oceanic heat absorption is the following: even if we cut all carbon emissions now, the seas will continue to warm for centuries to come, with effects we can only begin to predict.

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

116 The International Center for Tropical Agriculture. "Climate Change and Aquatic Disease: Summary for Policymakers." *Submission to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change on behalf of the CGIAR Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), to UNFCCC SBSTA 42 on issues related to agriculture in response to SBSTA decision FCC/SBSTA/2014/L.14*. 2014. Web. 16 September 2015. < http://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_observers/application/pdf/517.pdf>

117 Ibid.

118 Le Quéré, Corinne, et al. "Global carbon budget 2014." Earth System Science Data Discussions 7.2 (2014): 521-610.

119 United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Climate Change Indicators in the United States." Oceans. United States Environmental Protection Agency, 21 July 2015. Web. 24 July 2015.

During the past 50 years, over 90 percent of warming on Earth has occurred in the oceans. In fact, "Recent studies estimate that warming of the upper oceans accounts for about 63 percent of the total increase in the amount of stored heat in the climate system from 1971 to 2010, and warming from 700 meters down to the ocean floor adds about another 30 percent." The impacts of this warming already manifest in rising global sea levels, because sea water expands with heat, in addition to melting water from glaciers and ice. On average, world sea levels have increased at a rate of roughly six-tenths of an inch per decade since 1880, and in recent years, the rate of increase has accelerated to amount to more than an inch per decade.[120]

As the oceans continue to absorb more CO2, 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. And the rising temperatures of the oceans will have untold impacts on marine life. All animal species farmed for human consumption are poikilothermic, meaning that any change in the temperatures of their acquatic habitat will influence their metabolisms and, therefore, susceptibility to disease. It is difficult to know how warming will impact the spread of pathogens, but viral, infectious and fungal diseases will thrive if conditions change to accommodate them instead of their hosts.[121]

The increasing amount of carbon absorbed by the oceans has immediate impacts on the health of ocean ecosystems. The Earth's oceans have maintained a relatively stable acidity level for tens of millions of years. The rich and varied web of life in today's seas has flourished in a steady environment. In contrast to the more basic pH of the ocean for the past 300 million years, averaging about 8.2 on the pH scale, today average ocean pH is about 8.1, units, which represents a 25 percent increase in acidity over the past two centuries. Projections show that by the end of this century, continued emissions could reduce ocean pH by 0.5 units. This rapid drop in surface pH balance is already affecting ocean life and will continue to cause damage unless we substantially reduce our carbon emissions. For example, when carbon dioxide dissolves in the ocean, carbonic acid forms, 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.[122] If business as usual continues, by 2050, coral reefs could go entirely extinct.

Continuing to burn fossil fuels and heat our oceans will reduce the supply of essential nutrients for the tiny plants that support the open ocean food web. Microscopic plants, or phytoplankton, feed on nutrients brought up from deep in the ocean by currents. "As surface water warms, it becomes less dense and does not mix as readily with the cooler water below. This makes it harder for nutrients to reach the surface, reducing

120 The International Center for Tropical Agriculture. "Climate Change and Aquatic Disease: Summary for Policymakers." *Submission to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change on behalf of the CGIAR Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), to UNFCCC SBSTA 42 on issues related to agriculture in response to SBSTA decision FCC/SBSTA/2014/L.14*. 2014. Web. 16 September 2015. < http://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_observers/application/pdf/517.pdf>

121 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. "Climate Change Impacts on Microscopic Organisms." Microscopic Organisms. The Australian Government, 2015. Web. 24 July 2015.

122 "Big-Fish Stocks Fall 90 Percent Since 1950, Study Says." National Geographic. National Geographic Society, 15 May 2013. Web. 24 July 2015.

the production of phytoplankton. This in turn affects the food supply for the entire open ocean food chain, including fish, seabirds, whales and dolphins."[123]

Carbon emissions are not the only way industrial civilization inflicts damage on the oceans. The oceans are also overfished, which occurs when more fish are caught than the population can sustainably replace through natural reproduction. According to a recent study, due to environmental degradation and overfishing, only 10 percent of big fish are left in the oceans. Furthermore, 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."[124]

In addition, human garbage plagues our oceans. Humans 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. 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. 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.[125]

Plastic comprises 90 percent 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.[126] 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.[127]

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

124 Ibid.

125 Ibid.

126 Ibid.

127 Ibid.

"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."[128]

—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 percent 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.

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.

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

H. 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.[129]

—KOSHA JOUBERT

According to the World Health Organization, 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities or extended urban areas by 2030, growing to 70 percent of humanity by 2050.[130] As the world's urban population rapidly grows, so will its carbon footprint: today, cities alone emit up to a shocking 70 percent of global GHG emissions.[131] 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

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

130 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/>.

131 "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."[132] 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."*[133]

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.[134] 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.[135]

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132 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.

133 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.

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

135 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,[136] 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,[137] 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 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.

136 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.

137 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.

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.[138] 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.[139]
2. Create local citizen/government task forces connected at the city and county levels 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.
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.

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138 "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>.

139 "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/>.

6. Require the input of grassroots women's organizations 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.

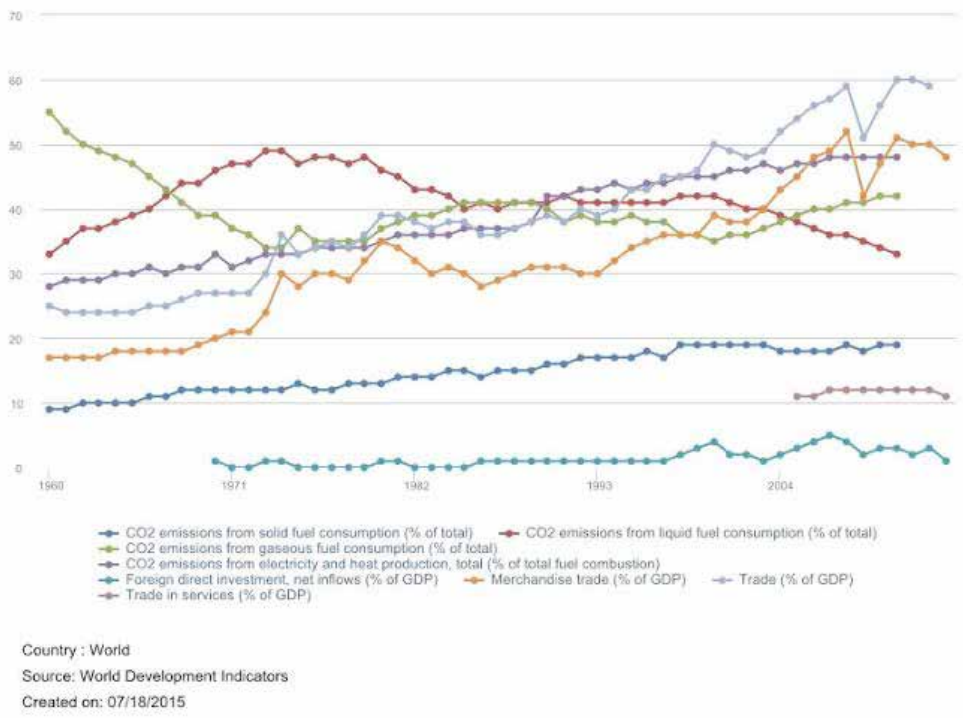
ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.

I. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Since 1950, the volume of world trade has increased 32 fold.[140] The share of global GDP that international trade represents rose from 5.5 percent in 1950 to about 60 percent in 2015.[141] Trade is a good proxy for overall economic activity—as the volume of world trade has increased, so have world emissions. The below graph, generated from World Bank data, shows a positive relationship between all types of fossil fuel emissions and the growth in world trade since 1960. Trade—and the current model of market-dominated, corporate controlled international trade—is deeply political in nature, which makes it a crucial focal point for the climate justice movement. Increased trade, due to and because of the global fossil fuel-reliant energy regime, has facilitated the mass reliance on fossil fuels of our global economy, not to mention the emissions that transporting goods via air, rail and sea generates. However, trade can also spur technology transfer and knowledge spillovers, and is argued to incentivize innovation. This chapter will examine what we need to do to make trade work for people and the planet, not profit—and ask where more radical change is necessary.[142]



140 Onder, Harun. "Trade and Climate Change: An Analytical Review of Key Issues." The World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, Economic Premise Note Series, No. 86. August 2012.

141 "Trade (% of GDP) in World." *Trade (% of GDP) in World*. Trading Economics, n.d. Web. 17 Sept. 2015.

142 World Development Indicators. World Bank, 2015.

This section will also discuss some of the theory related to trade and fossil fuel driven economic development and the energy transition. It will take a hard look at free trade agreements and preferential trade agreements (PTAs) such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, arguing that the power of states to make public policy decisions for themselves will be impeded if trade agreements like these continue to be made.

THE THEORY

As increased trade means an increase in the volume of production, transportation and consumption of goods and services, the scale effect theorizes that carbon emissions will also increase accordingly. Indeed, if economic growth continues with business-as-usual fossil fuel-reliant energy sources, global temperatures are predicted to increase from 1.4° Celsius to 6.4° Celsius by 2100.[143] As economies open their borders to trade, the production of goods that hold comparative advantage will increase, and if these goods are emissions-intensive, then the economy will pollute more. If these goods are emissions-light, the composition of the economy will be less carbon-intensive. Some economists argue that because trade facilitates technology transfer, developing countries will benefit from an influx of greentech to reduce their emissions; and that trade-based growth will raise income levels and change political preferences, such that constituents will prefer their governments to take increased environmental action. Many argue that trade will spur innovation and competition necessary to generating energy-efficient technologies and carbon capture and storage services. As WECAN has argued, it is 30 years too late to be relying on the free market to generate extremely costly sequestration devices and energy-efficient technologies. If we need to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, that means zero-carbon emitted, which means rapidly phasing out fossil fuels for the bulk of our strategy—not relying on trade to generate marginally cheaper CCS technologies.

THE PROBLEM OF CARBON LEAKAGE

Developed countries argue that, despite the accepted principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in the UNFCCC, they are reluctant to impose emissions caps due to the possibility of industrial migration to developing countries. These governments argue that industries will relocate from developed countries to developing countries with lax emissions targets, thereby avoiding any imperative to cut emissions and undoing the effectiveness of developed countries' emissions reductions policies, while simultaneously hurting their competitiveness in the international market. In response to these qualms, multinationals that operate in developing countries with more lax targets should be held accountable to the emissions reductions policies of their home nations, or a stringent international standard for multination corporations.

143 Tamiotti, Ludivine et al. "Trade and Climate Change: A Report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Trade Organization." World Trade Organization: 2009, viii.

THE WTO—A WAY OUT?

The World Trade Organization currently regulates a majority of world trade. Countries often use the WTO to take other countries to court over their domestic environmental regulations as barriers to trade. For example, member states use the WTO's Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations to object to climate-related 'non-tariff barriers', which include national energy efficiency measures already in place in foreign countries. However, the World Trade Organization is not an ally to the climate justice movement. This is because the WTO prioritizes the law of "comparative advantage" and the market's demands (often driven by big money and big business) over job creation, health regulations and environmental protections for people on the ground. "WTO rules also frustrate attempts to protect and promote sustainable small-scale forms of agriculture, even though producing food in this way has minimal climate impacts compared with industrial agriculture, enhances food security and reduces deforestation."[144]

For example, the WTO recently struck down an Ontario initiative that would have incentivized development of renewable energy as a measure for mitigating climate change while also creating local jobs. The city of Ontario was to give Ontario power companies the majority of producer power rights, in order to localize and control the transition to renewable energy sources. It would have increased jobs by 25 percent of all wind projects and 50 percent of all solar projects to use content produced by workers and industries in Ontario. This program "also guaranteed preferential 20-year purchase price per kilowatt-hour for electricity from wind and solar generators from companies that had a certain percentage of their costs originating from Ontario."[145] In the first two years of the program, 20,000 jobs were created, and 50,000 were projected to appear. But in 2011, Japan and the European Union filed a case against Canada under the WTO, arguing that it unfairly favored its domestic products against international ones. The winners of the case were multinational corporations who could push their products domestically without complying to efficiency and carbon-reductions standards—or creating local jobs.

The Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, active since 2001, has yet to deliver an agreement to reduce tariffs for environmental goods and services (EGS). Advocates of trade-based solutions to climate change argue that reducing tariffs to 5 percent or less on these products, thereby increasing their competitiveness against other like products without similar green features, will help spur emissions reductions through the widespread adoption of greentech. WECAN maintains that this provision could not hurt under current scenarios, but cautions that those fighting for climate justice should not be caught up in this plan, alleged to be concluded in 2015—and that the EGS debate remains a huge distraction to environmental progress. It is very difficult to forecast the possible emissions reductions of this scheme, because the Doha rounds are infamously stalled, and because the influence of reduced tariffs on consumption of greentech given unknowable future policies and trade flows, is difficult to predict. Instead, climate justice advocates who want to engage with international trade should focus their time and efforts on decreasing the authority of trade agreements over local and domestic policy innovation, pushing international trade agreements to safeguard domestic environmental protections, and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

144 Malig, Mary Lou. "Change Trade, Not Our Climate: Statement from the OWINFS Trade and Climate Change Working Group." Our World Is Not For Sale: October 2009.

145 Cayley-Daouist, Daniel. "To confront the climate emergency we need to dismantle the WTO and the free trade regime." *The Polaris Institute*. 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 9 Sept. 2015..

PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND FREE TRADE

Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) as they are currently convened pose the most serious threat to a 100 percent renewable energy future out of any trade agreement. This is because governments convene free trade agreements with the objective of improving short-term gains, often for specific industries that lobby their governments, at the expense of prioritizing the transition to 100 percent renewable energy. Various trade and investment rules that form a part of these agreements severely limit the abilities of governments to promote zero-carbon energy sources and help people adapt to climate change. Furthermore, regulations on intellectual property rights, patents and subsidies for fossil fuels pose obstacles. As Mary Lou Malig, climate justice advocate and trade expert, writes, "Bilateral investment treaties, for example, make it much easier for large corporations to shift their center of operations (and their tax payments) to other locations. Industrial lobbyists are not slow to make this point to governments if they are thought to be considering policies that are difficult or costly for industry to implement."[146]

Through this system of international trade, governments are reluctant to introduce domestic policies that protect workers and the environment. "This can apply to national measures individual governments might otherwise implement; national measures that governments might use to fulfill their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); and even to the language agreed in MEA texts themselves."[147] Many of these agreements—such as the Kyoto Protocol—even advise countries to avoid domestic measures that may cause trade disagreements.[148]

In response, many governments institute energy efficiency standards and labeling schemes, which are responsible for improving energy efficiency broadly. However, there is a wide tendency to 'greenwash' these products and locate the solution to climate change in making different, cleaner consumption decisions—a strategy that locates agency in the hands of rich consumers and in the supposed 'free market'—instead of focusing on the transition away from fossil fuels as a paradigm.

Take for example the impending Trans-Pacific Partnership. Many say that increased trade means increased growth, a win-win for both sides and increased prosperity for all. This maxim simply doesn't add up anymore as extractivist economics have proved themselves to be unsustainable. The Trans-Pacific Partnership would drastically liberalize trade between the United States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. It was negotiated in secret, without any public input but with the input of more than 600 corporate representatives. It only requires member states to acknowledge their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, not to abide by them. Furthermore, if a member country wants to institute a domestic environmental protection, multinational and foreign corporations can take them to court in private tribunals adjudicated by IMF/World Bank officials, with no government or citizen oversight.[149]

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146 Malig, Mary Lou. "Change Trade, Not Our Climate: Statement from the OWNIFS Trade and Climate Change Working Group." *Our World is Not for Sale*. October 2009. Web. 20 Sept. 2015.

147 Ibid.

148 Ibid.

149 "Analysis of Leaked Environment Chapter Consolidated Text." *The Sierra Club*. 15 Jan. 2014. Web. 20 Sept. 2015.

CARBON TRADING

Carbon trading is another false solution that WECAN dismisses as antithetical to the cause of climate justice. Carbon trading imposes caps on emissions by industry, but then allows businesses to pay their way out of emissions reductions. The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism is a perfect example. Though it helped incentivize the development of sustainable agricultural businesses and renewable energy in the Global South, the effect was to privatize the right to pollute and disincentivize the radical emissions reductions in industrial processes we need. The EU's Emissions Trading Scheme suffers from similar problems—avoiding the root issue of transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy, privatizing the right to pollute, and susceptibility to corporate lobbying. Furthermore, as the price of carbon fluctuates and actually recently decreased due to the global credit crunch, it becomes cheaper and cheaper to pollute. WECAN firmly opposes the institution of more carbon trading schemes, and especially that related to the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries (REDD) program.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create an international agreement that prioritizes climate justice and climate debt, not trade and investment.
2. Mandate that trade agreements put long-term climactic stability over short-term trade and special interest lobbying.
3. Replace trade and investment liberalizing agreements and negotiations with genuine collaborative intergovernmental efforts to assist developing countries to improve their economies.
4. Stop trade and investment negotiations and agreements that promote energy-intensive industries.
5. Completely remove intellectual property rights (IPR) rules that prevent or inhibit entirely the transfer of low-carbon technologies to developing countries, and threaten food security and farmers' ability to adapt food production to our changing climate due to patents of seeds by big agribusiness.
6. Completely outlaw the investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism of preferential trade agreements.
7. Phase out market-based solutions, such as labelling and certification schemes, the WTO's push to liberalize certain environmental goods and services, agrofuels, 'biochar', genetic engineering, geoengineering, as yet undeveloped 'carbon capture and sequestration' (CCS) technologies, and the use of carbon markets to finance and drive these various processes.[150]

ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create a civil-society movement that holds as its aim the reversal of our neoliberal, export-dominated economic development model. Instead, focus on self-sufficiency, local economies of scale, and minimal international trade.
2. Take to the streets when agreements like the TPP threaten our planet and our democracy.
3. Expose the short and long-term impacts of harmful trade agreements via digital storytelling campaigns.
4. Organize direct action to oppose infringements of democracy and environmental sovereignty by trade bodies.

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150 Malig, Mary Lou. "Change Trade, Not Our Climate: Statement from the OWNIFS Trade and Climate Change Working Group." *Our World is Not for Sale*. October 2009. Web. 20 Sept. 2015.

J. NEW ECONOMICS

CURRENTLY, THE 65 RICHEST INDIVIDUALS OWN AS MUCH AS THE BOTTOM 50 PERCENT WORLDWIDE. JUST 5 PERCENT 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.[151]

—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.[152]

—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 zero-carbon economy, so that industry, corporations, and individuals take responsibility for negative social and environmental externalities 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. Such a holistic economic model which internalizes the costs of preventing public harms 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. We need these regulations now.

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151 Women's Major Group. *Press Release on Proposed Adoption of SDGs*. Women's Major Group, 21 Jul. 2014. Web. 08 Aug. 2014.

152 "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 companies 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. Commit US $100 billion out of public funds by 2020 to create a 100 percent renewables international climate financing fund.
2. Create common 100 percent renewable energy and efficiency policies—like the Pacific Coast Plan in the USA—at the state level and worldwide.
3. Create common 100 percent renewable energy and efficiency policies at the national level.
4. Put a high price on carbon pollution.
5. Demand a zero-carbon accounting of development projects and all business practices; hold new projects to the standard of being 100 percent renewable.
6. Prioritize assistance and technology transfer to developing countries to facilitate their 100 percent renewable transition under "common but differentiated responsibilities."

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 the zero-carbon production and consumption of consumer goods.
3. Transform the consumer culture of the developed nations, particularly in the USA, towards one focused on community, faith, people's empowerment and human and environmental rights.
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.

K. 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 People. Although they comprise only four percent of the world's population, they inhabit 22 percent of the world's land surface.[153] 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."[154] 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 or mitigation agenda.

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

154 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.*"[155]

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.[156] 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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155 "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>*.

156 "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

L. 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.[157]

—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 legal structure 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-orients 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 the 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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157 "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 and a Rights of Nature 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.

M. RECONNECTION TO NATURE AND NEW CULTURAL NARRATIVES

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.[158]

—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 peoples' 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.

158 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.

N. 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

This chapter outlines a few key historical landmarks of the contemporary movement of women's policy initiatives on the 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.** Implement gender-responsive climate policy 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 on every spot of 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 people, as mothers and family-members, with a relevant stake in the future of our planet! Meet women as partners and innovators. Engage women with the following frameworks:
    A. Moral: act to benefit other women who are on the front lines of adaptation to climate change.
    B. Health: for women's specific health needs and for 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. Making a zero-waste lifestyle women's network.
    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. Educate men, women and children on the gendered impacts of climate change and the gendered ways in which people suffer from environmental degradation.

8. 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 percent Renewable Energy.
9. Organize collaboration between WECAN and ad agencies and marketing/PR firms, targeting and tapping into specific geographical areas and demographics.
10. Organize a Solutions Communications Summit.
11. 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.
12. Support fundraising by generating greater financial investment in women's solutions and developing resources for network expansion and training.
13. 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.*
14. Use feminist epistemology to promote the idea that each person speaks for her/his/themselves, and that the people's voices do not need to be authenticated by existing power structures.
15. Organize women to birddog candidates who are running for office on climate; better yet, organize women to run for elected office on a massive scale worldwide.

Emily Arasim

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.[159]

—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 climate justice movement with protests against fracking, extractive industries, deforestation, pipelines and offshore drilling increasing internationally.

We applaud the power of the Chipko Movement in India through which women saved entire forests, movements for universal suffrage 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.

159 "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. WECAN 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://wecandeclaration.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_2 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 percent 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 percent of the world's oceans by 2020 and 40 percent 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.[160]

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
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
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
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

160 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

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

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

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

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

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

11. SOLAR SISTER As women comprise 70 percent 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

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

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 and gofossilfree.org

14. WOMEN WORKING FOR OCEANS Educating to encourage advocacy and action for the health of our world's oceans. 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

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

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

18. COMMON CAUSE A network of people working to help rebalance cultural values to create a more equitable, sustainable and democratic society. 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

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

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

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_2 each year. 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

24. GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE A worldwide movement creating communities that respect and defend the Rights of Nature. 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

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

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

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

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

30. DEGRADED LANDSCAPES SAVORY GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT Turns severely degraded land into productive grasslands using various low-cost, high impact techniques. 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

32. PROJECT GAIA Promotes clean, safe, efficient cook stoves powered by alcohol fuels. 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

34. MISSION BLUE Ignites support for the conservation and protection of our world's marine areas and oceans. mission-blue.org

35. ERADICATING ECOCIDE GLOBAL INITIATIVE An international initiative to make ecocide a crime against peace globally by 2020. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44. ECOCITY BUILDERS Reshapes cities for the long-term health of human and natural systems. ecocitybuilders.org

45. GLOBAL ECOVILLAGE NETWORK An umbrella organization for ecovillages, transition town initiatives, intentional communities, and ecologically-minded individuals worldwide. 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

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

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

49. PATAGONIA Patagonia products are produced under safe, fair, legal and humane working conditions throughout the supply chain. 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

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

52. MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE is an initiative spearheaded by the UN Framework Convention on 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

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

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. twnside.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

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

ADDITIONAL ONLINE REFERENCE ORGANIZATIONS

ActionAid
actionaid.org

American Forests
americanforests.org/conservation-programs/forests-and-climate-change

Ceres 2014 UN Investors Summit on Climate Risk
ceres.org/investor-network/investor-summit

Citizens' Climate Lobby
citizensclimatelobby.org/about-us/faq

Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change
ccafs.cgiar.org/commission#.UuKKIKWtsy4

Convention on Biodiversity
cbd.int/climate

Conversations with the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change
stories.conversationsearth.org

David Suzuki Foundation
davidsuzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/impacts/forest-impacts

Do the Math/350.org
math.350.org

Earth in Brackets
earthinbrackets.org

Food Emergency Response Network
fernlab.org

Foundation Earth
fdnearth.org

Friends of the Earth
foe.org foei.org

Go Fossil Free Campaign
gofossilfree.org/about

Green Grants
greengrants.org/2014/07/21/women-climate-articles-resources

Greenpeace UK
greenpeace.org.uk/forests/what-we-are-doing

Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy
iatp.org

Institute for Policy Studies
ips-dc.org

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ipcc.ch

Jubilee South
jubileesouth.org

Knowledge Center on Cities and Climate Change
citiesandclimatechange.org

LDC Watch
ldcwatch.org

New Economy Coalition
neweconomy.net

Ocean Conservancy
http://www.oceanconservancy.org

The Ocean Foundation
oceanfdn.org/newsroom/oceans-and-climate-change

Ocean Preservation Society
http://www.opsociety.org

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
pacja.org

Responding to Climate Change
rtcc.org/2013/09/24/lord-stern-participates-in-new-8-9m-climate-change-project

Richard Register
sustainablecityblog.com/2009/03/richard-register-interview

Third World Network
twnside.org.sg

The Solutions Project
http://thesolutionsproject.org/vox-heres-what-it-would-take-for-the-us-to-run-on-100-renewable-energy/

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
wedo.org/category/learn/campaigns/climatechange

Women's Major Group (Policy Statements)
womenrio20.org/policy_statements.php

World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory
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

WECAN
Women's Earth & Climate Action Network, International

WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (WECAN)

WECAN 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.

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https://www.facebook.com/Womens-Earth-and-Climate-Action-Network-1537040079915 24/timeline/

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