

	<p><b>Essential Readings in Environmental Law</b>  <b>IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (www.iucnael.org)</b></p>
---	---

## **WOMEN, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

**Linda A. Malone**, William and Mary Law School, and **Kang He**, J.D. candidate at William and Mary Law School, United States

### **OVERVIEW OF KEY SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. UN Women, COP 18 Adopts a Decision Promoting Gender Balance in Climate Change Negotiations, (Dec.11,2012), <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/12/cop-18-adopts-a-decision-promoting-gender-balance-in-climate-change-negotiations/>.
2. Glazebrook, T., “Women and Climate Change: A Case-Study from Northeast Ghana” (2011) 26 *Hypatia* 762.
3. Denton, F., “Gender and Climate Change: Giving the “Latecomer” a Head Start” (2004) 35 *IDS Bulletin* 42.
4. Cannon, T., “Gender and Climate Hazards in Bangladesh” (2002), 10 *Gender and Dev.* 45.
5. Dankelman, I., “Climate Change: Learning from Gender Analysis and Women’s Experiences of Organising for Sustainable Development” (2002) 10 *Gender and Dev.* 21.
6. Denton, F., “Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation: Why Does Gender Matter?” (2002) 10 *Gender and Dev.* 10.
7. Bohle, H., T. E. Downing and M. J. Watts, “Climate Change and Social Vulnerability: Toward a Sociology and Geography of Food Insecurity” (1994) 4 *Global Env’tl. Change* 37.
8. Downing, T., *Climate Change and Vulnerable Places: Global Food Security And Country Studies in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Senegal and Chile* (Univ. of Oxford, Env’tl. Change Unit, 1992).
9. Liverman, D., “Vulnerability to Global Environmental Change” in Kasperson, R., *et. al.* (eds.) *Understanding Global Environmental Change: The Contributions Of Risk Analysis And Management* (Clark University. 1990).

### **Climate Change and Climate Justice**

1. The article by the **UN WOMEN, COP 18 Adopts a Decision Promoting Gender Balance in Climate Change Negotiations** explores the gender-beneficial outcomes of COP 18. UN Women demonstrated their commitment to “ensuring that gender equality and women’s empowerment are key considerations in climate change policy and norm-

setting” at COP 18. Based on the decision reached, not only will the *Kyoto Protocol* be extended for another eight years, but the Parties to the Convention will now take into consideration the impact of women’s participation in their policy negotiations to better balance the needs of women and men equally.

2. In *Women and Climate Change: A Case-Study from Northeast Ghana* **T. Glazebrook** seeks to document and provoke movement toward climate justice for women. By utilizing data collected in Ghana demonstrating the effects of extreme weather events on women farmers, the author shows how the feminization of poverty and environmental degradation caused by climate change contributes to women’s hardships and addresses the need to combat gender blindness in environmental debates.
3. In *Gender and Climate Change: Giving the “Latecomer” a Head Start* **F. Denton** discusses the vital role women play in the environment by focusing on their impact and involvement in the agricultural, water, and energy sectors. Concluding that climate change will have a more profound impact on women than men, **F. Denton** identifies potential reasons why gender was almost perceived as an afterthought in the climate discussions and offers preemptive steps to avoid leaving women out of future debates.
4. Using high-profile disasters in Bangladesh as a narrative, **T. Cannon’s** *Gender and Climate Hazards in Bangladesh* demonstrates that poverty is both a cause of vulnerability, and a consequence of hazard impacts. Based on the premise that being female is strongly linked to being poor, **T. Cannon** argues that unless poverty is reduced, the increase in disasters and extreme climate events linked with climate change is likely to affect women more than men. Accordingly, this paper explores social remedies to reduce these gendered vulnerabilities.
5. **I. Dankleman’s** *Climate Change: Learning from Gender Analysis and Women’s Experiences of Organising for Sustainable Development* recognizes that although climate change is gender-neutral, many communities interact with their physical environment in a gender-differentiated way, and expresses the need for female participation in well-established organizations that deal with sustainable development projects.
6. **F. Denton’s** *Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation: Why Does Gender Matter?* presents evidence to show that women are at the center of sustainable development. This article equally expresses the author’s firm discontent with the ineffective progress in mainstreaming gender issues into debates on climate change and sustainable development. Considering women’s lack of participation in decision-making processes, male-dominated social standards, and the complex language of climate

debates, this article urges policymakers to take into account the interests of all stakeholders, especially that of poor, rural women.

7. The paper by **G. Bohle, T. Downing, and M. Watts**, titled *Climate Change and Social Vulnerability: Toward a Sociology and Geography of Food Insecurity*, explores humanity's vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity based on three analytical variables: human ecology, expanded entitlements, and political economy. Then, it analyzes the co-evolutionarily relationship between vulnerability and climate change, discussing the potential dangers climate change poses to vulnerable people and places. Based on these propositions, this paper seeks to promote efforts to reduce current vulnerability by focusing the debate on adapting to future climate change firmly on an understanding of the present causal structure of hunger.
8. **T. Downing's** *Climate Change and Vulnerable Places: Global Food Security And Country Studies in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Senegal and Chile* explains how the even relatively modest changes in climatic resources imply significant shifts in the risk of decreased food security due to highly vulnerable areas and populations. By analyzing the implications of potential climate change for food security in developing countries, **T. Downing** concludes that policymakers need to both limit greenhouse gases and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.
9. Taking a vulnerability-based approach to understanding global environmental change, **D. Liverman's** *Vulnerability to Global Environmental Change* tackles the biophysical, political, and economical frameworks of vulnerability assessment in order to emphasize its importance when discussing environmental change. This article calls into issue the differential susceptibility varying classes of people have to global changes and encourages policymakers to focus more on the socially related impacts of a disaster rather than the physical characteristics of the event creating the disaster.