



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

The Right To Green: Advancing Women's Rights For Sustainable Development

Pratibha Roka

Advocate & Research Scholar, Department of Law, Om Sterling Global University, Haryana, India

Abstract: The intersection of gender equality and environmental sustainability represents a pivotal domain for promoting social justice and inclusive development. The evolving concept of the “Right to Green”, which recognizes the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, is a fundamental principle within human rights law and environmental governance. This article delves into the intricate relationship between the Right to Green, women's rights, and sustainable development. By integrating insights from international law, feminist theories, and sustainability paradigms, it underscores the interconnectedness of environmental justice and gender equality. Women, particularly those in rural and marginalized settings, bear the brunt of environmental challenges while playing critical, yet often overlooked, roles in ecological preservation. The study reflects a comprehensive framework that emphasizes women's contributions to fostering ecological balance and advancing global sustainability goals. This framework aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Despite these efforts, the persistence of patriarchal structures, systemic inequalities, and climate-related vulnerabilities continues to impede women's inclusion in environmental governance. The article advocates for transformative policy approaches that prioritize gender equity as an essential component of sustainability strategies. By reframing women's rights as integral to achieving environmental sustainability, this work contributes to the evolving discourse on gender-responsive environmental governance. Realizing the Right to Green through a gender-sensitive lens is not merely a moral obligation but a strategic imperative for fostering a fair, resilient, and sustainable global future.

Index Terms: Right to Green, Women Right, Environmental Governance, Sustainable Development, Ecofeminism, Gender Equality.

Methodology: The study explores the nexus between gender equality and environmental sustainability, emphasizing the crucial concept of the “right to green”. Grounded in extensive academic literature, legal frameworks, and theoretical perspectives, the research underscores the intricate linkages between women's rights and sustainable development while advocating for women's environmental empowerment in governance. Adopting a qualitative research approach with a doctrinal methodology, the study applies critical discourse analysis to theoretical works and engages in an objective examination of factual studies, signifying both the contributions of women and their essential status in environmental governance.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Environmental Rights as Fundamental Human Rights: The Scope and Principles of International Environmental Law

Environmental rights are fundamental human rights, entitling every individual to live in a clean and healthy environment, free from pollution, degradation and environmental vulnerabilities. These rights are rooted in the inalienable principles of human dignity, health, and sustainability, as recognized by international legal frameworks (Boyle, 2012). International environmental law consists of a set of legal principles, treaties, and customary norms accepted by the global community to address pressing ecological challenges. The study of international environmental law fundamentally involves analyzing empirical realities that reflect the growing global environmental crises, including climate change, ozone depletion, biodiversity loss, wildlife extinction, and widespread contamination of air, land, and water (Sands & Peel, 2018). Moreover, it necessitates an understanding of the anthropogenic factors such as population growth, industrial expansion, and unsustainable consumption patterns that drive these environmental problems (Birnie, Boyle & Redgwell, 2021). This legal discipline seeks to explore how regulatory frameworks can mitigate such crises and foster sustainable development. International environmental law comprises substantive, procedural, and institutional rules aimed at environmental protection and broadly concerned with the mechanisms and institutions responsible for the creation, implementation, and enforcement of environmental treaties and customary norms (French, 2021). The scope of international environmental law extends beyond terrestrial boundaries, encompassing marine environments, the atmosphere, outer space, and celestial bodies, reflecting its comprehensive and global nature (Handl, 2020). The foundational principles of international environmental law are derived from interdisciplinary perspectives, including religious, ethical, philosophical, scientific, economic, and legal considerations (Sands et al., 2018). These principles serve as the basis for negotiating and implementing new and existing agreements, addressing transboundary environmental disputes, and harmonizing national and subnational environmental policies. Among these are general principles such as the precautionary principle, sustainable development, polluter-pays principle, intergenerational equity, and environmental impact assessments (Redgwell, 2020). Thus, international environmental law is a dynamic and evolving field that responds to emerging global environmental challenges. As it continues to develop, it plays a crucial role in ensuring the balance between economic progress and environmental sustainability, safeguarding not only human life but also wildlife, marine ecosystems, and the planet's broader ecological integrity.

1.2 Major Principles in International Environmental Law

i) Principle of Responsibility Not to Cause Environmental Harm

A fundamental principle of international environmental law is the obligation of states to prevent environmental harm. This responsibility is articulated in **Principle 21** of the *Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment (1972)* and **Principle 2** of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)*. It establishes the state's duty to prevent transboundary environmental damage while balancing their sovereign right to exploit their resources. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognized this principle through **Resolution 2158 (XXI)** (1966). Furthermore, this obligation is embedded in **Article 6** of the *World Heritage Convention (1972)* and **Article 15** of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)*.

ii) Principle of Preventive Action

This principle emphasizes proactive measures to prevent environmental degradation. Closely associated with the precautionary principle, it advocates anticipatory policies that mitigate pollution before damage occurs. The *Trail Smelter Arbitration (1941)* and *Lake Lanoux Arbitration (1957)* reinforced the notion that states must prevent transboundary harm. Additionally, international treaties, such as **Article 2** of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992)* and **Article 194(1)** of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982)*, incorporate preventive obligations.

iii) Principle of Good Neighborliness and International Cooperation

Derived from **Article 74** of the *United Nations Charter (1945)*, this principle mandates states to cooperate in environmental protection. It is emphasized in **Principle 24** of the *Stockholm Declaration (1972)* and **Principle 27** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)*. *Agenda 21 (1992)* further emphasizes global partnerships and good faith in environmental governance.

iv) Principle of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a cornerstone of environmental law, incorporating **intergenerational equity**, **intra-generational equity**, **sustainable resource use**, and **policy integration**. It is recognized in various treaties and soft law instruments, including **Principle 3** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)* and **Article 1** of the *UNFCCC (1992)*. The *Brundtland Report (1987)*, titled *Our Common Future*, provides a foundational definition: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

v) Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)

The *CBDR* principle acknowledges that while all states share the duty of environmental protection, their responsibilities differ based on historical emissions, economic capacities, and developmental priorities. It is codified in **Article 4** of the *UNFCCC (1992)*, **Principles 6, 7, and 11** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)*, **Article 10** of the *Kyoto Protocol (1997)*, and **Paragraph 17.2 of Agenda 21 (1992)**.

vi) Precautionary Principle

This principle mandates that, in cases of scientific uncertainty, the lack of full certainty should not justify postponing preventive measures against environmental harm. **Principle 15** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)* states: “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by states according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation”. It has been recognized in multiple treaties, including the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)* and the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)*.

vii) Polluter Pays Principle (User-Pay Principle)

This economic principle obligates polluters to bear the full cost of the environmental damage being caused by them. It integrates environmental protection with economic accountability, ensuring that the external costs of pollution are reflected in market prices. The *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 1972)* introduced this principle, which has since been incorporated into the *EU Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)* and various international agreements.

viii) Principle of Public Participation

The inclusion of public voices in environmental decision-making is crucial for effective governance. **Principle 10** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)* emphasizes that access to information, public participation, and access to justice must be guaranteed in environmental matters. This principle is legally codified in the *Aarhus Convention (1998)*.

ix) Principle of Subsidiarity

Decisions should be made at the most local level possible, ensuring that those most affected by environmental policies. This principle is fundamental to *European Union (EU) Environmental Law*, as outlined in *Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU, 1992)*.

x) Principle of Prior Notification and Good Faith Consultation

States have a duty to notify and consult neighboring states before undertaking activities that may cause significant transboundary environmental harm. This obligation is embedded in **Article 5** of the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention, 1991)* and reaffirmed in **Principle 19** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)*.

xi) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Environmental assessments serve as tools for evaluating the potential ecological effects of projects and policies. **Principle 17** of the *Rio Declaration (1992)* mandates EIAs for activities likely to cause significant environmental impact. International treaties such as the *Espoo Convention (1991)* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)* reinforce this requirement.

2. Interrelationship Between Development, Sustainable Development, and Human Well-Being

Development: A Multifaceted Concept

Development is a multidimensional process that signifies progress across various aspects of human life, encompassing economic growth, social advancement, political stability, and technological innovation (Todaro & Smith, 2020). It aims to enhance the quality of life by addressing fundamental needs such as education, healthcare, social security, infrastructure, and digital advancements. Development is not merely an economic transformation but a holistic improvement in living standards, human capabilities, and well-being (Sen, 1999).

The Right to Development: A Human-Centric Perspective

The *Declaration on the Right to Development*, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, establishes development as an inalienable human right (United Nations, 1986). It posits that every individual and nation has the right to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political development. This principle aligns with the broader human rights framework and emphasizes transparency, accountability, participation, and non-discrimination in development processes (Vienna Declaration, 1993). The right to development is rooted in principles of equity, justice, and self-determination. Key aspects include: **Human-Centered Development** (Development should prioritize human well-being over mere economic expansion), **Participatory Approach** (Inclusive decision-making ensures that all stakeholders, particularly marginalized groups, have a voice in development processes), **State Responsibility** (Governments must implement policies that foster equitable development and uphold human rights), **Sustainable Economic Growth** (Development should integrate environmental sustainability to prevent resource depletion and ecological harm), **Global Economic Justice** (Addressing economic disparities between nations requires a fair distribution of resources and trade benefits) (United Nations, 1986; Sengupta, 2002). Several international declarations and treaties reinforce the right to development and sustainable growth. **The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)** recognizes the right to economic, social, and cultural development (Article 22), **The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)** emphasizes the need to balance developmental and environmental concerns (Principle 3), **The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)** reaffirms development as a universal human right. Development and sustainable development are intrinsically linked to human well-being, requiring a balance between economic progress, social equity, and environmental protection. The right to development underscores the necessity of equitable growth that benefits all, particularly marginalized and deprived communities. Moving forward, development policies must integrate sustainability, inclusivity, and human rights to foster a just and resilient global society.

Sustainable Development: A Long-Term Approach

Although sustainable development gained significant traction during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, its roots can be traced back to earlier milestones, including the 1972 Stockholm Conference. The Stockholm Declaration asserted the necessity of balancing development with environmental considerations, providing a strong foundation for the concept's global acceptance (Principle 11, Stockholm Declaration). At Rio, sustainable development became a cornerstone of

international law and policy, influencing key frameworks such as the Rio Declaration, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Agenda 21 also underscored the importance of fostering global partnerships for sustainable development. Following Rio, various international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) adopted sustainable development principles, integrating them into policy frameworks. The legal significance of sustainable development is further demonstrated in the 1997 *Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project* case. In a separate opinion, Vice President Weeramantry of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) emphasized that “sustainable development is an integral component of modern international law, signifying its essential role in resolving disputes and guiding global environmental governance”.

Sustainable development promotes an equilibrium between economic advancement, environmental conservation, and social inclusivity, ensuring the longevity of natural resources while advancing human welfare. The Core objectives of sustainable development include conserving natural resources while enabling economic progress, aligning population growth with environmental capacities, mitigating ecological degradation by adopting environmentally friendly policies and technologies, ensuring intergenerational equity by safeguarding resources for future generations (Sachs, 2015). Sustainable development integrates two critical components: the “concept of needs” and the “idea of limitations” imposed by current technological and societal frameworks on the environment’s capacity to fulfill present and future needs. It operates across three primary dimensions- economic, social, and environmental at local, national, regional, and global scales. Furthermore, it incorporates both substantive and procedural elements to guide its implementation. The substantive aspects of sustainable development are primarily outlined in principles 3–8 and 16 of the Rio Declaration. These include: **The Right to Development** (Principle 3), **Integration of Environmental Protection and Economic Development** (Principle 4), **Poverty Eradication and Reduction of Inequalities** (Principle 5), **Sustainable Use of Natural Resources** (Principle 6), **Equitable Resource Allocation Across Generations** (Principle 7), **Reduction of Unsustainable Consumption Patterns** (Principle 8), **Polluter Pays Principle** (Principle 16). These principles collectively advance sustainable development by systematizing environmental and economic interdependence, promoting equity, and encouraging responsible consumption and production practices. The procedural elements focus on participation and accountability, particularly through: **Public Participation in Decision-Making** (Principle 10), which ensures access to judicial and administrative remedies and enhances legitimacy, **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)** (Principle 17), which act as tools to mitigate adverse environmental impacts at the national level. These procedural mechanisms, when effectively implemented, facilitate transparency and enhance the quality of decisions concerning sustainability.

Sustainable development has now gained widespread recognition as a principle of international environmental law. Its universality stems not only from its logical necessity but also from its endorsement by a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including states, international organizations, and financial institutions. As an emerging legal principle, it bridges the gap between economic development and environmental protection, fostering global collaboration and accountability. Sustainable development has evolved from a concept to a universally accepted principle, through its incorporation into international legal instruments, regional declarations, and national policies. Its integration into modern legal frameworks underscores its importance as a guiding force in achieving long-term global sustainability.

Development, Environment, and Sustainability: An Interdependent Relationship

Development and environmental sustainability are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. While development enhances human well-being, unchecked growth often leads to environmental degradation. Development activities such as industrialization, urbanization, and infrastructure expansion impact ecosystems, necessitating environmental impact assessments (EIA) to mitigate negative consequences (Glasson, Therivel, & Chadwick, 2012). Sustainable development advocates for eco-friendly industrial practices, afforestation, conservation efforts, and responsible resource management to preserve biodiversity and environmental integrity. Key strategies for ensuring sustainable development include: Conservation of air, water, land, and biodiversity, Adoption of sustainable resource management practices, Implementation of green technologies and waste management systems, Promotion of eco-tourism and bioengineering in infrastructure projects (Goodland, 1995).



Fig i: illustrating the Interconnection

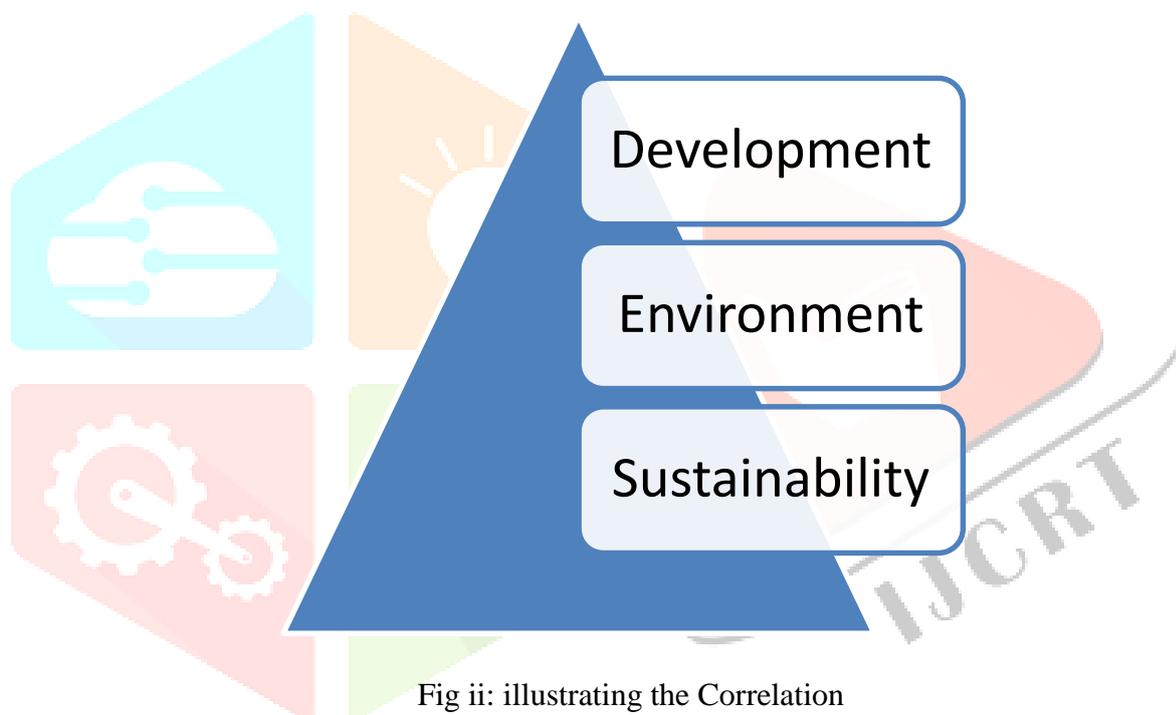


Fig ii: illustrating the Correlation

3. Gender-Environmental Interface

The environment forms the backbone and essence of all life on Earth, making its preservation paramount to maintaining the planet's ecosystems, biodiversity, and human well-being, as well as fostering sustainable development with social justice and environmental equity. The **gender-environment nexus** reflects the complex interplay between gender dynamics and environmental issues. This intrinsic relationship between women and nature has given rise to **ecofeminist Intersections**, theoretical paradigms that underscores the interconnected oppression of women and the exploitation of nature. By integrating the gender-environment nexus into societal frameworks, it becomes possible to advance environmental sustainability, social equity, and inclusive development.

Women's Right to Green

The concept of **women's right to green** embodies initiatives that empower women to actively participate in environmental conservation through sustainable practices. This framework ensures the equitable utilization of resources while promoting environmental empowerment and sustainability. **Intersectional ecofeminism**

dives deeper into the interwoven ethics of ecology and feminism, analyzing how environmental degradation correlates with gender oppression. According to Joseph (2019), ecofeminists argue that women play pivotal roles in environmental conservation and rehabilitation. They further emphasize that environmental challenges cannot be resolved without women's full and informed participation in addressing these global crises. Women, as sustainable managers of natural resources, contribute significantly to conservation efforts (Gurung & Koirala, 2021).

Ecofeminism champions the “**right to green**” as the right to a healthy, sustainable environment, alongside the rights to life, integrity, and participatory leadership for collective development, by addressing environmental injustices and amplifying women’s voices in environmental policymaking. This framework advocates for gender-sensitive approaches in governance that prioritize social equity, human rights, and environmental integrity. The movement of “Right to Green” acknowledges the spans grassroots activism to policy-making, shaping narratives and actions towards a more just and sustainable future by advancing women empowerment to achieve both gender equality and ecological balance.

Ecofeminism: Theoretical Foundations

Coined by Françoise d’Eaubonne (1974), ecofeminism explores the nexus between gender subordination and environmental exploitation. Vandana Shiva (1988) emphasized how traditional ecological knowledge, particularly among women, is integral to sustainable resource management. In her work *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*, Shiva critiques Western development models for marginalizing women and degrading ecosystems. She advocates for inclusive governance that values traditional practices and ensures environmental sustainability. Similarly, Maria Mies (1993) critiques capitalist systems for exacerbating ecological destruction and gender inequality, calling for localized, community-centric approaches that empower women as resource custodians. These perspectives align with the ecofeminist argument that dismantling patriarchal systems is critical to achieving sustainability. Ecofeminism serves as a valuable paradigm for examining these interconnections by emphasizing the parallels between the marginalization of women and ecological degradation. Ecofeminism, a field at the intersection of environmentalism and feminism, asserts that the systemic exploitation of both women and nature stems from interconnected systems of oppression such as patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism, and environmental degradation (Shiva, 1988). By rejecting dualistic paradigms that subordinate women and nature, ecofeminism advocates for holistic, intersectional approaches that advance environmental and social justice simultaneously.

Ecofeminist Principles and Objectives Intersecting with International Frameworks

Ecofeminism is a philosophical and political movement that emerged in the late 20th century, integrating gender, ecology, environmentalism, and sustainability that examines the connections between the domination of women and the subordination of nature and advocates for a sustainable world where both women and nature are respected, valued and dignified. International Frameworks as declarations, conventions, and goals reflect ecofeminist principles and objectives by promoting environmental sustainability, gender equality, development, women’s rights and the recognition of women’s roles in environmental protection. These frameworks lay the foundational work for integrating ecofeminist perspectives into global environmental governance.

- Stockholm Declaration (1972): The declaration, arising from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, marked the first formal recognition of the environment as essential to human well-being. Principle 1 asserts that everyone has the right to freedom, equality, and adequate living conditions in an environment that allows for a life of dignity and well-being (UNEP, 1972).
- World Charter for Nature (1982): The charter, adopted by the UN General Assembly, emphasizes humanity’s moral duty to protect natural ecosystems. It acknowledges the intrinsic value of nature and calls for sustainable resource use, ensuring current and future generations’ rights to a healthy environment (UNGA, 1982).
- Rio Declaration (1992): The declaration, from the Earth Summit, links environmental protection and sustainable development. Principle 10 emphasizes the importance of public participation and access to information in environmental matters, reinforcing individuals and communities’ rights to contribute to environmental governance (UNED, 1992).

- UN General Assembly Resolution 76/ 300 (2022): The resolution formally recognized the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a universal human right, underscoring the need to address environmental degradation as a global priority (UNGA, 2022).
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): CEDAW is a crucial international treaty addressing gender equality and women's rights. Ecofeminists advocate for integrating environmental concerns into women's rights frameworks, arguing that environmental degradation disproportionately affects women (CEDAW Committee, 2004). CEDAW emphasizes substantive equality, requiring measures to transform opportunities, institutions, and systems beyond historically male paradigms (CEDAW Committee, 2004).
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): This treaty aims to combat climate change and recognizes environmental standards. Ecofeminists argue that women, especially in developing countries, are more vulnerable to climate change impacts. They advocate for gender-sensitive approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies (UNFCCC, Article 2).
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The SDGs promote prosperity while protecting the planet, recognizing that ending poverty must align with economic growth and address social needs. SDG 5 focuses on gender equality and empowering all women and girls, acknowledging that women's equality is integral to sustainable development and environmental sustainability (SDG 5, SDG 13-15).

Key Ecofeminist Objectives:

Environmental Justice and Women's Rights: Ecofeminists emphasize that environmental injustices disproportionately affect women, particularly in marginalized and deprived communities. They advocate for integrating environmental concerns into frameworks that promote women's rights, ensuring that women have meaningful participation in environmental decision-making.

Sustainable Development and Gender Equality: International frameworks like the SDGs emphasize the interconnectedness of gender equality and environmental sustainability. Ecofeminists underscore the importance of integrating gender perspectives into sustainable development efforts and promoting eco-friendly practices that prioritize social equity and ecological justice.

Indigenous Rights and Environmental Protection: Recognizing indigenous rights and environmental justice movements aligns with ecofeminist principles. Indigenous communities, especially women, have been at the forefront of environmental activism, advocating for the protection of land, water, and biodiversity.

Recognition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Customary laws, traditional practices, and indigenous knowledge systems often reflect an ecological worldview that values interconnectedness and sustainability. Ecofeminists emphasize the importance of acknowledging and integrating these systems into developing holistic approaches to environmental governance.

Feminist Environmentalism and Ecofeminist Perspectives: Interlinking Environmental Challenges and Gender Equality

The growing imperative to address environmental challenges and promote gender equality has gained momentum on global policy agendas. Women, particularly in developing nations and marginalized communities, bear a disproportionate burden of environmental degradation due to their pivotal roles in natural resource management, household sustenance, and community resilience. **Feminist environmentalism**, championed by scholars like Bina Agarwal (1992), posits that women, particularly in rural areas, have a unique dependence on natural resources due to their roles in agriculture, energy, and water management. Agarwal emphasizes that environmental degradation disproportionately affects women, making them crucial stakeholders in sustainable development. Women's invaluable contributions to environmental conservation and resource management are frequently marginalized, overlooked, or exploited (Agarwal, 2001). Their indigenous knowledge systems, passed down through generations, are essential for sustainable practices, yet they remain excluded from formal environmental governance structures. This framework challenges conventional environmental policies that overlook gendered dimensions. Naila Kabeer (1994) from the Global South stress the importance of incorporating gender perspectives into environmental justice to address the disproportionate impact of ecological crises on women. Ecofeminists such as Karen J. Warren (1990) identify core assumptions as: 1) There are intrinsic connections between the oppression of women and the oppression

of nature, 2) Understanding these connections is essential to comprehending both forms of oppression, 3) Feminist theory must incorporate ecological perspectives, 4) Solutions to ecological challenges must include feminist insights. Central to ecofeminism is the critique of value-hierarchical thinking, value dualisms, and the logic of domination, which collectively sustain patriarchal, dualistic, and exploitative systems. Warren (1997) argues that the patriarchal mindset equates women with nature, leading to their simultaneous marginalization. Nature is often feminized through exploitative metaphors, such as being “conquered” or “abused”, while women are naturalized and seen as extensions of the environment. As Rosemary Radford Ruether (1975, 1995) asserts, “the liberation of women and nature must be pursued as a united endeavor by integrating women’s voices into environmental governance”. Women’s traditional knowledge systems and community-based practices are invaluable for promoting ecological integrity and sustainability. These approaches align with the principles of sustainable development, which prioritize human well-being, ecological preservation, and social equity. Empowering women is not merely an ethical imperative for gender equality; it is essential for achieving sustainable development and environmental justice.



4. Sustainable Development and Gender Justice

Sustainable development ensures human well-being, ecological balance, gender equality, and social justice both in the present and for future generations. It requires dismantling patriarchal systems that exploit women and nature while fostering inclusive policies. Ecofeminism offers a transformative framework to bridge the gap between gender justice and environmental sustainability. Women’s right to green is an essential right, as empowering women in environmental decision-making ensures more inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions, fostering resilience and equity.

The intersection of women’s rights and environmental sustainability is a cornerstone for achieving the SDGs. **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** explicitly recognize the need for gender-responsive environmental governance and emphasize the integration of gender perspectives into environmental policies to achieve equitable and sustainable outcomes. **SDG 5** advocates for women’s empowerment and equal participation in all spheres, including environmental decision-making. Recognizing women’s traditional ecological knowledge enhances the inclusivity and effectiveness of governance structures. **SDG 13** calls for gender-sensitive climate action by addressing women’s vulnerabilities and harnessing their resilience in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Approach and Models

Capability Approach: Amartya Sen's **Capability Approach (1999)** provides a theoretical basis for understanding sustainable development as a function of individual freedoms and well-being. This approach links access to resources, education, and opportunities as fundamental for achieving equality. Extending this framework, Martha Nussbaum (2000) highlights the importance of women's capabilities, asserting that achieving gender equality is fundamental to sustainable progress.

Circular Economy Models: Circular economy models based on reuse, recycling, and waste minimization align with feminist principles of resource conservation and ecological balance. These models are increasingly viewed as alternatives to exploitative, linear development pathways that disproportionately affect women in resource-dependent communities. Sustainable development frameworks often fail to address systemic inequities as patriarchal gendered practices and colonialism. Indigenous knowledge systems and participatory governance are vital to bridging these gaps (Agarwal, 2001).

Table 1: Comparison of Gendered Impacts of Environmental Degradation

<i>Environmental Issue</i>	<i>Gendered Impact</i>	<i>Key References</i>
<i>Climate Change vulnerability</i>	<i>Induced disasters exacerbate inequalities by limiting access to land, credit, and adaptive technologies.</i>	<i>UN Women (2013)</i>
<i>Deforestation</i>	<i>Time-intensive labor for women</i>	<i>Houghton (1997)</i>
<i>Water Scarcity</i>	<i>Reduced educational and economic opportunities</i>	<i>UNICEF (2014)</i>
<i>Air Pollution</i>	<i>Higher exposure to indoor pollutants for women</i>	<i>WHO (2018)</i>
<i>Biodiversity Loss</i>	<i>Limited access to resources, subordinated status and socio-economic roles</i>	<i>Shiva (2014)</i>

Table 2: The Intersectionality of Women's Rights with SDGs 5 and SDGs 13

<i>Components</i>	<i>Relevance to SDG 5 (Gender Equality)</i>	<i>Relevance to SDG 13 (Climate Action)</i>	<i>Impact on Sustainability</i>
<i>Empowering Women as Reform Agents</i>	<i>Promotes women's leadership in decision-making, ensuring gender inclusivity in policies and programs.</i>	<i>Strengthens adaptive capacities by integrating women's epistemic knowledge and perspectives into climate strategies.</i>	<i>Encourages resilient societies by bridging gender disparities and leveraging women's contributions to sustainability.</i>
<i>Addressing Gender-Specific Challenges</i>	<i>Reduces social vulnerabilities by addressing inequities in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.</i>	<i>Emphasizes how women disproportionately bear the burden of climate-induced risks, such as displacement and resource scarcity.</i>	<i>Promotes justice through equitable interventions, fostering inclusive and effective climate responses.</i>
<i>Ensuring Equal Access to Resources</i>	<i>Advances women's economic empowerment by ensuring fair access to land, water, and financial resources.</i>	<i>Improves the capacity of women to adopt sustainable agricultural and energy practices to combat environmental challenges.</i>	<i>Supports long-term resource conservation while addressing inequalities that hinder overall development progress.</i>
<i>Synergistic Policies</i>	<i>Integrates gender equity as a core component in national and international policy frameworks.</i>	<i>Aligns climate action plans with gender-sensitive targets to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.</i>	<i>Maximizes efficiency and effectiveness of sustainability initiatives, contributing to global goals in both domains.</i>

4.1 Ecofeminist Initiatives: Advancing Gender Justice, Environmental Sustainability, and Women Empowerment

Ecofeminist initiatives span diverse efforts targeting gender inequalities, environmental sustainability, and women's empowerment, particularly within the realms of environmental conservation and sustainable development. These efforts emphasize women's active involvement in biodiversity preservation, sustainable resource management, and climate change mitigation. Notably, ecofeminist projects integrate traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary conservation strategies while promoting women's inclusion in decision-making processes and environmental frameworks.

- *Women-Led Community-Based Conservation Efforts: Women have been pivotal in spearheading community-based conservation projects aimed at preserving biodiversity and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. By integrating traditional wisdom with modern practices, these initiatives serve as a model for sustainable resource management. The active involvement of women in shaping policies and enforcing frameworks has paved the way for transformative environmental governance. Ecofeminist advocacy also ensures that gender-sensitive environmental policies address critical issues such as land rights, water resource management, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, thereby reaffirming the "right to green" as a fundamental human right.*
- *Empowerment Through Sustainable Livelihoods: Ecofeminist movements focus on empowering women economically by promoting environmentally sustainable livelihood options. Examples include organic farming, eco-tourism, handicrafts using natural materials, and renewable energy projects. These initiatives provide women with income-generating opportunities while fostering ecological preservation. By aligning economic empowerment with environmental sustainability, ecofeminist programs have successfully transformed the lives of women, especially in marginalized and deprived communities.*
- *Education and Awareness, building Environmental Stewardship: Ecofeminist organizations also prioritize education and awareness programs that emphasize the interconnections between gender, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Such programs empower women and girls by enhancing their understanding of their rights and the critical role of environmental stewardship. By linking environmental challenges with social and gender issues, these initiatives inspire women to take on active roles in sustainable development. Environmental education plays a pivotal role in equipping women with the knowledge and skills necessary to overcome environmental challenges effectively. It fosters environmental literacy, enabling women to recognize the relationship between environmental health and their own well-being. Such literacy empowers women to engage in sustainable resource management, advocate for environmental policies, and become key holders in decision-making processes. Environmental education provides women with a comprehensive understanding of the ecological challenges they face. Garrard (2010) asserts that educating women about environmental issues helps them adapt to changing conditions, explore alternative livelihoods, and mobilize communities for collective action. Furthermore, environmental literacy equips women with the tools to actively participate in policy-making and advocate for the rights of their communities.*
- *Women's Leadership in Environmental Movements: Environmental literacy also serves as a catalyst for women's leadership in environmental movements. By fostering confidence and leadership skills, education enables women to challenge traditional exclusions from environmental governance. Kabeer (1994) emphasizes that educated and empowered women are more likely to emerge as leaders advocating for both gender equity and ecological sustainability. Women-led environmental movements have significantly influenced both gender justice and ecological conservation. Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement in Kenya exemplifies how women can address deforestation while empowering communities. Similarly, the Chipko Movement in India demonstrated the power of women-led activism in protecting forests and advocating for sustainable development.*
- *Women as Key Stakeholders in Environmental Management: Women, particularly in rural and indigenous communities, are vital stakeholders in environmental management. Their roles in agriculture, water collection, and forest conservation make their participation indispensable. Agarwal (2001) argues that women's involvement often results in better conservation practices due to their deep ecological knowledge. This is especially evident in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) models, where women's contributions lead to improved conservation outcomes, enhanced livelihoods, and social cohesion.*

Ecofeminist initiatives globally, including in developing countries, focus on addressing climate justice by emphasizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, particularly those from marginalized communities. These organizations advocate for gender-responsive climate policies, equitable access to climate finance, and the inclusion of women in climate decision-making processes at all levels. By linking women's empowerment with environmental conservation, ecofeminism promotes a holistic approach to sustainable development, ensuring that the needs and rights of both women and nature are prioritized. Thus, ecofeminist endeavors represent a transformative movement that unites gender equality with environmental sustainability. By advocating for women's leadership, education, and economic empowerment, ecofeminism offers a comprehensive pathway toward achieving social justice and ecological balance. Through these initiatives, ecofeminism continues to reshape the global discourse on gender and the environment, paving the way for a more inclusive, green and sustainable future.

4.2 Overcoming Obstacles to Advancing Women's Rights and Environmental Justice: A Systematic Exploration

The intersection of women's rights and environmental justice unveils complex and multifaceted challenges, particularly for women in marginalized and vulnerable communities. These challenges stem from systemic inequalities-economic, political, and social dimensions as well as systemic discrimination, legal inadequacies and enforcement mechanisms. As women's livelihoods, health, and cultural practices are deeply tied to natural resources, environmental injustices disproportionately impact them, further entrenching gender inequities and impeding the advancement of women's rights.

ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

Economic inequality constitutes a core impediment to achieving environmental justice for women. Across many societies, women remain overrepresented in informal, low-paying, and precarious sectors often those directly impacted by environmental degradation, such as agriculture and water management. The limited access to financial resources, land ownership, and technology significantly hampers women's ability to mitigate environmental risks or advocate for their rights. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, where agriculture is a primary livelihood, women lack equitable access to credit and land ownership, undermining their ability to adopt sustainable farming practices (Quisumbing & Pandolfelli, 2010; Doss et al., 2018; Meinzen-Dick et al., 2019). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2011) signifies that empowering women with equal access to agricultural resources could boost productivity and resilience against environmental challenges like deforestation and drought. However, gendered economic disparities persist, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and vulnerability to environmental harm.

POLITICAL EXCLUSION

Women's underrepresentation in political institutions, particularly those overseeing environmental governance, restricts their influence in policymaking processes and leadership. As per UN Women (2015), women occupy less than 20% of environmental ministerial positions worldwide, reflecting their broader marginalization in political spheres. Consequently, women's unique perspectives on ecological challenges and gender-sensitive solutions are often excluded from decision-making. Moser (1993) further emphasizes that rural and indigenous women are frequently sidelined in formal governance systems, rendering them unable to demand institutional accountability or legal protection for environmental injustices. This systemic exclusion weakens collective advocacy for gender-equitable environmental policies, limiting progress on both women's rights and environmental sustainability.

SOCIAL NORMS AND DISCRIMINATION

Gendered system, cultural norms, patriarchal practices, and intersecting forms of discrimination exacerbate women's marginalization in environmental matters. In many societies, women's primary roles as caregivers and homemakers restrict their participation in public and community-level decision-making. Agarwal (2001) asserts that such deeply ingrained gender roles prevent women from taking an active role in advocating for environmental reforms. Moreover, women from minority or indigenous backgrounds face compounded discrimination, often being excluded from both gender and ethnic justice frameworks. This dual marginalization results in limited access to legal remedies, education, and resources necessary to counter

environmental harm. Bennett (2008) underscores that social barriers remain a formidable obstacle in creating an inclusive framework for environmental justice.

LACK OF GENDER-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND WEAK ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

Although international conventions like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) promote the integration of gender equality into environmental policies, domestic laws frequently fail to incorporate these provisions. Environmental policies tend to adopt a gender-neutral approach, overlooking the distinct ways in which environmental harm affects women. For instance, Baker (2009) observes that legislation addressing pollution or resource management rarely acknowledges the unique vulnerabilities women face, such as their dependence on natural resources for subsistence activities like water collection and farming. Consequently, women's rights remain inadequately protected within existing environmental legal frameworks. Even when gender-sensitive environmental laws exist, weak enforcement undermines their effectiveness. Barton (2010) highlights that institutional inefficiencies, bureaucratic delays, and corruption often render environmental protections symbolic rather than functional. Women who seek redress for environmental injustices encounter insurmountable hurdles, ranging from legal illiteracy to prohibitive costs. Banerjee (2012) points out that marginalized women, especially those in rural areas, are frequently unaware of their legal entitlements or intimidated by the formal judicial system. This systemic inaccessibility perpetuates injustice and reinforces the status quo, where environmental harm disproportionately affects women without meaningful accountability or remedy.

CASE STUDY 1: OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIA'S NIGER DELTA

The Niger Delta, heavily impacted by oil extraction, illustrates the intersection of environmental degradation and gender injustice. Widespread oil spills have devastated agricultural lands and water sources, leaving women, who predominantly depend on these resources, disproportionately affected. According to Omotayo (2015), women in the Niger Delta have struggled to access justice due to entrenched corruption, weak legal systems, and exclusion from decision-making processes. Furthermore, Eniola (2014) underscores that women face cultural and institutional barriers that prevent them from holding oil corporations accountable. This case exemplifies how environmental harm deepens pre-existing gender inequities, leaving women economically and socially marginalized.

CASE STUDY 2: INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND LAND RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA

Indigenous women in Latin America face persistent challenges in safeguarding their land rights amid deforestation, mining, and industrial encroachment. Despite international legal protections, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), implementation at the national level remains inconsistent. Aragon (2017) observes that indigenous women are at the forefront of environmental resistance movements yet remain excluded from formal legal systems and political processes. Hernandez and Gonzalez (2015) argue that patriarchal norms within both indigenous communities and state institutions further marginalize women's voices, limiting their ability to achieve justice or secure sustainable futures for their communities.

4.3 Integrating International Environmental Law and National Laws for Sustainability: The Role of Women in Conservation and Development

Environmental conservation and sustainable development demand a multidimensional approach that aligns international environmental law with national policies. These frameworks must emphasize environmental protection, population management, and gender inclusion through incorporating gender-specific provisions into environmental domains to account for women's unique vulnerabilities and contributions, enhancing capacity building, and institutional strengthening. Central to this is the recognition of women as critical agents of change in achieving environmental sustainability and equity. By ensuring women's participation, leadership, and rights to environmental resources, governments and organizations can address global ecological challenges effectively and advance the dual goals of gender equality and environmental justice.

Mainstreaming Women's Roles in Environmental Sustainability

Achieving gender and environmental equity requires concerted effort at local, national, and international levels to address structural barriers that limit women's participation in environmental decision-making processes. Raising awareness about the intersections between gender, human rights, and environmental sustainability is essential. Educational programs that promote gender equality in environmental education and capacity-building for women are critical (Sachs, 2015; Sikor et al., 2014). Technological innovations, access to green technologies, and collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector play a significant role in bridging the gender gap in environmental sustainability (Fulton et al., 2018; Rao et al., 2015).

Grassroots Activism and Women's Leadership in Environmental Movements

Women-led grassroots movements have emerged as central of environmental conservation addressing both environmental degradation and social inequities. These initiatives empower women as stewards of natural resources, becoming leaders in the fight for sustainable development, challenge societal norms, demand recognition for their contributions, and advocate for systemic change. For instance, in Latin America, women have spearheaded efforts to protect forests and water resources, leveraging traditional ecological knowledge to advocate for sustainable practices (Binns, 2011). Grassroots activism not only addresses environmental degradation but also enhances gender equality by providing women with leadership opportunities and enabling them to secure access to resources and challenge patriarchal structures. Nussbaum (2003) posits that women's participation in environmental decision-making fosters better environmental outcomes while improving their economic and political status. Women's leadership in environmental activism can be traced to their intimate knowledge of the land, their roles as caretakers of resources, and their ability to build strong community networks (Ekins, 2012).

Policy Recommendations for Gender-Sensitive Environmental Frameworks

Gender-sensitive policies acknowledge and address the epistemic needs and contributions of women in environmental sustainability efforts by incorporating women's traditional knowledge of sustainable practices, biodiversity conservation and management. Governments should create platforms for women to contribute to policy development that reflect the lived experiences of women and empower them as equal stakeholders in decision-making processes, and integrating women's knowledge into policy design can lead to more effective, context-specific, and sustainable environmental strategies as recognized by Tengö et al. (2017). Gender-sensitive policies and reforms that recognize and enforce women's rights to land and natural resources can significantly contribute to both gender equality and environmental sustainability (Doss et al., 2014; Meinzen-Dick et al., 2014). Recognizing the gendered dimensions of environmental issues is essential for developing effective and inclusive solutions to climate change, deforestation, water scarcity, and other pressing global challenges. Gender-responsive policies should prioritize women's access to climate adaptation funds and technologies and must address the different vulnerabilities faced by women and ensure they have equal access to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies (Agarwal, 2009; UN Women, 2013). Access to renewable energy and sustainable technologies can enhance women's resilience to climate change and improve livelihoods (Rao et al., 2015). Educational programs must promote women's involvement in environmental management, as emphasized by Sachs (2015). National and international organizations must coordinate to implement inclusive policies, drawing from global best practices in sustainability.

Integrating Women's Rights into International Environmental Frameworks

The intersection of environmental sustainability and gender equity is vital for ensuring women's equal role in shaping global environmental policies and achieving long-term ecological and social justice. International organizations like the United Nations (UN) have begun incorporating gender considerations into environmental policies, such as the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Paris Agreement. However, comprehensive gender analysis is needed in monitoring and evaluating climate policies and projects, focusing

on improving women's access to financial resources, technology, and knowledge for climate adaptation, mitigation and decision-making platforms (Müller, 2017).

5. Conclusion

The convergence of the right to a healthy environment, the right to life and dignity, and the right to participate in collective development decisions establishes a comprehensive foundation for just and equitable human rights system. At the forefront of this transformative vision, the ecofeminist movement significantly contributes to environmental sustainability, social justice, and gender equality. From grassroots activism to influencing policy frameworks, ecofeminism demonstrates its capacity to pave the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future. Despite the progress made, substantial challenges persist in fully integrating ecofeminist principles into policymaking and practice. Structural inequities, such as discriminatory land rights, restricted access to resources, and entrenched gender biases, hinder women's empowerment and their meaningful engagement in environmental decision-making processes. Yet, these challenges are not insurmountable. Opportunities for innovation and collaboration abound, including the utilization of advancements to amplify women's voices, the strengthening of women-led networks, and the incorporation of gender-sensitive approaches into climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Empowering women for environmental sustainability transcends issues of social justice; it is integral to achieving ecological resilience and ensuring human well-being. Ecofeminist frameworks provide a valuable lens for understanding how gender equality and environmental sustainability intersect, offering transformative pathways for advancing inclusive policies and practices. By enhancing women's leadership, mainstreaming their contributions to sustainable development, and recognizing their critical roles in environmental stewardship, societies can evolve to be more resilient, equitable, and capable of leaving a sustainable legacy for generations to come. In a world increasingly marked by environmental crises and deepening social inequalities, ecofeminism emerges as a crucial paradigm for fostering a more just and sustainable green global society. The integration of feminist perspectives and the dismantling of systemic barriers are essential steps toward achieving the "Right to Green", that underscores the interconnectedness of women's rights with environmental justice. Recognizing and addressing women's unique vulnerabilities to environmental degradation, while empowering their active participation in decision-making, are vital actions in creating inclusive sustainable communities and environmental governance. Embedding gender equality within environmental policies is not only a moral and ethical imperative but also a strategic pathway to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fostering ecological sustainability for all. Ultimately, the intricate relationship between gender equality and environmental sustainability holds immense potential for catalyzing positive global change. This analysis underscores the multifaceted interplay between these domains, emphasizing the need for policies that integrate women's leadership and perspectives into resource management and conservation efforts. By committing to collaborative and inclusive approaches, the global community can ensure that sustainable development benefits all individuals, irrespective of gender.

The acknowledgment of the "Right to Green" as a fundamental and inalienable right intrinsically tied to sustainability and gender equity underscores the urgency of aligning women's rights with environmental justice. Governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector must join forces to empower women in environmental governance. By doing so, a world can be collectively build where gender equality and environmental sustainability are not abstract ambitions but intertwined realities essential for a thriving and resilient future.

References

- Achuo, D. E. N., Nchofoung, N. T., Zanfack, L. J. T., & Epoge, C. E. (2023). The nexus between labour force participation and environmental sustainability: Global comparative evidence. *Scientific Reports*, 9(11). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10632709/>
- Agarwal, B. (1992). The gender and environment debate: Lessons from India. *Feminist Studies*, 18(1), 119–158.
- Agarwal, B. (1998). Gender and environmental management in South Asia: Can romanticized pasts help model desirable futures? *Macalester International*, 6(16), 137–163.
- Agarwal, B. (2001). Did group-based forest management empower women? Evidence from South Asia. *World Development*, 29(4), 571–588.
- Agarwal, B. (2001). Gender and land rights revisited: Exploring new prospects via the state, family, and market. *Journal of Agrarian Change*.
- Agarwal, B. (2001). Gender and environmental governance: The political economy of women's roles. *Oxford University Press*.
- Agarwal, B. (2009). Climate change and gender inequality: Lessons from rural areas in India. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36(1), 175–205.
- Agarwal, B. (2010). Gender and green governance: The political economy of women's presence within and beyond community forestry. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 19(3), 489–500.
- Bakshi, A. (2019). Achieving sustainable development through ecofeminism. Retrieved from [source details missing].
- Banerjee, R. (2012). Environmental justice and women in marginalized communities. *Journal of Social Justice Studies*, 8(3), 45–67.
- Barton, A. (2010). Challenges in enforcing environmental laws. *Environmental Policy Review*, 12(1), 23–40.
- Beckwith, K., & Moser, C. O. N. (2017). Gender and the politics of place. *Political Geography*, 60, 1–11.
- Bennett, E. (2008). Social inequality and environmental justice. *Sustainability Journal*, 4(5), 55–73.
- Birnie, P., Boyle, A., & Redgwell, C. (2021). *International law and the environment* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Binns, T. (2011). Women and environmental activism in the Amazon.
- Boyle, A. (2012). Human rights and the environment: A reassessment. *European Journal of International Law*, 23(3), 613–642.
- CEDAW Committee. (2004). General Recommendation No. 25 on special temporary measures (CEDAW/C/GC/25).
- Doss, C., Summerfield, G., & White, B. (2014). Gender and land tenure security: Exploring the nexus. *Agricultural Economics*, 45(3), 311–334.
- Ekins, P. (2012). Environmental sustainability: From environmental valuation to systems thinking. *Progress in Planning*, 77(1), 1–68.

FAO. (2011). The state of food and agriculture: Women in agriculture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

French, D. (2021). *International law and policy of sustainable development*. Manchester University Press.

Fulton, E. A., et al. (2018). A vision for future ocean management. *Marine Policy*, 94, 232–242.

Garrard, G. (2010). *Ecocriticism*. Routledge.

Glasson, J., Therivel, R., & Chadwick, A. (2012). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment*. Routledge.

Goodland, R. (1995). The concept of environmental sustainability. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics*, 26(1), 1–24.

Guzman, G., & Siapno, J. (2018). Gender perspectives in environmental law. *Human Rights Journal*, 6(2), 33–50.

Gurung, M., & Koirala, P. (2021). Sustainable resource management and gender equality.

Handl, G. (2020). Beyond state sovereignty: The international legal order and environmental protection. *Recueil des Cours*, 405, 9–92.

International Court of Justice (ICJ). (1941). Trail Smelter Arbitration.

Joseph, N. (2019). Ecofeminism and women's role in environmental conservation.

Kabeer, N. (1994). *Reversed realities: Gender hierarchies in development thought*. Verso.

Meinzen-Dick, R., et al. (2014). Land tenure, gender, and investments in land: Synthesis of findings and implications for policy. *World Development*, 64, S82–S92.

Mies, M. (1993). *Ecofeminism*.

Moser, C. (1993). *Gender planning and development: Theory, practice, and training*. Routledge.

Müller, J. (2017). Gender mainstreaming in the UNFCCC process: Progress and challenges. *Climate Policy*, 17(5), 639–657.

Nussbaum, M. (2000). *Women and human development: The capabilities approach*. Cambridge University Press.

Rao, N., et al. (2015). Gender and climate change: A review of differentiations and intersections. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 10, 223–235.

Redgwell, C. (2020). Intergenerational equity and international environmental law: A legal framework for sustainability. *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, 44, 215–260.

Ruether, R. R. (1996). *Women healing Earth: Third world women on ecology, feminism, and religion*.

Sachs, C. (2015). Gender and environmental education for sustainability.

Sachs, J. (2015). *The age of sustainable development*. Columbia University Press.

Sands, P., & Peel, J. (2018). *Principles of international environmental law* (4th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.

Sengupta, A. (2002). On the theory and practice of the right to development. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 24(4), 837–889.

Shiva, V. (1988). *Staying alive: Women, ecology, and development*. Zed Books.

Tengö, M., et al. (2017). Indigenous knowledge and the SDGs.

Todaro, M. P., & Smith, S. C. (2020). *Economic development*. Pearson.

UN Women. (2013). Gender and climate change. Retrieved from [UN Women official website].

UN Women. (2015). Women's leadership in environmental governance: Progress and gaps. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

UNEP. (1972). Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

UNEP. (1998). Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

UNGA. (1982). World Charter for Nature (Resolution 37/7).

UNGA. (1986). Declaration on the Right to Development (Resolution 41/128).

UNGA. (1993). Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23).

UNGA. (2022). Resolution 76/300: The human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

UNCED. (1992). Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

UNFCCC. (1992). United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our common future*. Oxford University Press.