



uOttawa

Empowering Local Climate
Solutions: Engaging Civil Society and
the Private Sector

Worldwide Climate and Justice
Education Week

African Climate Justice and
Education Week

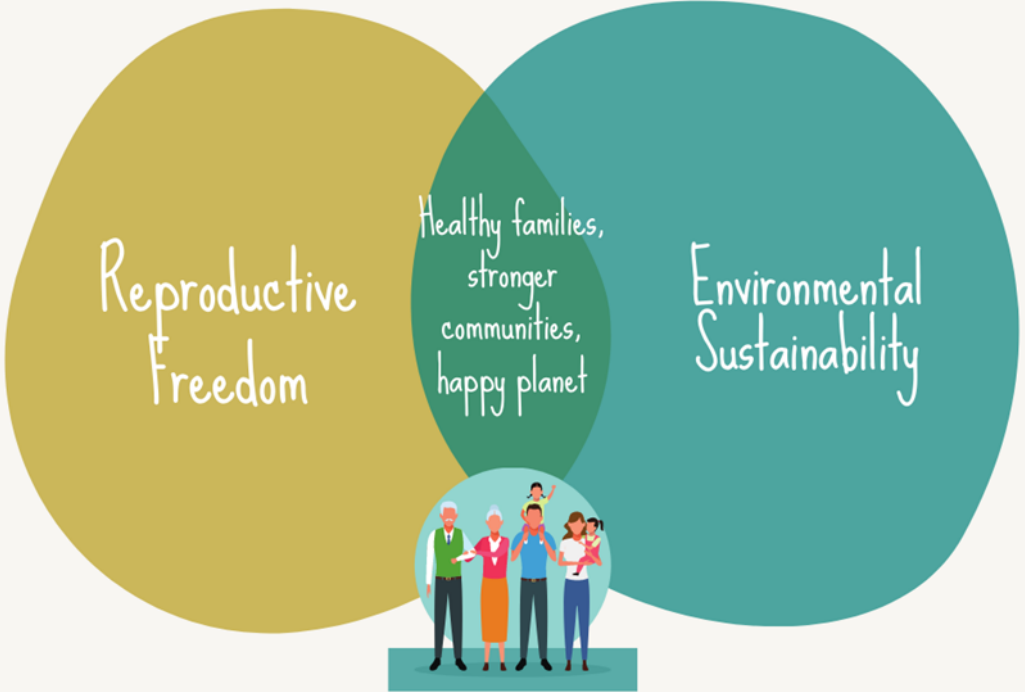
Céline Delacroix, PhD
FP/Earth Project Director and Senior Fellow, the
Population Institute
Adjunct Professor, The University of Ottawa
Email: fpearthproject@gmail.com

www.fpearth.org

Reproductive rights and environmental sustainability

fpearthproject@gmail.com

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM - THE RIGHT AND CAPACITY OF PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHILDBEARING DECISIONS - IS CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.



LEARN MORE AT FP/EARTH, A NEW PROJECT OF THE POPULATION INSTITUTE.
WWW.FPEARTH.ORG



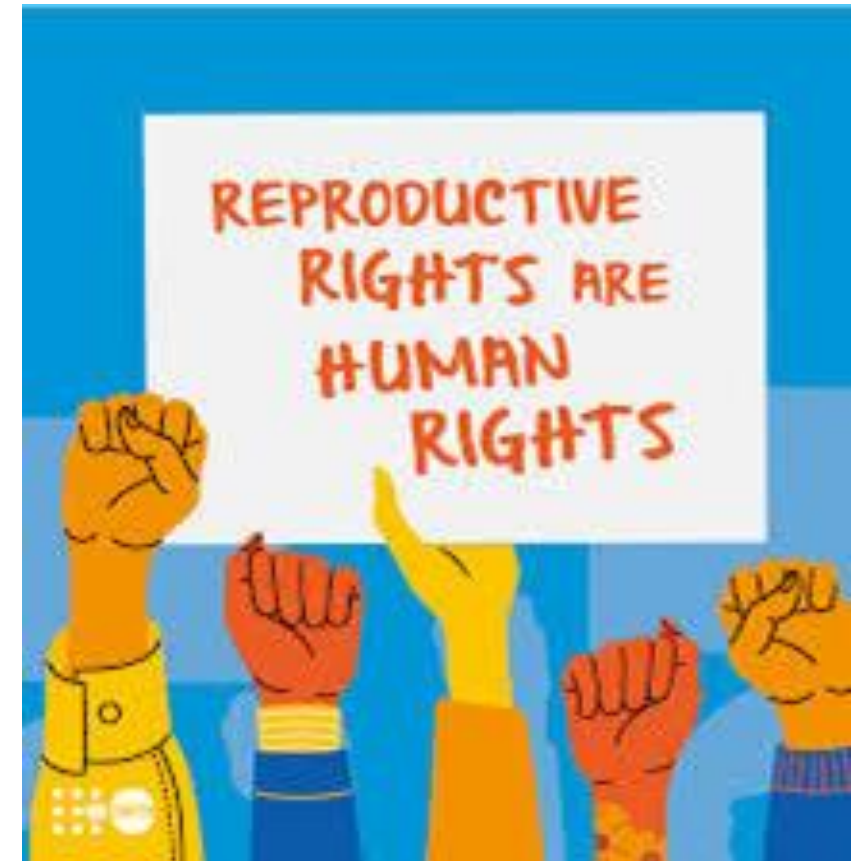
Reproductive Rights

Reproductive rights are *human rights*

“All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so” (ICPD Programme of Action, 1994)

Under acknowledged, under-funded, under threat

Reproductive rights statistics: 121 million pregnancies are unintended/ 257 million women have an unmet need for family planning



Population dynamics and environmental degradation



- Population growth and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita are the strongest drivers of CO2 emissions

Shukla, P. R., Skea, J., Slade, R., Al Khourdajie, R., van Diemen, R., McCollum, D., Pathak, M., Some, S., Vyas, P., Fradera, R., Belkacemi, M., Hasija, A., Lisboa, G., Luz, S., & Malley, J. (2022). IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

- Slowing population growth in the long run will contribute to achieving the required transformative change to address climate change and environmental degradation

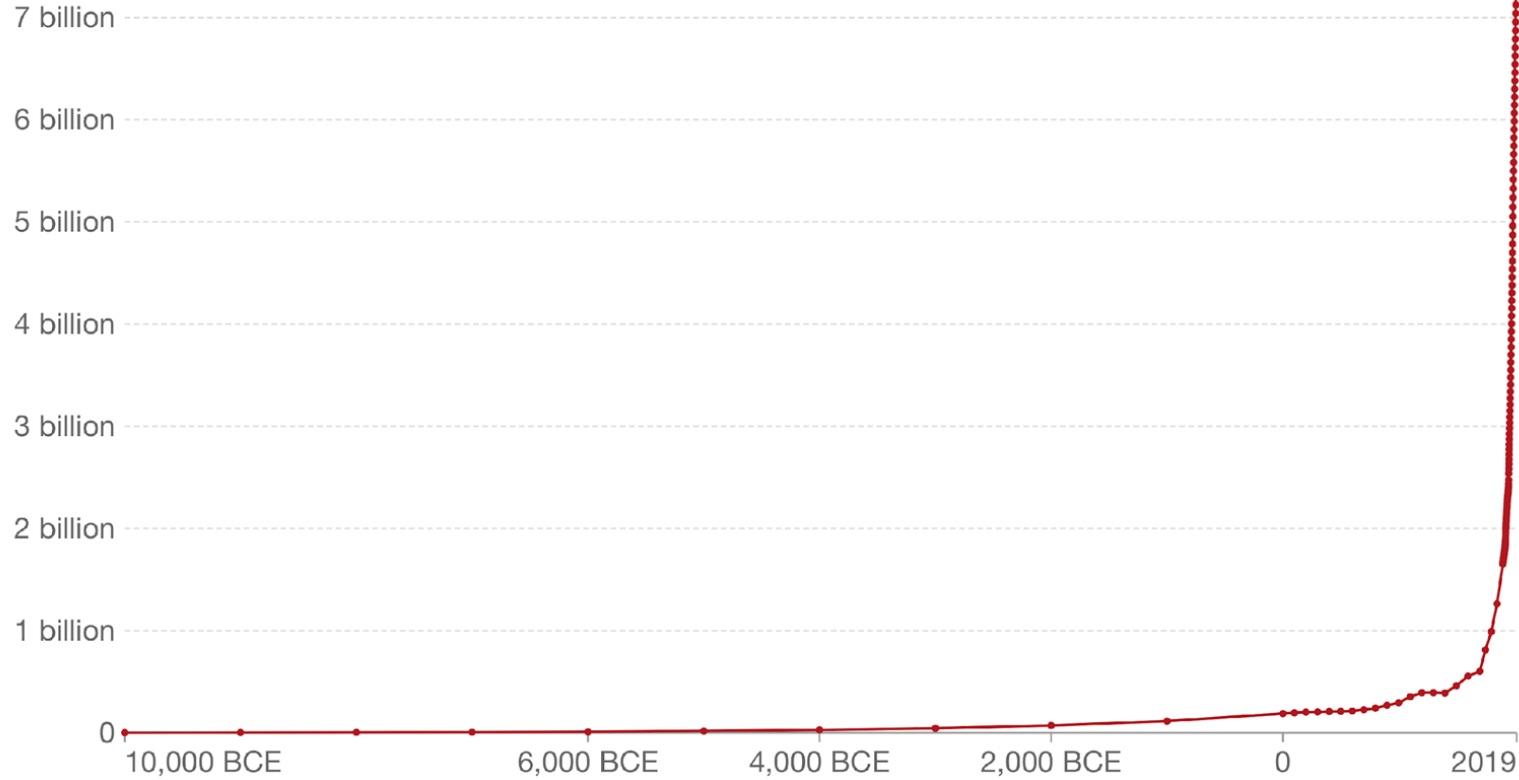
Bongaarts, J., & O'Neill, B. C. (2018). Global warming policy: Is population left out in the cold? *Science*, 361(6403), 650-652.

- Dasgupta, P. (2022). The economics of biodiversity: afterword. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 83(4), 1017-1039.



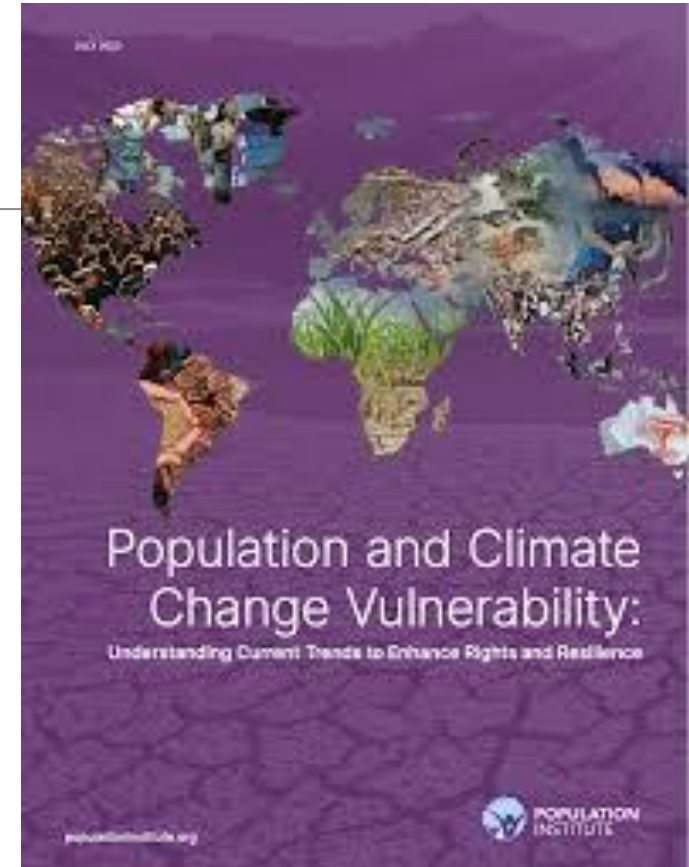
World population since 10,000 BCE (OurWorldInData series)

Our World
in Data



Source: History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE) (before 1900), UN Publication "The World at Six Billion" (1900-1940), UN World Population Prospects: 2019 Revision (1950-2019)
OurWorldInData.org/world-population-growth/ • CC BY

Population dynamics



Source: Population and Climate Change Vulnerability, 2023.
<https://www.populationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Population-and-Climate-Change-Vulnerability.pdf>

Article reference:

Delacroix, C., & Owoo, N. S. (2023). Documenting the Perspectives of Sub-Saharan African Policy Makers, Researchers, and Activists on the Reproductive Rights, Population Dynamics, and Environmental Sustainability Nexus. *World*, 4(4), 758-775.



Article

Documenting the Perspectives of Sub-Saharan African Policy Makers, Researchers, and Activists on the Reproductive Rights, Population Dynamics, and Environmental Sustainability Nexus

Céline Delacroix and Nkechi S. Owoo

Special Issue

Population Change and Its Impact on the Environment, Society and Economy

Edited by

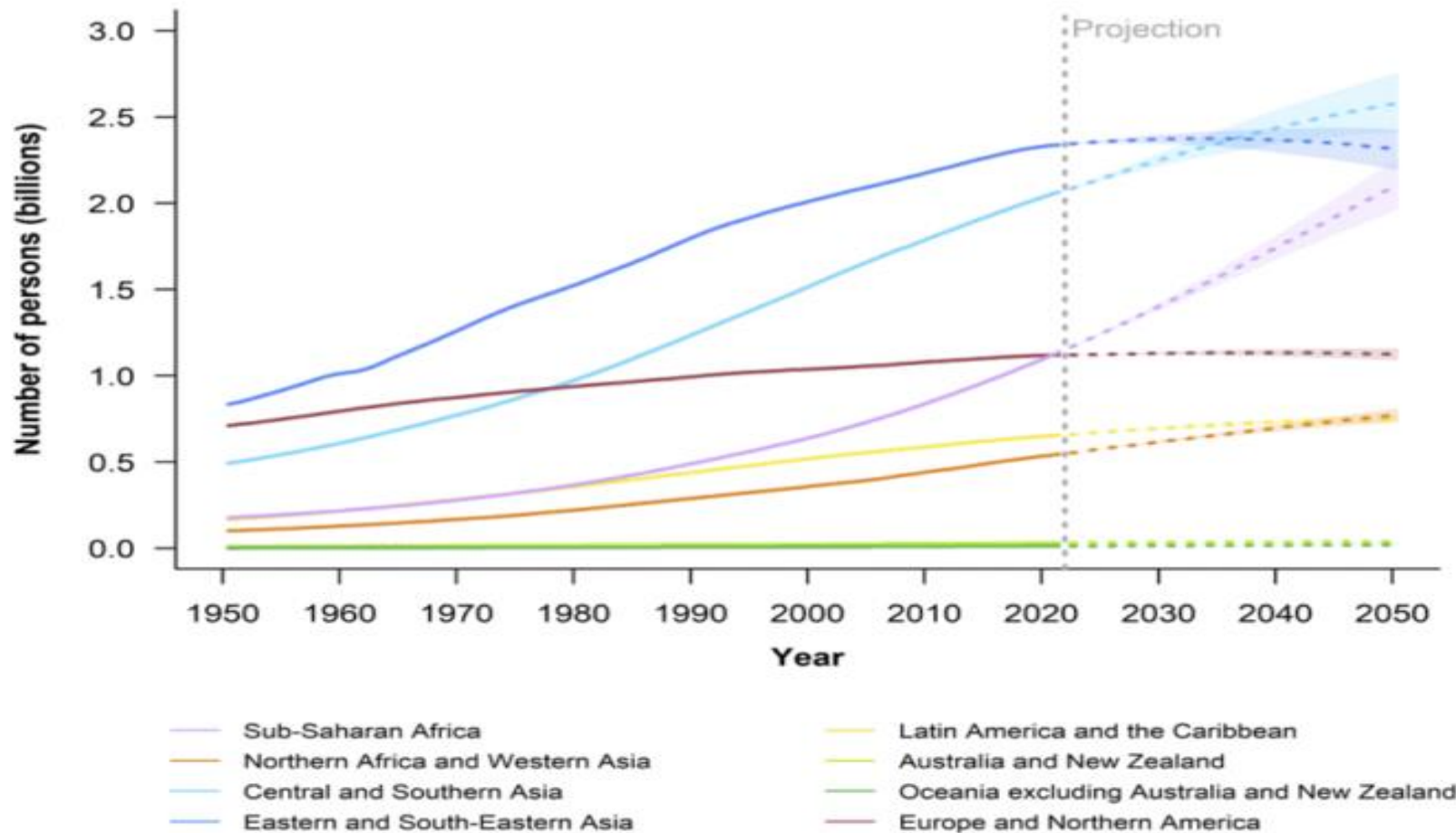
Dr. Jane Nancy O'Sullivan and Dr. Céline Delacroix



Sub-Saharan Africa's unique demographic trajectory

Figure I.2

Population estimates, 1950-2022, and projections with 95 per cent prediction intervals, 2022-2050, by region



Source: World Population Prospects 2022

Methods and participant characteristics

A mixed methods qualitative project documenting the perspectives of sub-Saharan African stakeholders on the interconnections between population growth, reproductive rights, and environmental sustainability.

We conducted a survey (N402) and follow up interviews (N18) with participants from 42 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participant characteristics:

Gender: 28% (114 participants) identified as women, 71% (286 participants) identified as men, one participant preferred not to answer

Of the ten response choices relating to participants professional fields, the most selected answers were health (57%/228 participants), environment (26%/108 participants), and sexual and reproductive health policy makers/advocates/researchers (26%/104 participants).

Participants came from 42 different countries located in sub-Saharan Africa. Among them, 50% were from Ethiopia, 7 % from Ghana, and 11 % from Uganda.

Findings and implications

Echo previous research indicating broad ranging public concern for population growth

Highlight concerns associated with the need to acknowledge the role of excessive consumption, global inequities, and to center reproductive autonomy and human rights in discussions of population dynamics. Participant from South Africa: *“The cumulative impact of 1 billion low per-capita footprints still equals a high impact. This is not to discount the high impact of people that may have lower fertility rates and higher per-capita footprints — who are as important to address.”*

Participants stressed that responses to anthropogenic environmental destruction must integrate population dynamics as a central and transversal component.

Broad support for the integration of population dynamics and reproductive health and rights dimensions at international environmental meetings and in environmental sustainability instruments.

Concern for the under-representation of sub-Saharan Africa in discussions of population dynamics and in international environmental governance

Demonstrates support for the development of cross-sectoral policies acknowledging the interrelated nature of gender equity, reproductive rights, population dynamics and environmental sustainability goals

Thank you!

Fpearthproject@gmail.com

Dr. Céline Delacroix

www.fpearth.org
