



Climate Change's Gendered Impact on Fisher Folk Livelihoods: Evidence from Nigeria and Cameroon

By

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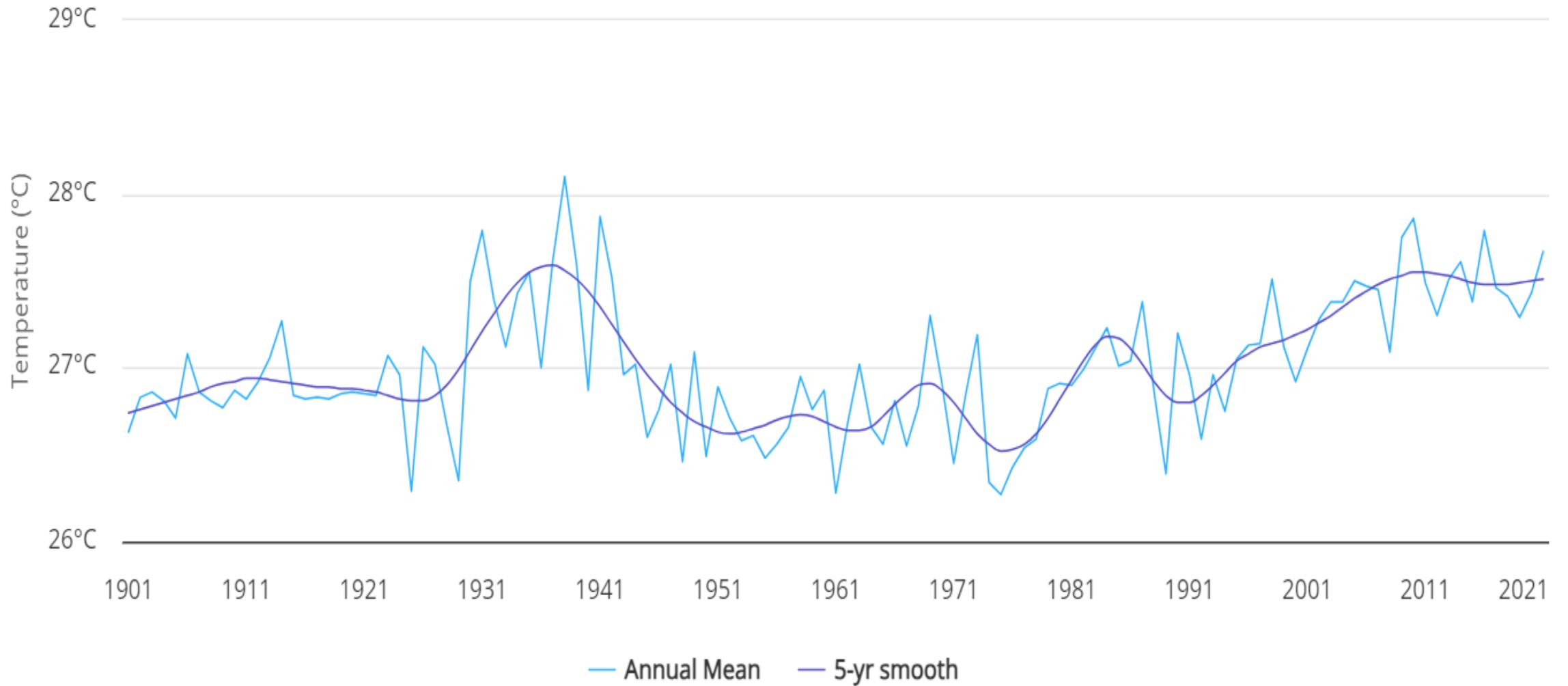
GAF 9 Conference, Bogkok Thailand.

October, 2025

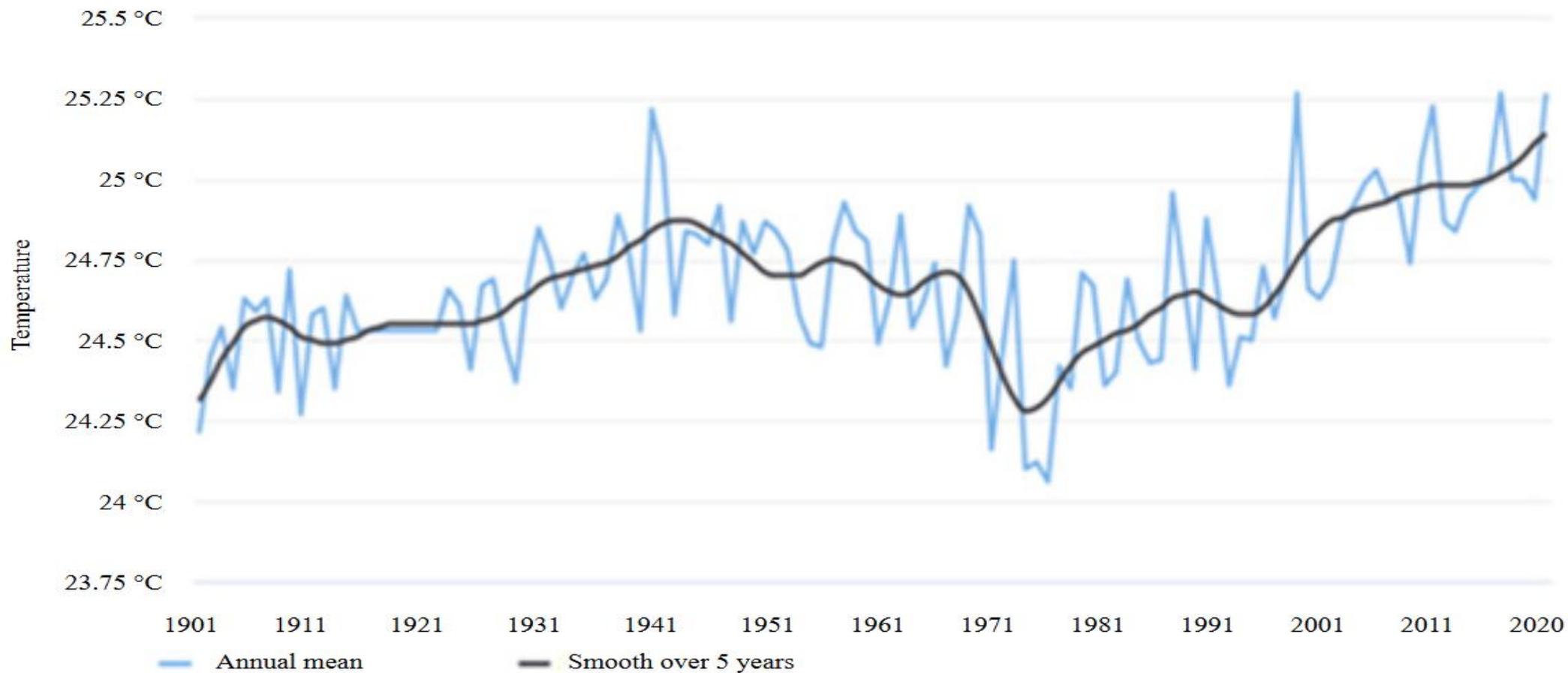


Climate change vulnerabilities are widely considered the most pressing *challenges* affecting small-scale fisheries in Africa (Barange *et al.*, 2009).

Observed Average Annual Mean-Temperature of Nigeria for 1901-2021



Average annual mean temperature of Cameroon observed from 1901 to 2020





The continent struggles with limited capacity to address and adapt to climate stressors, including erratic rainfall, extreme heat, flooding, rising sea levels, and overexploitation of fisheries resources (Belhabib *et al.*, 2016).



We seek to understand how fishers and women fisherfolk in these communities perceive, respond to, and adapt to various climatic stressors.



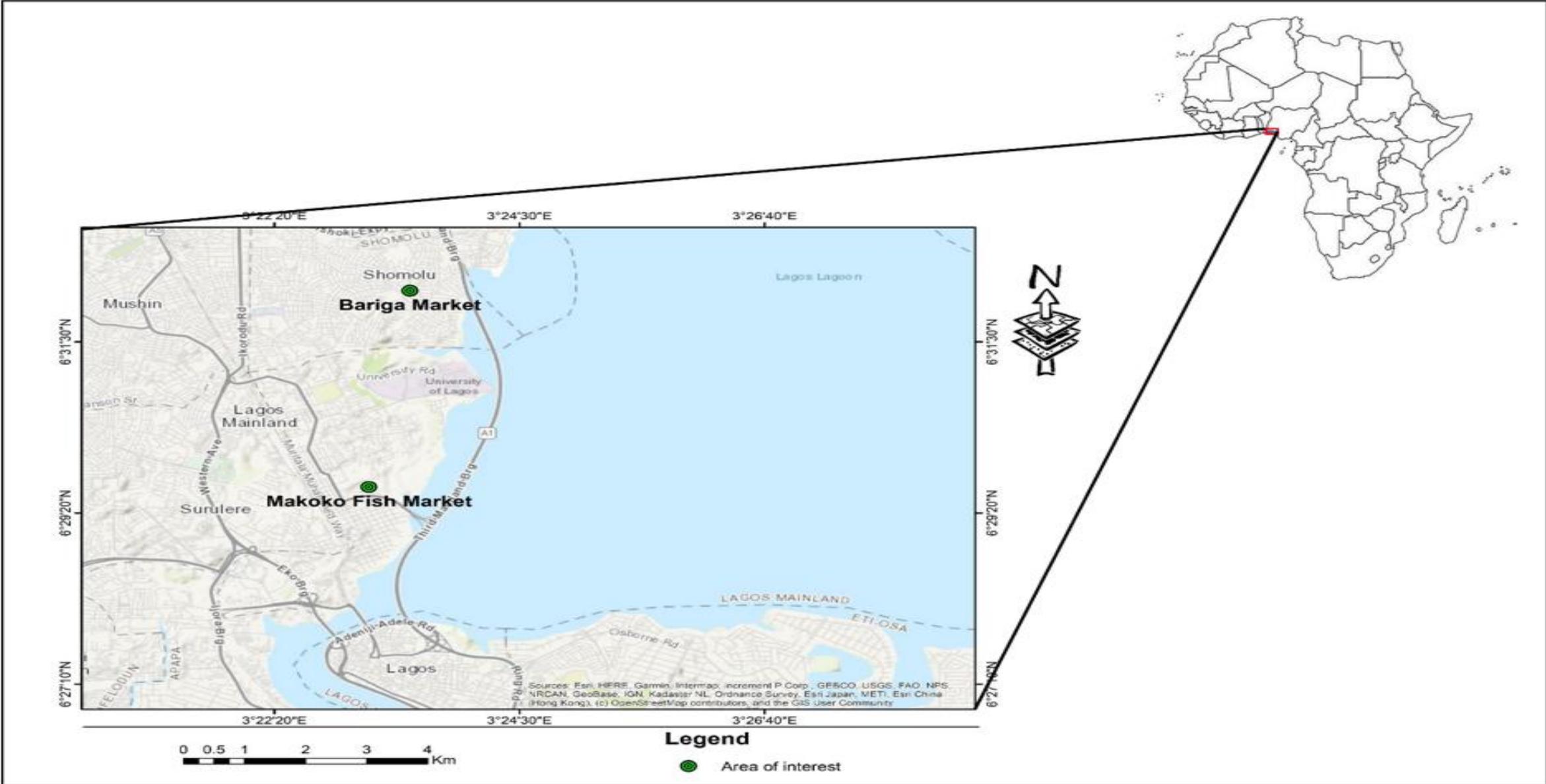
The notion of vulnerability stems from research in hazards, disasters reduction, and understanding food security, poverty, and the sustainability of livelihoods (Cinner et al., 2018).

Study Areas

Limbe fishing community



MAKOKO Fishing Community





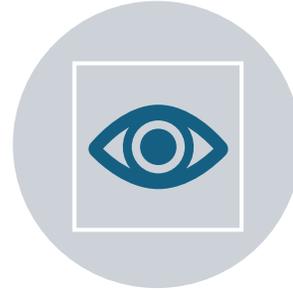
Most fishers and women fisher folk in these areas are uneducated, unemployed, and living in abject poverty (Lawanson et al., 2023; Beseng, 2021). Access to basic amenities like water, healthcare, and housing has become unattainable due to poverty (Beseng, 2021; Oloko et al., 2023).

Methods

quantitative and qualitative approaches:



Unstructured interviews
participatory storytelling



Observations

secondary data

administrative records



Journals
consultants



Focus Group Discussions
key informant interviews

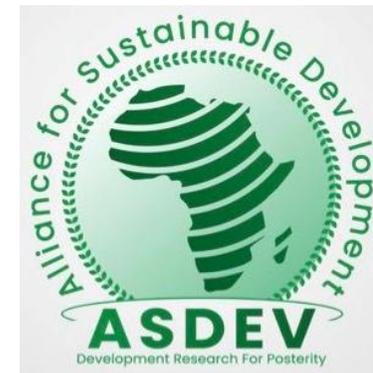


What is the impact of these climate change stressors on sustainability and resilience of fisherfolk?



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These climatic stressors include sea-level rise, coastal erosion, unpredictable weather patterns, fisheries depletion, health risks such as heat stroke and respiratory illness (Lawanson et al., 2023; Nyiawung et al., 2023).

Gender-specific effects of climate-related hazards

- **Maternal malnutrition**
- **Gender-based violence,**
- **Loss of life**
- **Harmful practices like child marriage in fishing communities**
- **Human displacement**





These challenges have a direct impact on the livelihoods of many fishery-dependent households through a decline in fish harvested, which has resulted in the inability to meet local fish demand, food security and livelihood sustainability, especially for women fisherfolk (The New Humanitarian, 2022; Nyiawung et al., 2023)



As climate change pushes fish further from their natural ecosystem, fishers who previously relied on aquatic resources may turn to IUU activities for food and livelihood (Barange et al.,2018).

Recommendations

- There is a pressing need to enhance gender mainstreaming efforts across various sectors responsible for climate change adaptation and disaster management (ECLAC 2019, p. 25).
- Legal reforms must enforce anti-discrimination laws and institutionalize gender quotas in climate planning institutions.



Thank you for your attention!

