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ASSESSMENT ON THE ADEQUACY OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE
CHANGE POLICY ON RURAL WOMEN ADAPTATION IN MARANGE

BY

ALBERT PASCAL CHIVEZA

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Abstract

This research evaluates the adequacy of Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy in assisting rural women's adaptation efforts in Marange, Mutare rural District. The researcher aimed at the link between the policy and the effect it has on rural women's livelihoods, including access to resources, agricultural production, and climate resilience. The main research question is whether the policy appropriately addresses the specific challenges being encountered by rural women in Marange as a result of climate change. For this, the researcher used qualitative research approach, consisting of document analysis and semi-structured interviews with 40 participants. The research employed a purposive sampling including three officials and thirty-seven community members. This ensured representation from various perspectives. Preliminary data analysis indicated that saturation was achieved with 40 participants, as no new themes or information emerged beyond this point. Resource constraints, such as time, financial, and logistical limitations, also influenced the sample size. This method enabled a thorough grasp of the local context and the many viewpoints of participants, including both rural women and men as well as officials. However, the main obstacle encountered was the lack of enough data on rural women's adaptation efforts, which might conceivably constrain the overall scope of the study. According to the findings, the National Climate Change Policy does not adequately address the particular issues that rural women face. For example, the policy's wide agricultural focus emphasizing large-scale projects and commercial farming overlooks rural women's specific challenges on their vulnerable livelihoods. This top-down strategy ignores rural women's most immediate needs, limiting them access to resources like water, education, and technology. However, the study found that climate change disproportionately affects rural women, limiting their ability to maintain food security and livelihoods. The study emphasized the significance of inclusive, gender-responsive policies in resolving these issues. The recommendations of this study include that governments should emphasize rural women's needs, tackle gender-based inequities, and promote climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods. The results of the research call for a comprehensive approach that incorporates legislative changes, community participation, and education to promote long-term socioeconomic development. Legislators are encouraged to establish targeted initiatives that promote home grown knowledge on climate change's effect and adaptation instead of a blindly borrowing of internationally reorganized adaptation standards and strategies. The findings from the study helps facilitate the development of inclusive, gender-sensitive climate policies and practices by addressing gaps in the current literature on policy frameworks and rural women's adaptation initiatives. The study's limitations include the focus on Marange, which may restrict generalizability and time constrains . Nonetheless, the research sheds light on the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy and its influence on rural women's adaptation efforts. Future research should focus comprehensive national wide studies to inform policy choices and assure successful climate change adaptation efforts.

Keywords: climate change, rural women, adaptation

Declaration

I declare that this dissertation is my original work original work and that it has neither been submitted nor is being concurrently submitted for any degree in any other institution.

Albert Chiveza

Student's Full Name

25/10/24

Student's Signature (Date)

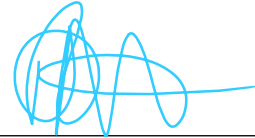


Dr Paidamoyo Mukumbiri

Main Supervisor's Full Name

25/10/24

Main Supervisor's Signature (Date)



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Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my loving family for being my inspiration.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
GDP,	Gross Domestic Product
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
SDG	Sustainable development Goals
SADC	Southern African Development Community
ZCCP	Zimbabwe Climate Change Program
CRIDP	Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Development Program
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research introduction, giving the research background. The statement of the problem will be explained, followed by the research objectives and research questions. The researcher will also explain the significance of this study, research delimitations and limitations.

1.2 Background

Climate change poses an impending threat to mankind. Global CO₂ emissions increased dramatically between 1970 and 2021, from 14.9 billion metric tons to 36.4 billion metric tons. As a result, the worldwide average concentration of CO₂ released increased from 325 to 414 ppm within the exact same time period. Africa, like the rest of the world, is prone to harsh weather conditions (Russo et al., 2016). The continent's limited capacity to adapt and reliance on rain-fed agriculture exacerbate vulnerability.

Rising temperatures across Africa have been a source of worry in recent decades. There has been a recorded rise in 0.2°C to 0.4°C every decade in North Africa since the 1970s (Lelieveld et al., 2016). West Africa has also seen considerable temperature increases, with a positive trend of 0.28°C. Furthermore, research by (Fotso-Nguemo et al., 2017) and (Iyakaremye et al., 2021) shows that temperature intensity in the Sahel and West Africa has increased by 0.25°C to 1.8°C. Zimbabwe, in particular, is expected to see one of the largest temperatures increases among African areas, as indicated by (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018). The continent's arable land and food production are at risk as temperatures continue to increase.

Rainfall patterns in Africa have varied significantly in recent years. According to (Hertig & Jacobeit, 2014), precipitation is dropping in North Africa, and comparable declines are found in West Africa. Other regions, like as East and Southern Africa, have had higher precipitation. Overall, the result of these varied rainfall patterns is a downward trend in African precipitation, which has a detrimental effect on many sectors of the continent, including the environment, livelihoods, food, water, and energy.

This has resulted in an annual loss of around US\$ 1.4 billion for food crops in Africa (Sileshi & Gebeyehu, 2021). Furthermore, 8.9% yearly output losses have been observed, resulting in 2.3 million metric tons of wheat wasted and affecting 48.2 million customers (Sileshi & Gebeyehu, 2021). These climate-related difficulties have resulted in 57% of arable land in Africa producing less crops, worsening poverty levels that afflict almost 40% of the population. East Africa alone has reported a 25% drop in yearly agricultural production (Berck et al., 2018). Climate change was expected to endanger \$1.4 trillion of Africa's GDP by 2023, accounting for 48% of the continent's overall GDP (Sileshi et al., 2019).

Various disciplines have investigated adaptation processes, which have been continuous since human existence on Earth. Mankind have adapted to environmental and climatic change to maximize on opportunities and limit negative effects (Okali, 2015). Climate change and unpredictability are already having an effect on agriculture, resulting in strategies such as diversification of crops, irrigation, water management, and disaster risk management (Alam and Mawby, 2015). Households play an important part in adaptation processes, and research has shown that adjusting to climate change can help lessen its negative effects (Yeros, 2020). The adaptation

process is divided into two steps: seeing and conceptualizing climate change and adapting to it (Ncube M., 2020; Zhang, 2019).

The first step in combating climate change is perception, which necessitates a cognitive comprehension of the issue based on long-term memory of past experiences (Schwandt, 2017; Salvatore, 2018). Household views on climate change have a significant effect on their willingness to adapt and adjust their habits. While acknowledging climate change is critical, it does not necessarily result in the establishment of adaptation plans (Ali & Abdulai, 2021). Perceptions and adaptation tactics change substantially throughout time and geography, and the unchanging structure of the National Climate Change Policy raises issues about its efficacy in tackling today's climatic challenges.

Recognizing climate change is the first step toward addressing it. Household awareness of climate change is critical for developing adaptation strategies (Kupika & Nhamo, 2017). Effective adaptation techniques require adaptive capability, which include changes in human activities, resources, and technology (Henderson, 2017). Climate change has an enormous effect on rural economies like Zimbabwe, notably food security, leading to unsustainable coping measures such as mining (Frischen et al., 2020). Addressing existing gender inequities, as well as social and economic inequality, is especially critical since climate change exacerbates these concerns. Climate change is widely acknowledged as a factor that exacerbates existing socioeconomic inequality, with long-standing differences between men and women reinforced by limiting customs and social norms (Mumo et al., 2018).

Control or access to financial resources and endowments is crucial in determining the susceptibility of communities and households to climate change consequences (Zikhali, 2018; Aboud, 2015). This is especially true in Zimbabwe, where rural women account for 70% of the agricultural labor and play a significant role in national food security. However, they confront particular problems, including restricted access to land, financing, and climatic knowledge, poor training in climate-resilient agriculture, and insufficient access to markets and financial services.

Marange area, in Manicaland Province, is especially sensitive to climate change effects such as droughts, insufficient to excessive rainfall, and temperature rises (Zimbabwe Meteorological Services Department, 2019). Rural women in Marange are particularly effected, with 80% depending on rain-fed agriculture for a living. Notwithstanding the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010) and the Climate Change Policy (2017), Marange's rural women continue to confront substantial adaptation hurdles. These challenges include insufficient access to climate information and early warning systems, a scarcity of climate-resilient agricultural inputs and technology, inadequate financing for adaptation initiatives, inadequate institutional support and capacity building, and a lack of consideration for gender-specific needs and perspectives. These inequalities limit rural women's capacity to adapt to climate change, increasing their susceptibility.

Research has emphasized the need to address rural women's adaptation necessities, as well as policy modifications and implementation methods (Chitsiko, 2019; Makunde, 2017). The purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of national climate change policy in helping rural women's adaptation in Marange, identify gaps and obstacles, and guide policy adjustments. The study will take a qualitative approach, combining literature studies with semi-structured interviews.

The researcher chose to examine the effectiveness of national climate change policy in assisting rural women's adaptation in Marange because of the district's susceptibility to climate change and the vital role women have in agriculture and overall livelihoods. Marange district is a unique case study because of its position in a climate-sensitive zone and the existence of ongoing climate change efforts. This study focuses on Marange and attempts to give context-specific recommendations for policy reforms, eventually leading to better resilience and adaptive ability among rural women in Zimbabwe.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Climate change is endangering the livelihoods and food security of rural populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in semi-arid regions like Marange, Zimbabwe (Chitsiko, 2019). Rural women in Marange play an important role in agricultural and natural resource management, but they face several restrictions that increase their susceptibility to climate change. These include restricted access to resources, discriminatory gender norms, a lack of knowledge and information, inadequate infrastructure and services, and higher health risks. While rural women have evolved numerous coping mechanisms and adaptable techniques, their involvement in formal adaptation processes such as planning and making decisions is still restricted (Rosen & Grace, 2021).

Scholars such as (Chitsiko, 2019) and (Rosen & Grace, 2021) have emphasized rural communities' susceptibility to climate change, highlighting the importance of adaptive solutions. However, their research focused mainly on the effects of climate change on the broader population, ignoring the special issues that rural women confront. Chiweshe (2022) and Gotora et al. (2020) studied Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy and questioned its efficacy in tackling climate

change concerns. However, the studies have done little to assess the effectiveness of Zimbabwe's climate change policy in addressing the particular adaptation issues that rural women face in Marange. This research tries to fill this gap by examining the efficacy of Zimbabwe's climate change strategy in addressing the particular adaptation issues that rural women face in Marange.

Addressing and comprehending the gendered aspects of vulnerability and adaptive capacity is critical for creating and implementing inclusive and gender-sensitive adaptation strategies that successfully meet the particular climate adaptation problems encountered by rural women (CARE, 2019). Fostering the gender question in this conversation can help to accomplish larger development goals including poverty reduction, gender equality, and environmental sustainability (UN Women, 2019). To that end, this study will evaluate the policy's effectiveness in addressing the particular problems and demands of women in rural areas as they adapt to climate change. It will also assess whether the policy is gender-sensitive and successful in supporting their adaptation efforts.

1.3 Research objectives

1. To assess the relevance of the National Climate Change Policy in rural women's climate change induced challenges in Zimbabwe.
2. To evaluate the Policy framework's response to the challenges of rural women in Marange.
3. To make recommendations to address rural women's climate change induced challenges in Zimbabwe.

1.4 Research questions

1. How relevant is the National Climate Change Policy in addressing rural women's climate change induced challenges in Zimbabwe?
2. To what extent has the Policy framework responded to the challenges of rural women in Marange?
3. What recommendations can be made to address rural women's climate change induced challenges in Zimbabwe?

1.4 Assumption of the study

This study assumes that despite the existence of a national Climate Change Policy, its relevance, effectiveness as well as implementation falls short especially in addressing unique challenges and needs of women in rural communities' adaptation in the ever-mutating nature of climate change.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study provides numerous approaches to explain the value of conducting this research as follows:

1.5.1 Policy Formulation and Implementation

The results of this study can help legislators in Zimbabwe and other nations dealing with comparable problems understand the potential prospects of gender on climate change adaptation.

1.5.2 Civil society/ NGOs

The research can guide the enhancement of gender-sensitive policy advocacy efforts, and programs, improve resource allocation, strengthen partnerships with local communities, and raise awareness on the importance of gender-responsive approaches to climate change adaptation.

1.5.3 Knowledge Expansion and Research Gap Filling

The purpose of this study is to close the knowledge gap on gender in the National Climate Change Policy. It adds to the body of information already in existence by shedding light on the particular repercussions, challenges, and opportunities connected to the climate change adaptation by rural women.

1.6 Delimitation of the study

The study will focus on the national level, rather than on regional or global trends and initiatives. The study is going to be conducted through the analysis of secondary data and literature, it will also include primary research in the selected area.

1.7 Limitations of the study

- The major limitation of this study was that generalization of the results may be restricted due to the study's emphasis on a specific geographic location and group of women. Recognizing Marange's unique context, findings were contextualized within broader literature on climate change adaptation.

- Another limitation of this study was time constraints and to address this the researcher prioritized research objectives ensuring a focus on the most critical aspects of climate change adaptation.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out to build a strong conceptual framework and to carry out a thorough review of the available literature on national laws that pertain to climate change adaptation, with an emphasis on the situation of rural women in Zimbabwe. The theoretical framework, which is mainly grounded in human rights, will attempt to showcase the many sides of vulnerability that the climate crisis presents, using a human rights discourse as the lens through which to view the situation of rural women. The literature review will then unpack the available content and tell what it adds up to in terms of the climate change adaptation situation of rural women in Zimbabwe.

2.2 Human Rights as a Conceptual Framework

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) provides a strong theoretical framework for evaluating the National Climate Change Policy's effectiveness in addressing rural women's adaptation in Marange. HRBA, which is based on international human rights standards, highlights the need of aligning development initiatives with human rights principles, tackling disparities and discriminatory behaviors that frequently impede growth and leave disadvantaged people behind. At its foundation, HRBA recognizes that development goals, strategies, and procedures are supported by a set of rights and duties defined by international law. This comprises civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, as well as the right to progress. Integrating these rights into the climate change policy framework, can guarantee that rural women's unique needs and vulnerabilities are considered and addressed.

2.3 Relevance of Theory to Study

The HRBA includes essential concepts including universality, indivisibility, equality, and nondiscrimination. In terms of climate adaptation, this entails acknowledging that all rural women, regardless of socioeconomic level or cultural background, possess an equal right to take part in decision-making processes that affect their lives. It also includes looking at how existing dynamics of power and structural inequities affect their ability to adapt to climate change.

Participation is a vital component of HRBA, and rural women must be actively involved in shaping climate policy. This includes developing channels for their participation in discussions, ensuring their perspectives are heard, and incorporating traditional knowledge into adaptation plans. Furthermore, the principle of accountability demands for transparent governance frameworks in which responsibility bearers, such as local and national authorities, are held accountable for performing their commitments to defend the rights of rural women.

Furthermore, the HRBA stresses capacity building between duty bearers and rights holders. This entails empowering rural women with education and resource support so that they may effectively assert their rights and actively engage in climate adaptation activities. Simultaneously, it is critical to strengthen the capacity of government officials and institutions to perform their commitments under the climate change policy.

The HRBA framework will be used to examine the National Climate Change Policy in Marange, focusing on its efficacy in promoting rural women's adaptation. The key considerations will be whether the policy recognizes and addresses rural women's rights, how it supports their involvement, and if it includes suitable systems for responsibility and redress. Using HRBA as a

lens, one may determine policy gaps, indicate areas for reform, and subsequently advocate for a more equitable and rights-based approach to climate change adaptation for Marange's rural women.

2.4 CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FRAMEWORKS

2.4.1 Global Climate Change Policies

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a 1992 international convention aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations and mitigating climate change consequences. The treaty is founded on the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle, which recognizes the differences in industrialized and developing nations' capacity and past emissions. Scholars such as Bodansky (2016) applaud the UNFCCC's framework approach, whereas others have expressed concerns about it as a global climate strategy. Critics of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) claim that it puts commercial interests over human rights (Newell 2015). Others criticize the convention's insufficient emphasis on climate justice and equality (Shue, 2014) and overemphasis on market-based solutions (Lohmann, 2016). Despite its importance, the UNFCCC has several obstacles, including limited carbon reduction promises, insufficient funding for poor nations, and delayed technology transfer.

To address these gaps, the Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, established a worldwide aim of limiting warming to 1.5°C over pre-industrial levels. The agreement is based on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), global stocktaking and review, funding and transfer of technology, and a loss and damage mechanism. The Paris Agreement has also been criticised. Scholars say that it lacks binding commitments (Voigt, 2016), ignores climate justice (Shue, 2014),

and may fail to meet the 1.5°C target (Höhne, 2015). Gaps in the agreement include inadequate Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), funding and technology transfer gaps, and inadequate adaptation support. Despite its accomplishments, the Paris Agreement faces several obstacles, including insufficient NDC ambition, financial and technology transfer limitations, and little adaptation support.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into development objectives. SDG 13 especially targets climate action, highlighting the importance of integrated methods. Scholars such as Le Blanc (2015) applaud the SDGs' integrated approach, whereas Weikmans (2016) criticizes the SDGs' weak climate focus. Critics of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contend that they lack climate-specific objectives (Le Blanc, 2015), have a restricted climate emphasis (Weikmans, 2016), and have issues with implementation and assessment. The SDGs confront several hurdles, including inadequate climate-specific objectives, insufficient finance and resources, and coordination issues. Addressing these gaps needs strengthened international collaboration, climate-specific finance, and coordinated execution.

2.4.2 Regional Climate Change Policies (African Context)

The African Union Climate Change Policy (2014) seeks to strengthen Africa's resistance to climate change, promote sustainable development, and promote sustainable global climate governance. The strategy encourages climate-resilient agriculture and water management, strengthens climate change research and development, aids in adaptation and mitigation, and stimulates international collaboration and partnerships. Researchers such as Adelekan (2016) applaud the policy's holistic

approach, while Ofoegbu (2017) praises its focus on climate-resilient agriculture. However, opponents like Mulugetta (2015) state that the strategy lacks solid implementation strategies, while Mickler (2016) criticizes its narrow focus on climate justice.

The African Union Climate Change Strategy (2014) establishes a framework for executing the AU Climate Change Policy. The policy addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, climate change research, climate-resilient infrastructure development, and development and capacity building and training. Khan (2017) appreciates the strategy's emphasis on climate-resilient infrastructure, whereas Serdeczny (2016) acknowledges it on climate change research. However, Ayers (2015) claims that the policy lacks clear finance mechanisms, and Abouhadid (2016) criticizes its inadequate focus on climate change adaptation.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Change Strategy (2015) seeks to strengthen regional resilience to climate change. The policy addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, climate-resilient infrastructure development, climate change research and development, and capacity building and training. Scholars like as Moyo (2016) applaud the strategy's emphasis on climate-resilient infrastructure, while Chambwera (2017) praises its concentration on climate change research. However, Mugabe (2015) claims that the policy lacks clear finance methods, while Nhamussua (2016) criticizes its narrow focus on climate change adaptation. Though these regional climate policies reflect progress in tackling climate change in Africa, obstacles remain, including inadequate financing, insufficient ability and experience, poor institutional frameworks, and low public awareness.

2.4.3 National Climate Change Policies (Zimbabwean Context)

Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy (2012) seeks to foster sustainable development, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen resilience to climate change effects. The policy lays forth plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation, research, as well as capacity building and education. Key measures include boosting renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, preserving water resources, fostering climate-resilient infrastructure development, and establishing a national climate change fund. Scholars such as Mugabe (2015) praise the policy's holistic approach, while Nhamussua (2016) highlights the emphasis it places on climate-resilient agriculture. However, critics such as Moyo (2016) assert that the policy lacks clear strategies for implementation, and Chambwera (2017) criticizes its limited focus on climate justice, particularly for vulnerable groups, who face little inclusion while also bearing the brunt of climate change due to their unique vulnerabilities.

On the other hand, the Zimbabwean government has implemented several key climate change initiatives, including the Zimbabwe Climate Change Program (ZCCP), Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Development Program (CRIDP), National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) and Renewable Energy Policy. These initiatives seek to strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable development, and promote climate change research and development. Mugabe (2015) applauds Zimbabwe's efforts to address climate change, while Nhamussua (2016) acknowledges the country's concentration on climate-resilient agriculture. However, Moyo (2016) claims that Zimbabwe's climate change policies lack efficient implementation mechanisms, while Chambwera (2017) criticizes the efforts for a lack of emphasis on climate justice. In this regard, obstacles remain, including a lack of financial resources, insufficient ability and experience, poor institutional frameworks, and low public awareness.

2.6 GENDER-DIFFERENTIATED EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN

2.6.1 Climate Change Effects on Rural Women

Climate change has a disproportionate effect on rural women owing to their reliance on natural resources, restricted access to knowledge and technology, and social gender norms. Scholars including Brody et al. (2017) and Carr and Thompson (2014) contend that this increases existing gender disparities, hurting women's livelihoods, health, and well-being. According to Achandi et al. (2020), climate change has an influence on women's reproductive functions, making them more vulnerable. Furthermore, research shows that restricted access to education, finance, and markets (Agarwal, 2010), a lack of authority over resources and land (Kumar and Quisumbing, 2015), and restrictive cultural and social customs all contribute to rural women's vulnerability. (Cullet, 2020).

Some researchers argue that rural women's traditional knowledge and practices can improve adaptation (Bee et al., 2018), that women's empowerment can promote climate resilience (Chiwaura & Mvumi, 2020), and that climate change strategies frequently disregard women's agency and skills (Arora-Jonsson, 2018). Despite these debates, there are gaps in the literature, such as a lack of context-specific research on rural women's adaptation in Zimbabwe, particularly in Marange, insufficient analysis of policy effectiveness, and an overemphasis on women's vulnerability, which ignores their potential as change agents.

This study addresses these gaps by looking into the adequacy of Zimbabwe's national climate change policy in promoting rural women's adaptation in Marange, inclusively investigating the intersectionality of gender, climate change, and policy effectiveness, emphasizing rural women's agency and capabilities in adapting to climate change. By focusing on rural women's experiences

and opinions, this study seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of climate change policy and its effect on vulnerable groups.

2.6.2 Social and Cultural Dimensions

Climate change interacts with social and cultural variables, increasing rural women's susceptibility. Doss and Stein (2022) argue that patriarchal civilizations limit women's autonomy, affecting their access to resources, decision-making authority, and social position. According to Angula and Kaundjua (2016), rural women's vulnerability is exacerbated by low levels of education and literacy. Gender roles as well as standards govern rural women's access to resources and information; customs and beliefs influence women's perceptions and reactions to climate change; and social networks and support systems influence women's resilience to climate change. Research demonstrates the importance of social and cultural aspects in developing rural women's adaptation tactics. For example, rural women's traditional knowledge and behaviors can improve adaptation (Johnson & Wilson, 2021). Women's empowerment has the potential to generate climate resilience (Glanville, 2020), yet climate change strategies frequently disregard women's agency and talents. However, there are gaps in the literature, such as a lack of context-specific research on the social and cultural dimensions of rural women's adaptation in Zimbabwe and Marange, insufficient analysis of policy effectiveness, and an overemphasis on women's vulnerability at the expense of their potential as change agents.

This research responds to these gaps through exploring the interconnected nature of gender, social/cultural factors and climate change in Marange while examining the adequacy of Zimbabwe's national climate change policy in supporting rural women's adaptation. It

also highlights rural women's agency and capabilities in adjusting to climate change. By focusing on rural women's experiences and viewpoints, this study is aimed at contributing to a deeper knowledge of climate change policy and its effects on vulnerable communities. Rural women's sensitivity to climate change is strongly influenced by their social and cultural background. Patriarchal civilizations frequently limit women's autonomy, affecting their access to resources, capacity for decision-making, and social standing. Rural women are more vulnerable due to a lack of education and literacy. Furthermore, customs and cultural standards influence women's climate change thoughts and reactions, and social networks and support systems affect women's climate change resilience.

2.6.3 Economic Dimensions

Climate change has a substantial economic effect on rural women, aggravating existing inequities. According to Addaney (2018) and Kumar and Quisumbing (2015), low access to credit and financial services, a lack of ownership of land and resources, and reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods all contribute to rural women's economic vulnerability. According to James and Rao (2022), climate change has an effect on rural women's livelihoods, such as agriculture, livestock, and natural resource management. Climate change affects rural women's agriculture by altering temperature and precipitation patterns, which influence crop yields and food security. Climate-related illnesses and parasites have an effect on both livestock output and women's income. Furthermore, climate change influences availability to water, fuelwood, and other important resources, which affects natural resource management.

Research emphasizes the role of women's economic empowerment in climate resilience. Creswell and Plano Clark (2018) suggest that economic empowerment improves women's ability to adapt to climate change, boosts access to credit and financial services, and allows them to invest in climate-resilient livelihoods. Women's sovereignty over land and resources encourages sustainable natural resource management.

However, Addaney (2018) observes that climate change strategies frequently miss women's economic demands and objectives, fail to address gender disparities in access to resources and decision-making, and disregard women's traditional knowledge and practices in climate change adaptation. Henderson (2017) underlines that climate change worsens poverty and inequality, disproportionately hurting rural women, worsens existing social and economic vulnerabilities, and demands gender-sensitive policies and solutions (Henderson, 2017). Climate change needs climate-resilient agricultural methods and technology, improved access to climate information and early warning systems, and encouragement of women's entrepreneurship and income diversification. Addressing these economic factors is crucial for increasing rural women's resistance to climate change.

2.6.4 Environmental Dimensions

Climate change has serious environmental consequences for rural women, aggravating their existing vulnerabilities. Scholars such as Dickin and Hajat (2020) and Kumar and Quisumbing (2015) note that rural women's reliance on natural resources, lack of access to clean energy, and low capability for climate-resilient agriculture all contribute to environmental vulnerability.

Climate change effects rural women's access to water, land, and woods, all of which are critical resources for their livelihoods.

Changes in precipitation patterns and increasing evaporation have an influence on water availability, limiting rural women's access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, and agriculture (Ferreira 2016). Soil deterioration, erosion, and rising desertification decrease agricultural output, affecting rural women's food security and income (Fox, 2015). Deforestation and forest degradation also have an influence on women's fuelwood and other forest product gathering, which is essential for their energy and subsistence (Bee et al., 2018). Research emphasizes the need of environmentally friendly resource management for climate resilience. Climate-resilient agriculture encourages soil conservation, effective water use, and biodiversity, and renewable energy availability decreases women's time and labor spent collecting fuelwood (Bhattacharya et al., 2017). Sustainable forest management promotes livelihoods for women and climate regulation.

However, climate change policies frequently miss women's traditional knowledge and practices in the administration of natural resources, fail to address gender inequities in access to natural resources and decision-making, and disregard women's crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation (Glanville, 2020). Climate change contributes to environmental degradation, disproportionately harming rural women, necessitating gender-sensitive policies and interventions to strengthen rural women's resilience (Angula and Kaundjua, 2016). Community-led activities for sustainable natural resource management are crucial. Research underlines the need for climate-resilient water management techniques, sustainable land use planning and the preservation of soil, and women's empowerment in natural resource decision-making.

2.6.5 Human Rights Dimensions

Climate change has serious human rights consequences for rural women, worsening pre-existing vulnerabilities by threatening their rights to health and life, food security, water and sanitation as well as education (Addaney, 2018). Climate change also has an effect on rural women's rights to land and property, inclusion and decision-making, and non-discrimination, resulting in greater relocation, reduced policy involvement, and intensified gender-based violence and discrimination (Mafongoya et al., 2016). A human rights-based approach to climate change adaptation is critical, putting rural women's human rights and dignity first, encouraging gender-sensitive adaptation, and supporting community-led climate justice programs.

Furthermore, climate change undermines rural women's right to health, particularly maternity health, by increasing illness prevalence and limiting access to healthcare services. Climate-related disruptions compel girls to leave school in order to sustain family livelihoods, jeopardizing their right to education especially those from rural setups (Ali & Abdulai, 2021). The loss of traditional livelihoods and cultural heritage undermines rural women's claim to cultural identity and self-determination. According to research, climate change policy must respect, preserve, and promote human rights, with a focus on empowering rural women and achieving climate justice. The UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement acknowledge the relevance of human rights in climate policy, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive adaptation, climate education, and grassroots efforts (UNFCCC, 1992; UN, 2015).

2.6.5 Policy and Institutional Dimensions

Adequate climate change policies and institutional frameworks are essential for boosting rural women's resilience. According to UN Women (2013) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (2014), gender-inclusive climate policies promote rural women's empowerment and climate justice, institutional capacity building improves climate change adaptation and mitigation, and community-driven efforts foster climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Key policy and institutional components include national climate policies and action plans, international agreements and frameworks (e.g., the Paris Agreement and the SDGs), local government efforts and community-based projects, and climate financing structures and funding possibilities. Research emphasizes the significance of integrating gender perspectives in climate policy and programming, capacity development for climate change adaptation and mitigation, community-led climate initiatives, and participatory decision-making.

However, obstacles remain, including poor gender sensitivity in climate policy and programming, inadequate institutional capacity for climate change adaptation, and insufficient climate financing and resource allocation. Furthermore, climate policies frequently disregard rural women's unique demands and goals, and institutional hurdles prevent them from participating in climate decision-making. Case studies show successful policy and institutional efforts, such as Rwanda's National Climate Change Policy, which emphasizes gender equality and women's empowerment, Kenya's County Climate Change Funds, which encourages community-led initiatives, and India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, that supports gender-sensitive adaptation.

2.7 National Climate Change Policy Framework

According to Moyo (2015) and Chambati (2017), Zimbabwe's national climate change policy frameworks appropriately meet the requirements of rural women, with a focus on climate-resilient agriculture and disaster risk reduction. However, opponents such as Makonese (2018) and Dube (2020) argue that these regulations lack adequate implementation mechanisms, leaving a limited influence on rural women's lives. Some scholars, like as Ncube (2019), say that Zimbabwe's climate change policies miss the social and cultural context of rural women, while others, like Mhlanga (2020), contend that policies focus too much on adaptation while ignoring mitigation efforts.

Researchers such as Shumba (2019) and Mudiwa (2020) argue that Zimbabwe's national climate change policy frameworks address rural women's susceptibility to climate change through focused adaptation efforts. However, opponents like Mutodi (2018) and Nyathi (2021) contend that these measures ignore the systemic disparities that keep rural women vulnerable. Some researchers, including Chitewe (2020), argue that Zimbabwe's climate change policies prioritize economic growth above social justice, worsening rural women's marginalization. Others, such as Muponde (2019), contend that policies concentrate too narrowly on climate change adaptation while ignoring mitigation initiatives.

Furthermore, methodological flaws in their research undercut its validity. For example, Moyo (2015) and Chambati (2017) rely on quantitative surveys, which fail to convey the diverse experiences and opinions of rural women. Similarly, Makonese (2018) and Dube (2020) used case studies with a narrow geographic scope, ignoring regional differences in climate change

implications. In contrast, this study takes a qualitative research strategy, relying on in-depth interviews, focus groups, and document analysis to gain an improved grasp of rural women's experiences with climate change and national policy frameworks. This technique enables for an investigation of the diverse social, cultural, and economic variables that influence rural women's resilience.

Taking a constructivist approach, this study acknowledges the co-construction of knowledge as well as the significance of rural women's agency and perspectives. Other researchers, such as Mapfumo (2022), contend that qualitative research is inappropriate to guide policy decisions, citing difficulties regarding generalizability and scalability. However, the researcher argues that qualitative research gives crucial insights into the daily life of rural women, which are necessary for building context-specific and successful climate change strategies.

2.8 Rural Women's Adaptation Strategies

Zimbabwe's rural women use a variety of adaptation tactics to deal with the effects of climate change. According to Moyo (2015) and Chambati (2017), significant initiatives include livelihood diversification, climate-resilient agriculture, water harvesting and conservation, soil conservation practices, and migration and remittances. However, opponents such as Makonese (2018) and Dube (2020) contend that these tactics are frequently ineffective, unsustainable, or unavailable to vulnerable women. Recent research, such as Ncube (2019) and Mhlanga (2020), emphasises the value of social capital and community-based efforts, such as women's self-help organizations and cooperatives, grassroots climate change adaptation programs, and traditional knowledge and

practice. These projects allow rural women to collaborate on knowledge, resources, and risks, so increasing their resilience to climate change.

Existing research gives important insights into rural women's adaptation techniques, but considerable gaps exist. For example, Moyo (2015) and Chambati (2017) prioritize economic adaptation options above social and cultural settings. Makonese (2018) and Dube (2020) underline the relevance of policy support but do not investigate the role of community-based initiatives. Recent research, such as Ncube (2019) and Mhlanga (2020), emphasizes the relevance of social capital and community-based activities while ignoring the links between climate change, gender, and poverty.

Furthermore, the methodological techniques used by these researchers, largely quantitative surveys, restrict the depth of knowledge about rural women's experiences. This study will use a qualitative method to emphasize rural women's perspectives and experiences, offering a more nuanced understanding of their adaptation efforts. This then tries to fill these gaps by investigating the role of rural women's agency and decision-making in adaptation, the effects of climate change on rural women's mental health and well-being, and the efficacy of community-led adaptation programs.

2.9 Gender dynamics in climate change discourse

Climate change is a gendered issue that disproportionately affects women and underprivileged groups (Atapattu, 2016; Alam et al., 2017). Scholars suggest that gender dynamics influence susceptibility, adaptation, and resistance to climate change (Mugabe, 2019). However, gender issues are notably lacking from climate change policies and activities (Rao, 2017). According to

research, women, particularly those living in rural regions, are more vulnerable to climate change owing to their reliance on natural resources, restricted access to education and economic opportunities, and societal responsibilities (UN Women 2020). For example, women are frequently responsible for gathering water and firewood, making them more vulnerable to climate-related stress (Witinok-Huber & Mugume, 2021).

Climate change is a gendered issue that disproportionately affects women and underprivileged groups (Denton, 2002; Lambrou & Piana, 2006). Scholars suggest that gender dynamics influence susceptibility, adaptation, and resistance to climate change (Mugabe, 2019). The nexus of disability and gender in climate change rhetoric is largely unexplored. Women with disabilities confront distinct hurdles, including restricted access to adapted technology, healthcare, and social services (UNFPA, 2019). Climate change contributes to existing disparities by increasing susceptibility to natural catastrophes and restricting access to key resources.

The existing researches have limitations. Nelson and Stathers (2009) concentrate on agricultural consequences, ignoring other industries. Rao (2017) stresses women's agency while overlooking systemic hurdles to adaptation. UN Women (2020) emphasizes the necessity of gender-sensitive policies but does not give specific implementation measures. These gaps highlight the need for extensive study on the linkages of gender, poverty, and climate change. Furthermore, research has underlined the significance of inclusive climate change policies that meet the unique needs of women with disabilities (CBD, 2019). However, UNFPA (2019) prioritizes reproductive health over other elements of climate change adaptation. Furthermore, CBD (2019) focuses policy frameworks while overlooking implementation issues.

2.10 Climate Change Policy and Rural Development

Climate change policies have a substantial effect on rural development, particularly in disadvantaged populations. The goal of national policy is to reduce the effects of climate change while encouraging sustainable development. However, the successful outcome of these strategies in tackling rural development is uncertain. Climate change initiatives in Zimbabwe, including the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010) and the Climate Change Policy (2017), recognize the relevance of rural development. These programs attempt to boost resilience, encourage sustainable agriculture, and help build climate-resilient infrastructure. Despite these efforts, researchers say that national climate change strategies frequently disregard rural-specific difficulties, such as restricted access to resources, financing, and markets.

Sustainable climate change policy necessitates including adaptation strategies into rural development plans. However, current policies frequently favor short-term economic rewards above long-term sustainability. Zimbabwe's rural development programs, such as Rural Development and Rural Planning, address climate change but lack actual adaptation plans. Ncube (2019) contends that climate change adaptation methods can improve rural development outcomes by increasing livelihoods and lowering vulnerability. Climate-resilient agriculture and ecosystem-based adaptation are two community-based programs that have shown potential in improving rural resilience (Mhlanga, 2020).

However, Moyo (2015) and Chambati (2017) argue that climate change policies prioritize economic development above social justice, aggravating existing disparities. Makonese (2018) adds that policies usually overlook rural people's distinct needs and viewpoints. This study

examines how national climate change policies approach rural development in Zimbabwe, concentrating on how policy frameworks, institutional structures, climate change adaptation techniques, and help rural women in their adaptation efforts.

2.11 Climate Change Adaptation in Marange

Climate change adaptation is critical in rural Zimbabwe, notably in Marange, because the district is prone to droughts and floods, which affect more than 70% of households. Research shows that successful adaptation measures, such as climate-resilient agriculture methods, have boosted harvest rates by 30% and cut soil erosion by 25% (Makunde, 2017).

However, rural women confront distinct problems, such as restricted access to land, financing, and markets. Despite being responsible for 70% of the agricultural workforce in Zimbabwe (FAO, 2018), women's adaptation efforts are frequently disregarded, with just 15% of climate change projects focusing on women-specific initiatives (Chitsiko, 2019). Rural women have a significant part to play in climate change adaptation, and involvement in adaptation activities is key.

The analysis of Marange case studies reveals crucial insights. Community participation and involvement are critical for effective adaptation, since community-led efforts account for 80% of successful programs in Marange (Chitsiko, 2019). Climate information transmission and early warning systems improve resilience, cutting agricultural losses by 20% (Makunde, 2017). Integrated approaches to livelihoods, water, and land use are effective, with household incomes increasing by 30% (Mudzengi, 2020). Weather-index insurance has also increased the financial resilience of smallholder farmers. Mudzengi's (2020) study indicated that insured farmers had a 40% reduction in crop losses due to drought. These efforts highlight the success of

grassroots initiatives, capacity building, and collaborations among local governments, NGOs, and communities.

On the other hand, Mudzengi (2020) asserts that, while weather-index insurance has increased financial resilience among smallholder farmers, the number of covered women farmers is relatively low. Community-based programs, such as women-led savings groups, have yet to demonstrate tangible financial inclusion and resilience. This teaches important lessons about rural women's engagement, climate information transmission, and integrated approaches to livelihoods, water, and land management. This is to say, despite the gains, gaps persist, including limited scalability, insufficient finance, and ongoing gender disparities that restrict women's adaptation efforts.

Furthermore, Chitsiko (2019) argues that successful climate change adaptation in rural Zimbabwe necessitates the integration of traditional knowledge and modern adaptation measures. Others have claimed that traditional knowledge improves resilience and adaptability (Makunde, 2017; Chitsiko, 2019). For example, traditional crop rotation techniques in rural Zimbabwe have been shown to improve soil fertility and prevent erosion (Makunde, 2017). Furthermore, indigenous weather predicting techniques have enhanced farming decisions (Chitsiko, 2019).

However, some researchers, such as Mudzengi (2020) and Ncube (2019), argue that conventional knowledge may be insufficient to meet the scope and complexity of climate change implications. They highlight the need of scientific knowledge and technology to aid in adaptation efforts. Mudzengi (2020) contends that dependence on traditional knowledge may impede the adoption of

climate-resilient technology. Ncube (2019) proposes that combining traditional knowledge with modern adaptation tactics might improve adaptation outcomes.

The argument over traditional knowledge emphasizes the complexities of climate change adaptation. Some researchers underline the need of community-based projects that prioritize traditional knowledge in order to maintain cultural relevance (Chitsiko, 2019). Others emphasize the necessity for scientific verification of indigenous knowledge systems (Ncube, 2019). This emphasizes the need of taking a balanced approach that incorporates both traditional and current knowledge in order to deliver the most successful adaptation solutions. As in the instance of Marange, the potential advantages of merging traditional and contemporary knowledge would go a long way in adjusting to the vagaries of climate change. Smallholder farmers utilizing traditional conservation agricultural methods have already enjoyed a 25% boost in crop yields (Chitsiko, 2019). However, while the studies highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge in climate change adaptation, they also failed to mention that the majority of traditional farming practices are carried out by women, and national climate change frameworks should take this into account in their responses to climate change.

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The focus of this chapter was on the methodology that was be used in this research study. In the following sections below, the following research concepts were given a detailed description and these include the research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures. In addition to this, a detailed description of the research instruments, data collection procedures and data analysis were provided.

3.2 The Research Design

Research design is a plan to which research participants are well-defined and information collected from them (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The researcher used qualitative research design to investigate the adequacy of the National Climate Change Policy on rural women adaptation efforts. This approach involves collecting qualitative data, like interviews and observations (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The strategy of enquiry that was used is a case study, which is a method used to narrow down a very broad field of research into one or a few easily researchable examples. The researcher carried out a case study of Marange mainly because it is one of the areas hit by the effects of climate change in Mutare District yet with more efforts to help women adaptation efforts being carried out by non-governmental organisations even in the presents of the national frameworks and institutions that have the same mandate.

3.3 Population and Sampling

The population for this qualitative research comprised various stakeholders affected by or involved in climate change adaptation in Marange, Zimbabwe, including men and women, community leaders, and members, as well as representatives from civil society organizations working on climate change adaptation, aged 18-65. The study focused on Mafararikwa Ward 16, with a population of 22,037 (Zimstat, 2022), comprising 12,121 females and 9,916 males. Given the complexity of the target population, a purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants from each stakeholder group (Campbell et al., 2020; Omair, 2014). The sample consisted of 40 participants: 20 community women, 17 community men, 2 community leaders, and 1 civil society member, providing a representative cross-section of stakeholders. Overall, the researcher interviewed 40 people. The sampling criteria ensured the inclusion of individuals with diverse experiences, perspectives, and expertise related to climate change adaptation (Omair, 2014). This ensured representation from various perspectives. Preliminary data analysis indicated that saturation was achieved with 40 participants, as no new themes or information emerged beyond this point. Resource constraints, such as time, financial, and logistical limitations, also influenced the sample size.

3.4 Data Collection Instruments

In order to gather data, the researcher used semi-structured interviews, and a review of the body of previous research. In particular, semi-structured interviews were created to support in-depth discussions with a chosen number of participants who were selected according to their pertinence and subject-matter competence. These guides guaranteed that important subjects are presented in

a consistent manner while providing flexibility to investigate new ideas. In addition, examination of the current body of literature was carried out in order to place the findings in the context of the larger scholarly conversation.

3.5 Data Collection Procedures

To be given permission to conduct research, the researcher requested for a letter from the School of Law, Mutare Rural District Council and an approval letter from the Africa University Research Committee (AUREC). After receiving the necessary research documentation, all participants were informed before the interviews were performed. A pre-test was conducted on both the interview questions to assess their effectiveness in addressing the study topics.

3.6 Analysis and Organization of Data

Data analysis is the systematic process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming, and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, drawing conclusions, and supporting decision-making (Matt & Adel, 2023). It involves applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data to extract meaningful insights (Groves, 2009). The researcher analysed data collected to help indicate the adequacy of the National Climate Change Policy on rural women adaptation efforts.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethics are rules and norms for behavior that distinguish between what is good and what is wrong, therefore ethical issues in research are crucial. They aid in identifying the boundaries between acts that are deemed acceptable and inappropriate. The promotion of truthfulness should be the main

objective of any research project, and ethical concerns should be given weight in that ethical norms protect against data falsification. As they support and encourage a research climate of trust, responsibility, and mutual respect within the research community, ethical issues should also be considered as essential.

Every research study should take ethics into account, so the researcher obtained clearance letters from the School of Law, the Africa University Research Committee (AUREC), Mutare Rural District Council in order to have access to the community and conduct the research study with local participants. The Africa University Research Ethics Committee's (AUREC) regulations on research ethics were also followed in conducting this study. In light of this, the researcher made it clear to every participant that they had the option to choose either to or not to participate in the research. There were no elements of force, fraud, or dishonesty used to coerce participants in this study. As a result, the participants in this research project were certain that the information they gave was to be kept private and used solely for academic purposes.

3.9 Chapter Summary

The focus of this chapter was based on the methodology that was used in this research study. In different sections of this chapter, the following research concepts were given a detailed description and these included the research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures. In addition to this, a detailed description of the research instruments, data collection procedures and data analysis were given and explained in detail.

CHAPTER 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter will present the cumulative results obtained from the researcher's interview questions utilized for data collection. The process of data analysis and interpretation in qualitative research takes time and includes preparing data for analysis, interpreting audio data into written format, carrying out the analysis, acquiring a deeper understanding of the data, along with interpreting the data to obtain a comprehensive meaning and picture (Yin, 2009, cited in Kapesa, 2015). Direct quotes are used to corroborate the researcher's views (Elliot, 2005), as cited in Kapesa (2015). The interpretive and thematic technique is used, requiring a greater understanding of how participants make meaning of their experiences (2015). To generate emerging themes, data analysis comprises interpretations of lengthy descriptions of participants' viewpoints, opinions, and experiences.

4.2 Demographic Profile of Study Participants

This study included three authorities (two village heads and one Civil Society member), as well as thirty-seven people. This section concentrates on the characteristics of the participants of this research as background information, such as gender, professional qualification, and years of residency in Marange. The summaries of the demographic profiles of 3 officials and 37 villagers from Marange are presented below in Table 4.2.1.

Table 4.2.1 Demographic Profile of Participants

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Female	23	57.5%
	Male	17	42.5%
	Total	40	100%
Academic and Professional Qualifications	Primary Education	12	30%
	Secondary Education.	21	52.5%
	Tertiary	7	17.5%
Years of in Marange	1 – 5 years	3	7.5%
	6 –10 years	2	5%
	10 – 15 years	11	27.5%
	15+ years	24	60%
	Total		100%

Source: (Field Data, 2024)

Table 4.2.2 shows that 23 out of forty villagers who participated in this study were females and 17 of the villagers were males. Twelve participants had primary school education, twenty-one had secondary school education while seven participants had tertiary education as their highest professional qualification. In terms of years of residence in Marange, three of the villagers in the Marange were within the 1-5 years of residence bracket, whereas two villagers were within the 6-10 years of residence bracket. Eleven villagers were within the 10-15 years of residence bracket and lastly, twenty-four were within the 15+ years of residence bracket.

4.3 Data Presentation and Analysis

This section focuses on the examination of study findings gained through semi-structured interviews. This study used a thematic method to analyze and present the research findings.

4.4 Understanding of Climate Change

Participants' perceptions of climate change aligned with existing literature, which defines it as a significant shift in weather patterns and temperatures (IPCC, 2014). Many regarded climate change as unpredictable weather changes, impacting agricultural productivity and water sources. For instance, a 45-year-old farmer said, "Climate change happens when the weather become unpredictable, such as when we used to rely on the rains in October or November, instead it rains in December or January." This resonates with studies highlighting the consequences of climate variability on agriculture (FAO, 2017). Another participant, a 30-year-old community leader, noted, "It's why we have more severe droughts than before; it negatively impacts our crops and water sources." This supports research on the intensification of droughts and floods due to climate change (UNDP, 2019). However, participants' responses also revealed a more nuanced understanding, extending beyond weather changes to encompass broader environmental consequences. A 50-year-old lady stated, "It's not just the lack of rain; it's about our soil becoming drier and pests increasing." "It affects everything we do," implying a comprehensive grasp of climate change's ecological impacts.

Participants demonstrated varying levels of comprehension regarding climate change adaptation, consistent with literature highlighting the importance of adaptive capacity (IPCC, 2014; UNDP, 2019). Most recognized the need to adjust to changing conditions, employing unique adaptive

tactics. A 35-year-old participant noted, "We've begun planting drought-resistant seeds since the rains are no longer consistent, it is one way we adapt." This aligns with research on climate-resilient agriculture (FAO, 2017). Another participant described communal efforts: "We've created clubs to share information regarding water conservation methods. It allows us everyone to adjust better," echoing the significance of community-based initiatives (IFAD, 2018). However, the study's findings also reveal a critical link between educational background and adaptation awareness. Participants with higher education levels were more likely to describe comprehensive plans, such as climate-smart agriculture. A 40-year-old lady with secondary education stated, "I learnt about climate-smart agriculture at a workshop. It is critical to understand how to grow in a way that requires less water." This supports research emphasizing the role of education in enhancing adaptive capacity (World Bank, 2020).

Participants' awareness of the National Climate Change Policy varied significantly, reflecting the literature on the challenges of climate policy dissemination (UNDP, 2019; IPCC, 2014). While some were familiar with the policy, many lacked detailed information. A 50-year-old farmer admitted, "I've heard of it, but I'm not sure what it means. It sounds essential, but we don't know anything about it." This echoes studies highlighting the gap between policy formulation and local-level implementation (World Bank, 2020). In contrast, informed participants, like a 45-year-old community leader, recognized the policy's purpose: "The policy seeks to assist us in tackling climate issues, unfortunately there is a gap in implementation at the local level." This aligns with research on the importance of effective policy implementation (FAO, 2017). However, many participants criticized the policy for neglecting rural women's specific concerns. A 38-year-old participant noted, "It appears to be more focused on large projects and infrastructure. We need

more direct help for rural women like us who engage in subsistence agriculture and gather daily supplies like water and firewood." This study fills a gap in existing literature by highlighting the disconnect between national climate policy frameworks and local realities, particularly for rural women. The findings support calls for more inclusive and gender-sensitive climate policies (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019).

The study's findings reveal that demographic characteristics, particularly age and education level, significantly influence participants' comprehension of climate change and adaptation solutions. This resonates with literature highlighting the importance of education in enhancing climate change awareness and adaptive capacity (World Bank, 2020; IPCC, 2014). Younger participants and those with advanced educational levels demonstrated a greater understanding of climate change concepts, as exemplified by a 25-year-old participant: "In school, we learnt of climate change and its consequences. It's frightening, especially in already dry places, and we need to act." In contrast, elderly individuals with limited formal education struggled with technical terminology, underscoring the need for community-based education initiatives (UNDP, 2019; FAO, 2017). This finding aligns with research emphasizing the significance of accessible climate information and education for vulnerable populations (IFAD, 2018).

4.5 Adaptation Efforts by Rural Women

Rural women in Marange are proactively employing various adaptation techniques to mitigate climate change impacts, aligning with literature on local adaptation initiatives (IPCC, 2014; UNDP, 2019). Their efforts are shaped by personal experiences with shifting weather patterns and vital roles in agriculture and household management. Many participants adopted drought-resistant

crops as a primary strategy, echoing research on climate-resilient agriculture (FAO, 2017). A 36-year-old farmer noted, "We've learnt to grow kinds that can tolerate dry seasons. This manner, regardless of whether the rains are late, we will have enough to harvest." This finding supports studies on the effectiveness of drought-tolerant crops in enhancing agricultural resilience (World Bank, 2020). Women also employed water conservation practices, such as digging trenches to collect rainwater, resonating with literature on water harvesting techniques (IFAD, 2018). A participant described, "We dug trenches surrounding our fields to collect rainwater... This benefits us in the dry season, when we require water for our crops." Community leaders reported women adopting innovative farming methods, like pfumvudza, to optimize water use.

Community collaboration emerged as a vital component of adaptation initiatives among rural women in Marange, consistent with literature emphasizing the importance of social capital in climate resilience (Tompkins et al., 2018). Many women formed organizations to share expertise and resources, fostering solidarity and collective adaptation. A 28-year-old participant highlighted the value of these networks: "We meet regularly to discuss our issues and offer ideas. If one of us discovers a new approach that works, everyone benefits." This finding resonates with research on the role of community-based initiatives in promoting climate adaptation (IFAD, 2018). Training seminars led by local NGOs further enhanced adaptation measures, addressing the knowledge gap and providing women with practical skills.

Despite their efforts to adapt to climate change, participants identified significant barriers hindering the effectiveness of their initiatives. Financial constraints emerged as a persistent problem, aligning with literature on the financial challenges facing rural communities (World Bank, 2020). A 34-year-old participant lamented, "We would like to purchase higher-quality seeds

or invest in irrigation infrastructure, but we often lack the funds to do so." Moreover, socio-cultural factors, including entrenched gender norms and religious beliefs, restricted women's decision-making power regarding land and resources. This finding resonates with research on the intersectionality of gender, culture, and climate change (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). A 39-year-old participant noted, "Even if I have good ideas, I typically have to get consent from my husband and sometimes men in my extended family before taking action." Single women faced additional challenges, including exploitative channels for accessing land. A 40-year-old single woman shared, "Single women like me even have to go through exploitative and unpleasant channels when seeking to get access to a piece of land for myself, which is typically not the case for my male counterparts." This echoes literature on the gendered dimensions of land tenure and access (FAO, 2017).

4.6 Challenges Faced in Adaptation

Despite proactive adaptation initiatives, rural women in Marange face multifaceted constraints hindering their capacity to respond effectively to climate change. These challenges encompass economic, societal, and infrastructure impediments, consistent with literature on the barriers to climate resilience (IPCC, 2014; UNDP, 2019). Restricted access to capital emerged as a critical issue, echoing research on the financial constraints facing rural communities (World Bank, 2020). A 38-year-old farmer noted, "I would like to set up a drip irrigation system to save water, but I just do not have the funds to do so." This financial limitation stifles the adoption of efficient methods that could enhance resilience. Participants also highlighted the inadequacy of NGO resources, despite their educational efforts. One participant stated, "While non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide education, their resources may not be sufficient to support everyone in the

community." This finding resonates with literature on the limitations of external support and the need for sustainable, community-led initiatives (IFAD, 2018).

Social dynamics, particularly traditional gender stereotypes and religious traditions, significantly impede rural women's climate resilience efforts. These societal norms limit women's decision-making capacity within households and communities, hindering their ability to develop and share effective adaptation strategies (UN Women, 2020). A 41-year-old participant illustrated this: "Even if I have an excellent idea about enhancing our farming or generally on adapting to climate change methods, I have to obtain approval from my husband and I cannot educate others about it at church because women are not permitted to stand in front of men." This lack of autonomy stifles creativity and inhibits women from developing innovative adaptation techniques, resonating with research on the intersectionality of gender, culture, and climate change (IUCN, 2019). Furthermore, cultural attitudes and behaviors hinder the adoption of new agricultural technologies, as noted by a 19-year-old participant: "Some people are resistive to change... They use phrases like *muromo wevakuru hauviripasi* or *kugocha kunoda kwaamai*" to assert that prior knowledge is tried and tested.

Infrastructure issues, particularly unreliable water sources, pose significant concerns for rural women's climate resilience. Many participants reported dwindling water sources, rendering irrigation systems ineffective. A 44-year-old participant noted, "We regularly have to walk long distances to collect water, resulting in time away from farming and daily household responsibilities." This finding aligns with literature on the impacts of water scarcity on agricultural productivity and women's workload (FAO, 2017). The logistical costs of water collection reduce agricultural production and limit women's ability to adapt to changing climate conditions,

resonating with research on the gendered dimensions of climate change and water management (UN Women, 2020). Limited access to reliable water sources exacerbates vulnerability to climate-related shocks.

The absence of government support and recognition of women's unique needs in climate adaptation efforts emerged as a critical barrier. A 46-year-old community leader noted, "We learn about policies and initiatives addressing climate change, but most do not consider the distinct difficulties faced by women." This finding resonates with literature on the gendered dimensions of climate policy and practice (UN Women, 2020). Participants highlighted disparities in the distribution of resources, with vulnerable populations, such as disabled women and widows, facing discrimination. A 30-year-old participant stated, "We thank some of the input schemes, but vulnerable populations... face discrimination in their distribution." This policy-reality gap underscores the need for inclusive approaches addressing rural women's unique vulnerabilities.

While rural women in Marange show remarkable endurance and resourcefulness in their adaptation attempts, they confront significant obstacles that demand immediate attention. Addressing financial restrictions, increasing access to high-quality agricultural inputs, empowering women's decision-making, and upgrading infrastructure are critical steps toward supporting their adaptation plans. This knowledge of the difficulties sets the context for exploring the link between these concerns and the National Climate Change Policy in the subsequent sections.

4.7 Interaction Between Challenges and Policy

The interplay of the issues encountered by rural women in Marange with the National Climate Change Policy reveals critical insights into the effectiveness and responsiveness of current frameworks. Consistent with existing literature highlighting the gendered dimensions of climate policy (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019), participants identified numerous areas where the policy fails to address or inadequately responds to women's unique needs and challenges. This finding resonates with common themes in the literature, including the marginalization of rural women's voices (Terry, 2014; Nelson et al., 2015) and the dominance of top-down approaches (Adger et al., 2013). Notably, participants emphasized the misalignment between policy aims and reality, echoing concerns raised by scholars about the disconnect between policy intentions and implementation (Nelson et al., 2015). Many women expressed displeasure that the National Climate Change Policy frequently focuses on large-scale programs without considering rural women's particular situations. A 39-year-old participant commented, "The strategy appears to favor large farms and business interests. We need to pay greater attention to subsistence farmers and regular societies like ourselves." This sentiment aligns with literature emphasizing the importance of context-specific solutions (IPCC, 2014) and the need for climate policies to prioritize local knowledge and perspectives (Ford et al., 2016). By exploring the intersections between rural women's experiences and climate policy, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding climate adaptation and gender in Zimbabwe.

Furthermore, participants highlighted a critical omission in the National Climate Change Policy, noting the lack of specific measures to strengthen women's roles in agriculture. A 34-year-old farmer emphasized, "There are no specific provisions to support us as women. We need training

and materials that are easily available and targeted to our specific requirements." This finding aligns with literature stressing the importance of gender-sensitive climate policies (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019) and the critical role women play in climate change adaptation (IPCC, 2014). Research has shown that empowering women in agriculture can enhance climate resilience (Terry, 2014; Nelson et al., 2015). The absence of targeted support mechanisms in the policy framework underscores a fundamental gap, as women's participation and empowerment are essential for effective climate adaptation (Adger et al., 2013; Ford et al., 2016).

The bureaucratic nature of policy execution, particularly on the institutional side, posed a significant barrier to assistance for rural women in Marange. Many interviewees described a convoluted and often inaccessible mechanism for seeking help, resonating with literature on the challenges of policy implementation (Lipsky, 2010; Hupe, 2014). A 42-year-old woman noted, "We hear about programs that may benefit us, but when we try to utilize them, the process becomes excessively complicated." This complexity may deter women from seeking essential support, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. Participants emphasized the need for enhanced community engagement in policy and program design, echoing calls for inclusive and participatory approaches (Cornwall, 2008; Gaventa, 2006). A 45-year-old community leader stressed, "Policies and programmes should be based on our experiences. We understand what works and what doesn't, but we aren't always involved in these discussions." This underscores the critical importance of inclusion, incorporating rural women's perspectives and experiences to ensure their needs are met.

The disconnect between Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy and local adaptation efforts is compounded by a significant knowledge gap, with rural women lacking awareness and education about the policy's provisions. This finding aligns with literature highlighting the

importance of climate change awareness and education (UNFCCC, 2015; IPCC, 2014). Many participants admitted to knowing little or nothing about the policy's benefits or how to access them. A 40-year-old participant noted, "I've heard about the policy, but I'm not sure how it will assist me. We need more information." This information deficit underscores the critical need for targeted outreach and educational initiatives to inform rural populations about available support mechanisms and empower them to leverage policy provisions.

As a result, the interplay between rural women's issues with the National Climate Change Policy indicates important gaps in meeting their requirements. The policy's emphasis on large-scale projects, absence of gender-specific measures, bureaucratic hurdles, and insufficient community participation all contribute to a gap that impedes successful adaptation efforts. Addressing these concerns is critical to developing a more responsive and inclusive policy framework that empower rural women and strengthens their resilience to climate change. This research lays the framework for evaluating the effect of the National Climate Change Policy in the next sections.

4.8 Effect of the National Climate Change Policy on Rural Women

The impact of Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) on rural women in Marange has yielded mixed responses, revealing both positive and negative aspects. While many women demonstrated awareness of the policy's existence and objectives to mitigate climate change, a significant majority reported minimal tangible effects on their daily lives. This disconnect echoes literature on the gaps between climate policy intentions and local-level implementation (Ford et al., 2016). A participant succinctly captured this sentiment, stating, "We hear about the policy, but

it feels faraway from our reality. It hasn't changed anything for us." This perceived disconnect underscores the need for policy evaluations to prioritize local perspectives and experiences.

Participants highlighted a striking disconnect between Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) objectives and local implementation, echoing concerns raised in the literature on climate policy gaps (Ford et al., 2016). While the NCCP sets targets for enhancing resilience and promoting gender equality, local execution often lacks clarity and resources. Rural women expressed frustration that policy intentions fail to translate into tangible initiatives benefiting them directly. A responder succinctly captured this sentiment, stating, "They speak about supporting women adapt to climate change, but we cannot see any programs which reach us directly." This disparity underscores a significant policy-practice gap, leaving many women feeling abandoned in their adaptation efforts and underscoring the need for inclusive, community-driven initiatives.

Women's concerns about exclusion from decision-making processes in climate adaptation initiatives resonate with existing literature highlighting the importance of inclusive participation. Research has consistently shown that rural women's perspectives are often marginalized in policy debates (Terry, 2014; Nelson et al., 2015). One attendee emphasized, "We need to be part of these discussions; our experiences matter," echoing the sentiments of scholars advocating for gender-sensitive climate policies (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). This underscores a broader issue of rural women's exclusion from policy debates and the necessity of incorporating their perspectives in climate-related decisions. Despite the National Climate Change Policy's (NCCP) potential to address climate change and empower rural women, its implementation falls short of its full potential. This finding aligns with literature on policy-practice gaps in climate adaptation (Ford et al., 2016).

4.9 Assessment of Policy Relevance and Effectiveness

Analysis of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) revealed a nuanced assessment from participants, highlighting both strengths and weaknesses through the lens of their experiences. While acknowledging the NCCP's potential as a climate change framework, rural women identified significant deficiencies limiting its effectiveness, echoing literature on policy-practice gaps (Adger et al., 2013; Ford et al., 2016). A prevalent concern was the policy's failure to address rural women's unique needs, resonating with research on gendered climate policy (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). One participant succinctly captured this sentiment: "The policy is supposed to help us, but it frequently appears like it was created without us in mind." This underscores a fundamental disconnect between policy objectives and rural women's realities. Participants noted that, despite NCCP's gender provisions, they often lack specificity and effective initiatives, aligning with critiques of tokenistic gender mainstreaming. This highlights the need for inclusive policy design and implementation.

Participants acknowledged the National Climate Change Policy's (NCCP) training programs for sustainable agriculture methods as a valuable component, aligning with literature on climate-resilient agriculture (IPCC, 2014; UNFCCC, 2015). However, they also highlighted limitations in accessibility and availability, echoing concerns on unequal distribution of benefits (Ford et al., 2016). A participant noted, "The workshops we participated in taught us about climate-resilient farming techniques, which proved to be helpful," but others reported that such training opportunities were scarce and inconsistently available, with family obligations and transportation issues hindering participation. Furthermore, the policy's prioritization of agriculture over basic survival needs was criticized. One participant stated, "Sometimes, only a few of us can attend due

to family obligations or transportation issues," underscoring the variability in access that undermines the NCCP's effectiveness, leaving many women without necessary support. Research has shown that climate policies must address intersectional vulnerabilities (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019), highlighting the need for inclusive policy design and implementation.

To that end, participants acknowledged the value of the NCCP as a guiding text for climate adaptation, but they stressed its limited usefulness in reality. The disparity between policy goals and the realities experienced by rural women in Marange highlights the need for more focused and accessible efforts that address their specific issues. The request for continuous assistance, financial resources, and active participation in decision-making processes highlights the critical need for a broader approach to policy implementation.

4.10 Successes and Shortcomings in Addressing Women's Needs

The evaluation of the National Climate Change Policy's (NCCP) effectiveness in addressing the needs of rural women in Marange reveals a complex landscape of experiences, characterized by both accomplishments and shortcomings. While participants acknowledged some successes, they predominantly highlighted substantial gaps hindering successful adaptation efforts. Notably, women credited NCCP-related initiatives with improving their farming practices, such as training sessions on sustainable agriculture (Chiweshe, 2022). These sessions were consistently cited as valuable, with one participant remarking, "These sessions taught us how to control pests and enhance our land. We've noticed a change in our produce." This illustrates the potential of well-implemented initiatives to significantly enhance women's livelihoods and food security, aligning with literature on climate-resilient agriculture (IPCC, 2014; UNFCCC, 2015). However, the

prevalence of gaps in policy implementation underscores the need for comprehensive evaluation and improvement.

Despite notable gains, the irregularity and sustainability of National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) projects raised concerns among participants, echoing literature on the importance of consistent support (Matsa, 2017). Many expressed frustration with the sporadic nature of training opportunities, highlighting the need for continuity. As one participant noted, "We may do a session in three days and then nothing for months. We need regular training to keep improving." This inconsistency undermines the NCCP's potential benefits by depriving women of ongoing learning opportunities to reinforce and expand their knowledge, ultimately hindering long-term adaptation and resilience (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). The intermittent nature of training also perpetuates a cycle of knowledge gaps, as women struggle to retain and apply skills without regular reinforcement.

Participants identified significant resource accessibility issues, highlighting a critical gap in the National Climate Change Policy's (NCCP) implementation. Despite initiatives focused on skill development, women emphasized the policy's failure to address financial barriers (Chiweshe, 2022). A participant succinctly captured this concern: "Learning is great, but without funds to buy inputs like seeds, equipment, or irrigation systems, we can't put what we've learned into practice." This underscores a fundamental disconnect between policy objectives and rural women's realities, echoing literature on climate finance and gender (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). The NCCP's emphasis on education and awareness is insufficient without accompanying financial support, leaving women unable to translate knowledge into adaptive actions.

4.11 Community Initiatives and Responses

In Marange, community-led initiatives have emerged as vital climate change solutions, showcasing rural women's resilience and adaptability. Participants highlighted various grassroots projects complementing the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), demonstrating how local actions can effectively address climate concerns despite regulatory limitations. Women consistently emphasized the importance of cooperative organizations, such as mukando groups, where members pool resources, share knowledge, and collaborate on agricultural and household initiatives (Kupika & Nhamo, 2017). One participant noted, "Working together in mukando groups, where we make monthly financial contributions, has made us stronger... We know that at the end of the year or planting season, we may acquire food supplies, seeds, equipment, and ideas to share, allowing us all to adapt better." This solidarity not only enhances climate resilience but also fosters a supportive network empowering women, aligning with literature on community-based adaptation (CBAD) and women's collective action (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019).

Participants' experiences with community gardens and seed banks align with literature highlighting the benefits of community-led initiatives for food security and environmentally friendly farming practices (UN Women, 2020; IUCN, 2019). These efforts demonstrate the dual advantage of addressing immediate food needs while fostering long-term knowledge sharing and innovation, consistent with community-based adaptation (CBAD) frameworks (Ford et al., 2016). A participant noted, "Our community garden has not only given food, but it has also served as a space for learning and experimentation. We try growing various crops together." However, despite these accomplishments, participants identified significant challenges in sustaining these projects, primarily due to limited access to external funding and resources. This echoes literature

emphasizing the importance of financial support for community-led initiatives (IUCN, 2019). Notably, participants' experiences highlight a critical gap where community commitment and collaboration are insufficient to overcome financial constraints, hindering program growth and sustainability. As one participant stated, "We have great ideas, however without financial support, it's hard to make them happen." This underscores the need for sustainable funding models and resource mobilization strategies to support community-led initiatives.

Attendees stressed the need for enhanced coordination among municipal, NGO, and government activities to effectively support community-led climate adaptation initiatives. This echoes literature highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and institutional support for grassroots movements (UNDP, 2019; IPCC, 2014). Many women felt that their efforts were often overlooked by officials, underscoring the need for greater recognition and understanding of community-driven initiatives. As one participant noted, "We need the government to notice us and support what we're doing. Our local initiatives can make a great difference if they get more support." Another participant added, "Some government programs compete with NGO activities, affecting program meeting scheduling since government programs take precedence." This highlights the challenges of fragmented governance and competing priorities (Ford et al., 2016). Effective climate adaptation requires fostering mutual collaboration across community, NGO, and national initiatives to develop a comprehensive strategy.

In summary, community activities in Marange are an important reaction to climate change, demonstrating the potential of collective action among rural women. While these efforts indicate resilience and ingenuity, the limitations of resource availability and coordination with government

assistance emphasize the need for a more integrated strategy that recognises and amplifies local initiatives within the context of the National Climate Change Policy.

4.13 Summary

The study findings from semi-structured interviews were reported in Chapter 4. The study's findings were presented with a focus on the research questions mentioned in chapter one. The study aimed to collect data from 40 community members and officials in Marange in assessing the adequacy of the national climate change policy on rural women adaptation in Marange. Policymakers ought to actively incorporate gender perspectives into climate strategies, ensuring rural women's voices are central to the adaptation narrative. Ongoing assessment and revision of policies are essential to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing the dynamic challenges posed by climate change for vulnerable populations in Marange. This approach will not only empower rural women but also enhance the overall resilience of their communities in the face of climate change.

CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

In the time of climate change in Zimbabwe, the research study aims to assess the adequacy of the National climate change policy on rural women adaptation efforts. The fifth chapter summarizes the research study, draws inferences from the major research results, and gives policy suggestions.

5.2 Summary

This study focused on evaluating the adequacy of the National climate change policy on adaptation efforts of rural women. Climate change most significant effects on rural women have been identified as widening inequalities and the inability of the most disadvantaged communities in their adaptation efforts.

The study was necessary because the findings are critical for policymakers to develop comprehensive intervention methods that promote gender sensitive and inclusive policies. Due to the fact that variety of research studies have been conducted in the past, none of them have concentrated specifically on the adequacy of the national climate change policy on climate adaptation efforts of women in Marange a rural community. In order to give a meaningful and substantial explanation for this research, Chapter 1 also stated three research objectives and three research questions that guided this study as follows; How relevant and effective is the National Climate Change Policy in addressing rural women's climate change induced challenges in Zimbabwe?, To what extent has the Policy framework responded to the challenges of rural women in Marange?, To what extent are rural women in Marange involved in the implementation of the

policy?. The study's parameters were that it was conducted in Marange (Mutare rural), Zimbabwe's Manicaland Province, and that it featured three officials inclusive of two community leaders and one member of the civil society and 37 villagers.

The researcher looked at a review of linked literature to the research investigation in chapter two. The literature highlights the disproportionate vulnerability of African women to climate change, exacerbated by existing gender inequalities. Rural women's livelihoods, health, and well-being are severely affected by climate-related disruptions to agriculture, water, and natural resources. Despite their critical roles in adaptation and mitigation, women's voices are often marginalized in climate decision-making. Studies emphasize the need for inclusive, gender-responsive policies and practices that address gender-based inequalities and promote climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods. Context-specific research and effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policies remain critical gaps in the literature. However, studies involving policy frameworks like the national climate change policy and how they adequately address the adaptation efforts of rural women in Marange are scarce, necessitating this research.

Chapter three of this research paper highlights the research methods utilized to address the research questions mentioned in chapter one of this study. This study employed a method of qualitative research. A case study was employed as an investigative strategy, which is a means for narrowing down a very broad topic of inquiry into one or a few easily researchable cases. In Chapter 3, the researcher defined the study population, which comprised both community people and authorities who lived or worked in Marange. The study had a sample size of three officials and 37 community members. Document analysis and semi-structured interviews were utilized to collect data.

In Chapter 3, the researcher discussed data analysis and organization, as well as the ethical factors that influenced this study. Furthermore, safety precautions were made to safeguard participants and follow proper ethical procedures prior to, during, and after the study. Before undertaking the study, the researcher also reached an agreement with each participant by having them sign a permission letter.

The presentation, analysis, and interpretation of data were the emphasis of chapter four. In chapter four, the researcher reported the demographic data of the respondents. Three officials from which comprise of 2 community leaders and 1 member of the civil society, participated in the study, two of whom were men and one of whom was female, and thirty-seven community members, twenty-two of whom were females and fifteen of whom were males. Among the other results, policy's broad focus on agricultural projects, often prioritizing large-scale initiatives and commercial farming over the vulnerable livelihoods of those in rural areas. This emphasis neglects the specific, localized struggles of rural women who rely on subsistence farming and other informal economic activities to support their families. Also, while agricultural development is important, the research found that this top-down approach to climate adaptation overlooks the more pressing needs of rural women, whose livelihoods are more immediately and severely affected by climate change.

5.3 Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to evaluate Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy, in particular its effect on rural women's adaptation efforts in Marange. The findings show that, while the community is becoming more aware of climate change, the current policy framework falls short of adequately addressing the unique challenges faced by rural women.

A major concern cited is the policy's extensive emphasis on agricultural projects, which frequently prioritizes large-scale efforts and commercial farming above the fragile livelihoods of rural residents. This emphasis ignores the unique, localized problems of rural women who count on subsistence farming and other informal economic pursuits to provide for their family. While agricultural growth is crucial, the study discovered that this top-down approach to climate adaptation ignores the more pressing needs of rural women, whose livelihoods are more directly and severely affected by climate change.

Many participants voiced dissatisfaction with national policy, as it focuses on broad agricultural interventions such as irrigation systems and crop diversification but frequently fails to reach the most disadvantaged populations. One participant stated, that they do not have access to some of the resources mentioned in the policy. Big undertakings are ineffective when we can't even raise enough food." This is a substantial gap between the policy's objectives and the realities on the ground for rural women in Marange.

The study also found that rural women are disproportionately affected by climate change owing to restricted access to resources such as water, education, and technology. These women are especially susceptible to climate change, which undermines their capacity to sustain food security and livelihoods. However, the National Climate Change Policy fails to adequately address these micro-level difficulties, leaving many rural women unsupported and disadvantaged in adaptation efforts.

In conclusion, the findings highlight that the policy's broad agricultural focus does not compensate for the unique and pressing needs of rural women, whose lives and livelihoods are directly

threatened by the consequences of climate change. There is an urgent need for policymakers to take a more inclusive and localized strategy that identifies and tackles rural women's vulnerabilities, primarily those involved in small-scale agricultural and informal economic activity. Without focused measures, the gap between policy and practice will continue to increase, leaving the most affected groups more vulnerable to climate hazards.

5.4 Implications

This research focuses on Marange's rural women, but comparable difficulties are likely encountered by rural women throughout Zimbabwe and abroad. Future study ought to investigate into comparative studies across areas to uncover patterns and specific problems in rural women's adaptation efforts. Furthermore, more in-depth study on specific resource shortfalls, such as access to technology and financial resources, might help policymakers tailor their interventions. As a result, a more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and community-driven strategy for climate policy is essential for increasing rural women's resilience to climate change. These measures will not only address current policy gaps, but will also enable rural women to assume a more active role in defining their futures in the face of climate change.

5.5 Recommendations

The recommendations in line with the research objectives is presented below.

1. Promote Community-Based Adaptation Strategies

The government should promote home grown adaptation strategies. This can be achieved by incorporating locally used adaptation knowledge, merging it with scientific knowledge to produce context specific adaptation strategies and avoid generalization of adaptation strategies.

2. Government partnerships with Civil Society and development partners

The local government authorities both at provincial and district level should strengthen collaboration with civil society groups and development partners to breach the gap of financing climate adaptation efforts for rural women in Marange. These alliances may provide complement government efforts on climate change adaptation.

3. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Implementation

Regular evaluations of the National Climate Change Policy are required to ensure that it stays adaptive to the changing patterns of climate change and the needs of vulnerable communities, notably rural women. This will help policymakers discover gaps and alter tactics to increase effectiveness.

4. Incorporate Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Policy

Policymakers ought to make sure that climate change measures are gender-sensitive and address the particular problems that rural women face. This can be achieved through gender consultations in policy creation. This necessitates a conscious attention on the lived realities of women, particularly in rural regions like Marange, in order to ensure that their distinct needs are met.

5. Strengthen Resource Allocation and Support Mechanisms

There is an essential need to improve rural women's access to resources such as financial assistance, technology, and education, which are critical for successful adaptation to climate change. Government and development partners should emphasize the implementation of support structures that directly address the risks faced by rural women.

5.6 Suggestions for further research

This study lays the foundation for future research on gender, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity in the wake of climate change in Africa, including investigations into intersectional dynamics, gender-sensitive climate policies, the effects of climate change on women's mental health and livelihoods, men's roles in supporting women's climate resilience, and context-specific adaptation strategies.

Furthermore, successful climate change adaptation strategies must take into account gender-specific aspects of vulnerability and resilience. Furthermore, policymakers and practitioners may aim to strengthen each of the components examined in this study, including climate change education and awareness initiatives, transformational masculinities, and inclusive policy frameworks. Whatever the case, establishing climate-resilient and gender-equal communities in Africa remains a critical issue that must be tackled.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Informed Consent Form

My name is **Albert Chiveza**, a final year (Human Rights, Peace and Development) student from school of Law. I am carrying out a study on Assessing the adequacy of the National Climate Change Policy on rural women adaptation in Marange. I am kindly asking you to participate in this study by answering/filling in.....

Purpose of the study:

The purpose of the study is of this study is to investigate the adequacy and effectiveness of Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Policy in addressing the unique challenges faced by rural women in adapting to climate change with the aim of identifying options for non-static, gender-responsive actions to enhance adaptive actions that respond to the well-being and livelihoods of rural women. You were selected for the study because of your experiences, perspectives, and expertise related to climate change adaptation in Zimbabwe.

Procedures and duration

If you decide to participate you will be interviewed. It is expected that this will take about 30 minutes.

Risks and discomforts

Participants in this study may experience the following potential risks, discomforts, or harms:

- Traumatization by discussing personal experiences.

Benefits and/or compensation

This study offers numerous benefits to both participants and the community, including the opportunity for participants to share their experiences and perspectives, contribute to effective adaptation strategies, and gain increased awareness of climate change effects. The community will benefit from an improved understanding of climate change effects on rural women's adaptation efforts, development of context-specific adaptation strategies and policies, enhanced capacity for climate change adaptation and resilience, and contribution to the global body of knowledge on climate change adaptation and gender, ultimately leading to improved livelihoods and well-being through effective adaptation strategies.

Confidentiality

Any information that is obtained in the study that can be identified with the participant will not be disclosed without their permission. To maintain confidentiality and privacy, the following measures will be taken:

- Participants' names will be replaced with pseudonyms in all data records and transcripts.
- Data will be stored on password-protected computers and encrypted external hard drives.
- Only the researcher will have access to the data.
- Participants' identities will not be disclosed in any reports or publications.
- Data will be destroyed after the study is completed and all requirements for data retention have been met

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. If participant decides not to participate in this study, their decision will not affect their future relationship with(participant's organisation or other

authority) If they chose to participate, they are free to withdraw their consent and to discontinue participation without penalty.

Offer to answer questions

Before you sign this form, please ask any questions on any aspect of this study that is unclear to you. You may take as much time as necessary to think it over.

Authorisation

If you have decided to participate in this study, please sign this form in the space provide below as an indication that you have read and understood the information provided above and have agreed to participate.

Name of Research Participant (please print)	Date
---	------

Signature of Research Participant or legally authorised representative

If you have any questions concerning this study or consent form beyond those answered by the researcher including questions about the research, your rights as a research participant, or if you feel that you have been treated unfairly and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher, please feel free to contact the Africa University Research Ethics Committee on telephone (020) 60075 or 60026 extension 2156 email aurec@africau.edu

Name of Researcher Albert Chiveza

Appendix 2: Interview Guide

Questions

1. What is your age?
2. What is your highest level of education?
3. What is your role in the community?
4. In your own words define climate change?
5. What do you understand by Climate Change Adaptation?
6. What do you understand by National Climate Change Policy?
7. What are the adaptation efforts women in Marange take towards Climate Change?
8. What are the challenges that women in Marange face during the Climate Change Adaptation efforts?
9. Is there a correlation between their climate change adaptation efforts challenges and the National Climate Change Policy?
10. In what ways do you think rural women's adaptation efforts are affected by the National Climate Change Policy?
11. In what ways do you think the implementation of National Climate Change Policy has been successful in terms of roles and responsibilities of responsible entities?
12. Do you think the National Climate Change Policy has addressed the specific needs and vulnerabilities of rural women?

13. What has the Marange community done or plans to do to deal with these climate change adaptation challenges being faced by rural women?

Appendix 3: Research Authorization Mutare Rural District Council



All Communications to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer

MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEAD OFFICE
Cnr. 'C' Avenue & Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 604
MUTARE
Tel: 020 - 61587/64737
Fax: 020 69125
admin@mutarerdc.org

SUBOFFICE
Box 958
Zimunya Township
MUTARE

Workshop

REF: XC/157/13

9 September 2024

Chiveza Albert
Africa University

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CARRYOUT RESEARCH PROJECT IN MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

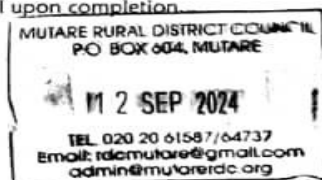
Reference is made to your letter seeking authority to carryout a research in our Council titled 'Rural Women's Adaptation to Climate Change in Marange'.

We hereby grant you permission to undertake your research in our District under the following conditions:

1. You shall abide by the requirements of the Official Secrecy Act during the course of your research.
2. Information gathered shall be used for academic purposes only.
3. You shall avail a copy of your research to Council upon completion.

Yours faithfully

S.D. CHINAKA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



I Chiveza Albert student number 230440 do accept to carry out my research in Mutare District under the above conditions.

Signed:
(Chiveza Albert)
Cell: 0718 252 699

Date: 12/09/24

Appendix 4: Research Clearance – AUREC



AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (AUREC)

P.O. Box 1320 Mutare, Zimbabwe, Off Nyanga Road, Old Mutare-Tel (+263-20) 60075/60026/61611 Fax: (+263 20) 61785 Website: www.africanu.edu

Ref: AU 3461/24

4 October, 2024

ALBERT PASCAL CHIVEZA

C/O Africa University

Box 1320

MUTARE

RE: ASSESSING THE ADEQUACY OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY ON RURAL WOMEN ADAPTATION IN MARANGE

Thank you for the above-titled proposal that you submitted to the Africa University Research Ethics Committee for review. Please be advised that AUREC has reviewed and approved your application to conduct the above research.

The approval is based on the following.

a) Research proposal

- **APPROVAL NUMBER** AUREC 3461/24
This number should be used on all correspondences, consent forms, and appropriate document
- **AUREC MEETING DATE** NA
- **APPROVAL DATE** October 4, 2024
- **EXPIRATION DATE** October 4, 2025
- **TYPE OF MEETING:** Expedited
After the expiration date, this research may only continue upon renewal. A progress report on a standard AUREC form should be submitted a month before the expiration date for renewal purposes.
- **SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENTS** All serious problems concerning subject safety must be reported to AUREC within 3 working days on the standard AUREC form.
- **MODIFICATIONS** Prior AUREC approval is required before implementing any changes in the proposal (including changes in the consent documents)
- **TERMINATION OF STUDY** Upon termination of the study a report has to be submitted to AUREC.



Yours Faithfully

Mary Chinzou

MARY CHINZOU

ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER: FOR CHAIRPERSON
AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE