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#### Addressing Multi-Dimensional Injustice in Indigenous Adaptation: The Case of Uganda's

**Batwa Community** 

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#### **Abstract**

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Indigenous peoples, who depend on their environment for their livelihoods and are often subject to poverty and socio-economic marginalisation, are some of the most vulnerable to climate change. While the rights of Indigenous peoples are recognised at international level, these are often not translated into adaptation responses at national and local levels. Using insights from theories of environmental and social justice in the case study analysis of Batwa community in Uganda, we assess how justice-related factors impact the adaptive capacities of Indigenous peoples and discuss how these can be taken into account when designing and implementing adaptation responses. The findings from our fieldwork reveal a multidimensional range of systemic injustices experienced by the Batwa, resulting from their continued social-economic, cultural and political marginalisation after their eviction from Uganda's forests. We also observe that there is a variety of projects happening locally in relation to 'adaptation' but not labelled as such, suggesting how Batwa's vulnerability to climate change is rooted in wider aspects of livelihoods and development. More importantly, we find that most projects tend to focus on distribution of material benefits, while less attention is paid to the more intricate issues of compensation, political discrimination and uneven participation. This depoliticised and compartmentalised approach suggests a slow and incomplete way of operationalising justice in climate adaptation. Hence, we call for sincere efforts to address recognition, rights, and disproportionate levels of disadvantage for Indigenous communities, including their constitutional recognition, financial redress and more opportunities for participation in decision-making.

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**Key words:** climate adaptation, Indigenous peoples, multi-dimensional injustice, distributive justice, recognition, participation, procedural justice, Batwa, Uganda

### 1. Introduction

The need to address socio-economic and institutional inequalities and injustices as part of climate adaptation has increasingly become recognised within recent debates and policies at the international level, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Paris Agreement (Dawson et al., 2018). Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to both climate change and social and structural injustices. Many Indigenous communities live in fragile areas that are likely to be impacted the most by climatic changes and increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate events, such as the risk of flooding, soil erosion, drought, diseases, and heat waves (Oxfam, 2017; Oviedo & Fincke, 2009; Salick & Byg, 2007; UN, 2009; Kronik & Verner, 2010; Meybeck et al., 2019). Additionally, Indigenous communities are often socioeconomically disadvantaged, experience multiple injustices and lack the institutional and economic resources to foster an adequate response to climate change (IPCC, 2013, 2014; Ford et al., 2016; Ford et al., 2018; Oxfam, 2017).

The particular climate vulnerabilities of Indigenous peoples have been noted in various international fora, declarations, conventions, and accords. For example, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169 (1989) requires national governments of signatory countries to adopt special measures deemed appropriate for safeguarding the rights of Indigenous communities and vulnerable groups to decide their own priorities for the process of development in general, as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions, spiritual well-being, and the lands they occupy (ILO, 1989, Article 7.1). Likewise, the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) sets out the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education, and other issues while implementing any development activities in their traditional territories (UN, 2007, Articles 1-4). It also describes processes and procedures to promote full and effective participation of Indigenous communities in all matters that concern them and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development (UN, 2007, Articles 25–30). Accordingly, the Paris Agreement (Article 7) emphasises that adaptation action should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems (UNFCCC, 2015). In sum, these international provisions highlight that any interventions or

projects should fully respect the dignity, human rights, and cultures of Indigenous communities and such projects should engage in a process of consultation for free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).

Despite these global provisions in place for Indigenous communities (i.e. ILO-169, UNDRIP, FPIC) and also growing concerns on how to deal with disproportionate impacts of climate change to socially vulnerable and marginalised people (e.g. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction), incorporation of such guidelines is lacking in national policy-making in many countries. While Indigenous communities have been explicitly recognised within international climate policies since at least the 1992 Earth Summit, the integration of Indigenous and local knowledge into national and sub-national adaptation policies has been and, in many cases, continues to be underdeveloped (Ford et al., 2016). The United Nations note

"... structural discrimination of Indigenous peoples at all levels in many countries, a lack of political will to prioritise Indigenous issues and provide funds to address them, the low level and efficacy of Indigenous participation in national policy formulation and implementation, and a lack of awareness of international commitments amongst government officials as well as among Indigenous peoples themselves (except for a minority who work in leading Indigenous organizations)" (UN, 2009, p. 108).

This raises the questions: how do justice-related factors impact the adaptive capacities<sup>1</sup> of Indigenous peoples, and how can these be taken into account when designing and implementing adaptation responses at the national and local levels? In order to investigate these questions, we employed an interdisciplinary methodology that combined theoretical analysis of the literature on environmental and social justice, arriving at a set of justice-related adaptation indicators, with subsequent qualitative empirical field research among the Indigenous Batwa community of Uganda. Our findings demonstrate how multi-dimensional experiences of injustice resulting from the Batwa's socioeconomic inequalities and systematic discrimination work to undermine their capacity to adapt to climate change.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> According to IPCC (2018), adaptive capacity is "the ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences".

Two approaches to examining justice issues arising in Batwa adaptation might be distinguished. The first approach focusses on *justice in (self-styled) adaptation interventions* – that is, interventions that are explicitly and intentionally aimed at promoting adaptation, asking how the impact of such interventions conforms or fails to conforms to various dimensions of justice. The second approach focusses more on *justice in adaptive capacity* and looks at how a range of different interventions and background considerations shape the justice context that helps or hinders the adaptive capacity of Batwa. rather than on adaptation interventions designed to promote adaptation. The second approach is in a sense more holistic, because it requires a focus on all interventions that have a bearing on adaptation, whether they are styled as adaptation interventions or as (non-climate adaptation focussed) development interventions. As has been noted in the literature, it is familiar that adaptive capacity is commonly affected by development interventions in general and not only by those targeted specifically at adaptation (Few et al., 2015, 2018; Scoville-Simonds, 2015).

In this paper, we take the second, more holistic approach to injustice in adaptation. That is, we are interested in injustices in the impact of various governmental and nongovernmental initiatives in general on adaptive capacity, rather than solely on injustices in interventions that are intended and styled as 'adaptation interventions'. We do so because, particularly in the case of Batwa, we observe in practice a fuzzy distinction between adaptation and social or developmental interventions (for similar observation elsewhere in East Africa, see Few et al., 2018 who call it 'adaptation-development spectrum'). As Batwa's vulnerability to climate change is rooted in wider aspects of livelihoods and development, we consider it important from the perspective of justice to develop a picture that includes all types of projects having some potential to enhance their adaptive capacity. Nevertheless, it should be emphasised that our interest in the present paper is in *adaptation justice* and not *development justice* in general. Insofar as we look at the impact of development projects, our focus is on justice issues arising from the impact of these projects on adaptive capacity, and not on more general justice issues arising from the projects *qua* development projects independently of their impact on adaptive capacity.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we introduce our conceptual framework and provide a brief literature review, setting out a number of justice-related indicators against

which we empirically analysed issues in our case study. In Section 3, we shortly introduce the Batwa, their history of societal exclusion and marginalisation and their experience of multidimensional injustice. We also provide the details of case study, materials and methods used in the field research. In Section 4, we show how the Batwa experience marginalisation and exclusion in the implementation of adaptation responses at the local level, impacting negatively their capacity to adapt to climate change. Section 5 includes discussion and key recommendations for national and local climate adaptation initiatives and Section 6 concludes the paper.

# 2. Conceptual framework and literature review

The theoretical part of the research engaged with the literature on environmental and social justice (see, for example, Walker & Bulkeley, 2006; Walker, 2013; Sikor & Newell, 2014) and its application in climate adaptation (see, for example, Sovacool, 2018; Barrett, 2013; Lindley et al., 2011; Marino & Ribot, 2012; Paavola & Adger, 2002). This literature analysis revealed multi-dimensional indicators of injustice related to climate adaptation, such as the fair distribution of social and environmental benefits and burdens (Page, 2006; Adger et al., 2006; Lindley et al., 2011; Dunk et al., 2013; Barrett, 2013) as well as issues of capabilities (Nussbaum, 2011; Schlosberg, 2012; Schlosberg et al., 2017), recognition (Schlosberg, 2003), representation, and participation among various actors, most particularly the vulnerable groups (Sikor & Newell, 2014; Schlosberg et al., 2017; Sikor, 2014). These concepts were then used to develop a research framework to inform and interpret our empirical case study of the Batwa and how their adaptive capacities are influenced by larger multi-dimensional socio-economic inequalities and injustices. In Table 1, we provide a short description of each of these environmental and social justice indicators, grouped under two major dimensions: distributive and procedural justice.

Table 1. A multi-dimensional framework of adaptation-related injustice based on an analysis of the environmental and social justice literature

	Indicator	Description	Possible issues	

Di	Distribution	To what extent do the	The Batwa still lack
strib		Batwa have fair access to	fulfilment of very
Distributive justice indicators		the goods and resources	basic needs for
just		that they require to live a	human development
ice ii		minimally decent life, such	and functioning and
ndica		as adequate housing, land	face serious
itors		ownership, health care,	discriminations by
		and education?	others, which affect
			their adaptive
			capacity.
	Capabilities	To what extent do the	Batwa's needs of and
		Batwa have substantive	rights to food, to
		freedom to achieve	development, to
		certain doings and beings,	avoid being harmed,
		such as the rights to food	and to freedom are
		and development?	not respected,
			curtailing their
			potential for
			adaptation.
Pro	Recognition	To what extent are the	The knowledge,
oced		knowledge, interests, and	interests, and needs
ural		needs of the Batwa	of the Batwa are not
justio		recognised in the design	taken seriously within
ce inc		and implementation of	society at large.
Procedural justice indicators		adaptation responses?	
ors	Representation	To what extent are the	Interest organisations
		Batwa represented in the	might not have the
		design and	Batwa's best interest
		implementation of	at heart; social
		adaptation responses, for	marginalisaton of the
		example through interest	Batwa leads to their
		organisations?	under-representation
			within public and
			political discourses.
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Participation	To what extent do the	There are limited
	Batwa participate in and	opportunities for and
	have the opportunity to	possible restrictions
	participate in adaptation	on Batwa's
	decision-making?	participation in
		decision-making
		processes.

As illustrated in Table 1, *distributive justice* is about fairness in allocation of benefits and burdens among various actors and has a focus on outcomes (Page, 2006; Low & Gleeson, 1998; Lindley et al., 2011). The idea of distribution helps to consider disproportionate impacts of climate change and the policy interventions and responses directed to address these impacts, as vulnerable groups are the ones likely to be impacted the most. As part of this, the capability approach to justice addresses how distribution affects people's ability to "function", their well-being, and the substantive opportunities individuals have to do and be what they choose. Thus, the capability approach to justice looks not only at distribution or procedural inequity but also at the provisions of a range of basic needs and processes necessary for individuals to construct a functioning life (Schlosberg et al., 2017; Nussbaum, 2011; Robeyns, 2016, 2017).<sup>2</sup>

Related to this, the idea of *procedural justice* is concerned with fairness in providing information and opportunities necessary for people to participate in decisions and has a focus on the processes of representation, involvement, and influence on decision-making (Sikor 2014; Walker 2013; Schlosberg, 2003, 2012). It is about understanding who is

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The capability approach is usually defined as a normative framework for the evaluation of human well-being (Robeyns, 2016, 2017; Nussbaum, 2011, Byskov, 2018). Capabilities are the real, or substantive, freedoms or opportunities that we have to do or be certain things, such as being adequately nourished, having access to health care, and being sheltered; functionings are simply the capabilities that have been realised - e.g., actually being well-nourished versus having the opportunity to eat - whether by choice or by chance. Defining capabilities as 'real, or substantive, freedoms' means that they are distinguished from mere formal freedoms, such as rights: for example, someone may have the right to adequate housing (a formal freedom), yet not have the capability to exercise this right if they lack access to the necessary or adequate materials, if they lack the skills or capacities to build a house (e.g., due to disability), or cannot afford someone else to build the housing for them.

recognised as a legitimate actor in decision-making, how these actors are represented in decision-making, and what procedures of participation the decision-making applies. For example, increasing deprivation and exclusion caused by societal status and the impacts of climate change may also impact on people's ability to be included and participate in decision-making. Accordingly, research has shown that those who are most likely to be affected by climate change are also those who are usually excluded and less able to participate in decision-making, and therefore further reducing their capacity to adapt to extreme events (Lindley et al., 2011; Dunk et al., 2016; Tan et al., 2015). In that sense, concerns of recognition and participation are interrelated in our case, hence we analyse these issues together (also following Martin et al., 2013, 2015).

A majority of literature on justice and adaptation have focused on the debates in the international level, particularly around who pays for the adaptation costs, issues of loss and damage or similar aspects of global climate policies (Lyster, 2017; Barrett, 2013). While increasing studies have looked into issues of equity and justice (Sovacool, 2018; Barrett, 2013; Lindley et al., 2011; Marino & Ribot, 2012; Paavola & Adger, 2002), there exists a limited literature on the justice-related impacts of adaptation policies and interventions on the socially vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples. In particular, there are still gaps on how climate adaptation responses consider disaggregated impacts and socially just outcomes amid pre-existing social inequality. It is thus necessary to consider that besides the direct impacts of climate change, adaptation responses too can be unevenly distributed and unequally shared (Dunk et al., 2016; Lindley et al., 2011; Marino & Ribot, 2012).

Among others, Adger et al. (2006), Paavola & Adger (2002) and Paavola & Adger (2006) were the ones who initially brought attention to justice issues in climate adaptation, linking them with nature of social vulnerability, wider participation, and fairness in adaptation planning (Schlosberg et al., 2017). According to Paavola & Adger (2002, p. 8), fostering adaptation to climate change requires actions at various levels: "adaptation is not an activity that takes place exclusively at international political arenas" but also "concerns national and local governments and individuals and organisations both in developed and developing countries". Given the extent to which climate change and adaptation interact across scales, the relationship between planning and implementation and different levels need to be considered (Barrett, 2013; Byskov et al., 2019).

In their agenda to ethics and justice in climate adaptation, Byskov et al. (2019) highlighted several issues that need to be addressed to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities. Among others, they stressed for the need to integrate ethics and justice issues right at the upstream stage of adaptation and resilience planning to further downstream at the stage of implementation. More importantly, it is important to pay specific attention to the needs of vulnerable communities and address justice issues arising from unequal access to goods, resources, services, and institutions (Byskov et al., 2019). The upshot of their argument is that we need to look beyond adaptation and consider a broad range of injustices; an approach taken in this paper. Mathur et al. (2014) also proposed a multi-level framework for examining climate justice in the implementation of carbon sequestration projects on the ground, taking an approach also considered in this paper. However, they failed to include third sector into their framework which in other contexts such as in the delivery of adaptation action may play a bigger role. Their framework can be particularly useful in disentangling some of the sources of injustices and attributing them to different levels, arenas and actors.

Whyte (2017) characterised the way Indigenous peoples around the world have been subjected to a particular type of environmental injustice — 'settler colonial injustice', which takes myriad forms, has many layers and exhibits in sectors ranging from education and philanthropy to people's everyday behaviours. With a detailed case study of the opposition by Indigenous Sioux community against Dakota Access Pipeline, Whyte (2017) highlighted why it is important to be mindful about the way injustice is associated with 'larger story' such as history of colonialism, colonial mindset and continued subjugation. As he concluded, "most relocating tribes, for example, are vulnerable precisely because they were forced to live permanently on tiny areas of land with limited adaptive options" (p. 167). His framework that links issues of (in)justice with pre-existing inequality and historical conditions (also referred to as 'epistemic injustice' by others; Fricker, 2007; Alfanso, & Skorburg, 2018) is useful to understand multi-dimensional injustices operating in adaptation contexts.

Various studies have indicated that local communities' capacities to adapt are in practice limited, particularly in the Global South due to many factors, including limited resources, inadequate financial and institutional infrastructures, lack of inclusive decision-making, and lack of leadership and coordination (Brooks et al., 2005; Smit & Wandel, 2006; Byskov et al., 2019). In particular, wider political and economic inequalities tend to result in higher levels

of climate adaptation costs for the vulnerable groups. Lack of accountable and participatory governance structures and processes further complicate the possibility of achieving just adaptation responses. For example, Sovacool et al. (2015) highlighted a range of processes that can occur during the implementation of adaptation responses (enclosure, exclusion, encroachment and entrenchment) which can result in unjust and inequitable outcomes, exacerbating inequality and conflict in some cases. According to Anguelovski et al. (2016), injustice in adaptation responses occurs due to "acts of commission" (i.e. new infrastructures and land use policies disproportionately impacting disadvantaged groups) or "acts of omission" (i.e. plans that protect valuable areas over marginalised people or exclude them from decision-making or frame adaptation as an individual responsibility). Similarly, Tan et al. (2015) highlighted how severity of climate impacts can be influenced by social inequalities and how this also impacts local decision-making. Thew et al. (2020) showed how different aspects of environmental justice operates on the ground in their empirical investigation of youth participation in climate change negotiations and showed how the ability to make justice claims can be limited by both subjective and objective factors.

Amid this existing body of research, we focus our empirical analysis on a range of multidimensional injustices experienced by the Indigenous Batwa community and assess how these can impact their adaptation to climate change.

# 3. Case study, materials and methods

# 3.1 Case study context

### National context

In order to explore how socio-cultural and political marginalisation can influence the vulnerability of marginalised groups such as the Batwa, it is necessary first to understand the national context of Indigenous rights, climate adaptation and relevant aspects of Uganda's political economy. The country's inequitable political economy, restricted civil liberties and limited political space to criticise government policy have restricted ability to address deeprooted injustices such as status inequalities faced by marginalised and Indigenous groups (Dawson et al., 2018). As a result, issues of Indigenous rights become diluted as Indigenous communities do not feature as a distinct group but are often couched under the minority

groups in Uganda.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, public perceptions and national policies tend to focus on certain dimensions of justice (e.g. distributive justice concerns expressed in the equitable development agenda) at the expense of others (e.g. addressing recognition and rights of Indigenous peoples).

Although Uganda is party to different international treaties, including on human rights and Indigenous issues, many of the international provisions have not been domesticated fully. In fact, issues of Batwa and Indigenous communities are handled mainly through the activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donors. There are also some civil society networks such as the Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples in Uganda and United Organisation on Batwa Development Uganda (UOBDU) both of which lobby for policy and institutional frameworks to support Indigenous communities, however their influence in the policy process is limited. Furthermore, as compared to gender issues, mainstreaming of Indigenous issues and provision of affirmative action remain unfulfilled. Hence, the Indigenous communities feel excluded in decision-making processes in all levels.

In order to address potential challenges of climate change, Uganda has sought to implement an adaptation agenda through a number of policy measures (e.g. National Adaptation Plan and National Development Plan-II).<sup>5</sup> Although these policies generally refer to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In fact, the politics of who is an Indigenous group have always been a contested issue in Uganda and other countries of Africa, due to complex ethnic politics and power dynamics. For example, Article 36 of Uganda's Constitution states "minorities have a right to participate in decision-making processes and their views and interests shall be taken into account in the making of national plans and programmes". While constitutional measures guarantee the rights of some vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, there are no specific provisions for Indigenous communities. In short, in public discourses and national policies and practices, it is generally the principle of equality that becomes a dominant approach while the specific needs and rights of Indigenous communities such as the Batwa do not get the priority.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For example, Uganda is part of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and signatory to UNDRIP but has not ratified the ILO-169. Even if some provisions (e.g. FPIC, equitable benefit-sharing) are mentioned in respective policies (e.g. the Uganda National Culture Policy developed by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development), there are gaps in implementation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In 2007, Uganda formulated medium-term national policies and strategies for climate adaptation via National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPAs), which sets out country-specific aims and

disproportionate impacts of climate change across different sectors, places or vulnerable groups, they do not provide specific attention to the needs of Indigenous communities.

Similarly, while these documents prioritise immediate and urgent actions as a short-term measure as well as long-term climate impacts and risks, the support (e.g. the costed budget) for vulnerable groups is very low as compared to sectoral distribution of costs (Few et al., 2015). Besides issues of distributional aspects, these documents do mention the need for a public participation in decision-making, however they lack specific details on how to operationalise it for the marginalised groups, including the Indigenous communities.

A large number of adaptation responses have been implemented in Uganda, primarily by bilateral agencies and international NGOs or as part of regional initiatives (Few et al., 2015; Hove et al., 2011; Kansiime, 2012), mostly in conjunction with local NGOs, government agencies and/or community groups. The majority of initiatives described as adaptation focus on capacity building, policy formation, technological development, information sharing and research (Few et al., 2015). Accordingly, there are a range of initiatives happening on the ground in relation to Batwa's adaptation, including both adaptation-focused projects as well as social or development interventions supposedly contributing to their adaptive capacity (Section 1).

#### Local context and the Batwa

It is generally believed that the Batwa were one of the first inhabitants of the equatorial forests of the Great Lakes Region of central Africa (Tadie, 2010; Gusinde, 1955); they are now found in forest fringes of South West Uganda. They used to live as hunter-gatherer communities inside the forests on which they depended for their survival and livelihoods: for food, medicine, clothing, shelter, crafts and tools, and tradition and folklore (Gusinde, 1955). Batwa's low impact on forest resources, in combination with their non-hierarchical social structure, made them able to live a self-sustainable life based on the principle of sharing (Tadie, 2010). They were also largely able to adjust to the dynamics of ecosystems and in the

activities to synchronise adaptation measures across different sectors (Alterra, 2010; Hove et al., 2011; Few et al., 2015). The country is now in the process of updating NAPA to produce National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which reflects a more concrete commitment to specific adaptation initiatives. Additionally, some aspects of climate adaptation have also been incorporated and fit with the National Development Plan-II (2015/16-2019/20) and the Vision 2040 (Few et al., 2015).

times of scarcity due to their capacity to shift frequently and through bartering forest products (e.g. wild honey) to food items (e.g. beans, sorghum, potato) with the neighbouring non-Batwa groups.

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There is a long history of Batwa's marginalisation that still continues today. The Batwa have been discriminated against and exploited due to their physical appearance and simple lifestyles. Historically, they were pushed deeper into the forests when early settlers and farmers cleared the forests for agriculture, taking the land from them (Tadie, 2010; Gusinde, 1955). In the 1930s when the British colonial government declared the areas as forest reserves, Batwa's displacement started as their access to forest was only restricted for livelihood purposes and practicing their culture. The Batwa were progressively evicted since the 1960s (when Bwindi was declared as an animal sanctuary), with the majority required to leave in the early 1990s (Martin et al., 2015). In the early 1990s, the declaration of conservation areas (e.g. creation of national parks in Bwindi and Mgahinga areas as well as Echuya Central Forest Reserve) by the Ugandan government as a result of a strong global advocacy for gorilla conservation led to their eviction from these forests, resulting in their further impoverishments. Consequently, many of the evicted Batwa became landless labourers on the lands of Bahuntu group. While some of the evicted Batwa were later on supported by a number of organisations, more than half still remained as squatters. Many of them ended up on the streets of Kisoro town, earning their livelihood through begging, stealing or prostitution, with attendant problems of drug and alcohol abuse. In short, lack of compensation for loss of ancestral land and livelihoods combined with discrimination and neglect by the government and neighbouring ethnic groups have further marginalised the Batwa. These historical patterns of Batwa's marginalisation thus mirror with the 'settler colonial injustice' associated with many Indigenous peoples worldwide (Whyte, 2017). A number of earlier studies have also highlighted how the Batwa had to experience 'conservation injustice' as a result of their eviction and exclusion from materially and culturally significant forest areas and resources (Martin et al., 2013, 2015; Blomley, 2003; Blomley et al., 2010; Hamilton et al., 2000).

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Present day, Batwa communities are scattered outside the protected areas, often in remote, hilly and isolated locations in groups of 10-20 households (with 4-10 family members). The areas where the Batwa live are often prone to climatic and other hazards such as flash floods, soil and land erosion, and incidence of diseases. They live in temporary huts that are

poorly constructed, made out of shrub branches, banana leaves and grass, and thatched with plastic or rubbish bags. Many still live as landless labourers on other people's land, paying with their labour in return for permission to live. They lack basic standards of living, such as food, clothing, shelter, health, education and paid employment. The Batwa population suffers from extremely high infant and under-5 mortality (57%); their life expectancy is very low (about 28 years); adult literacy rate is less than 10% (Berrang-Ford et al., 2012); and only 51% Batwa children attend school (with very high dropout rate when they reach secondary school) (Tadie, 2010; BMCT, 2016). The Batwa's vulnerability is also exacerbated by lack of social capital network, as they do not have sufficient resources to help each other (such as with loans, food or property) in the time of climatic and nonclimatic stresses.

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Climate change is bringing a new dimension to Batwa's vulnerability. The impacts of climate change are unequally distributed and disproportionately experienced by the Batwa, as they live in remote and fragile ecosystems and with high levels of poverty. Batwa have already started experiencing the impacts, particularly in terms of food insecurity, as they have been getting less yield from crop farming in the limited lands (often of poor quality) provided to them. The unpredictable patterns of rainfall and the increased incidence of diseases (e.g. cough, malaria, malnutrition, stomach disorders, respiratory disease and Brusellosis) often worsen their situation further (Berrang-Ford et al., 2012; Labbe et al., 2016). Additionally, the Batwa's climate vulnerability is exacerbated by a lack of land ownership and asset endowment, and pre-existing socio-cultural discrimination, particularly in terms of accessing food, water and livelihoods.6

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### 3.2 Methods of data collection and analysis

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394 395 Our field research was undertaken in December 2018 and employed a variety of qualitative research methods. The fieldwork mainly consisted of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions, using an interview checklist, with a range of actors at the community, district and national levels, identified through a snowball technique. Other methods of data collection included: key informant interviews, community visits and direct observation, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Land tenure and adaptive capacity are closely linked and the benefits of owning land are greater, particularly for smallholder farmers and poor households in Uganda as land constitutes between 50-60% of their asset endowment (World Bank, 2003, 2013; Below et al., 2012).

review of existing documents (i.e. adaptation-related policy documents and secondary literature).

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The main focus of the fieldwork consisted of a site visit to Batwa communities living in South West Uganda (mainly Kisoro district), where we carried out direct observation and focus group discussions. The field sites were purposefully selected based on suggestions from key informants at district and community levels. The main criterion for community site selection was to represent different types of project initiatives and capture a variety of experiences and issues pertaining to their justice-related impacts. Although there were some logistical challenges (e.g. continuous rains and some cases of landslides coinciding with the visit to these remote sites), we managed to travel and cover most of the locations where the Batwa live. In total, six focus group discussions were held with the Batwa community in five different sites: Birara, Getebe, Nyagakyenkye, Rukeri and Nteko/Sanurio Batwa villages (Table 2). The focus group questions were focused on understanding Batwa's history, socioeconomic status and inequalities in terms of land use, housing, access to food and livelihoods, perceptions about climate change, the activities they were involved in, their experience and views on existing projects and future prospects. Focus group discussions were conducted in local language with the support of an interpreter and research assistant (female). The focus group discussions consisted of mixed group (male and female, young and old) as well as separate ones (female only or male only group). The selection of focus group discussants was done in joint consultation with Batwa leaders and local partners based on pre-set criteria of the research team (i.e. taking an inclusive approach). Despite our efforts, it was not possible to separate male or female group in certain sites due to additional time required on part of the participants (as both groups had already arrived at the same time) or when female only group was not conversational. At the start of the focus group discussion, participants were first informed about the purpose of the study, data management strategy and confidentiality of their responses and were told that they could refuse to answer or quit any time. Altogether, we interacted with 64 Batwa (28 females and 36 males) through focus group discussions.

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Table 2. Key features of local sites and data collection methods

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Batwa	Number of	Types of project and implementer	Methods of data
settlement	households		collection

(Birara village)  0.5 acre of land for crop growing provided by the Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA-Uganda), also supported previously by the UOBDU and CARE Uganda  Site-2 58 Housing (only 12 permanent houses, the rest are temporary shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 28 Housing (relocated in mid-2018), crop farming and tourism activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation observation (mixed), direct observation	Site-1	56	Housing (mostly permanent) and	Focus group
and Development Agency (ADRA- Uganda), also supported previously by the UOBDU and CARE Uganda  Site-2 58 Housing (only 12 permanent houses, the rest are temporary shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 28 Housing (relocated in mid-2018), crop farming and tourism activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation for Marginalised People observation	(Birara village)		0.5 acre of land for crop growing	discussion (FGD)
Uganda), also supported previously by the UOBDU and CARE Uganda  Site-2 58 Housing (only 12 permanent houses, the rest are temporary shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village) Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village) Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People (mixed), direct observation			provided by the Adventist Relief	(mixed), direct
Site-2 (Getebe			and Development Agency (ADRA-	observation
Site-2   58			Uganda), also supported	
Site-2 (Getebe houses, the rest are temporary shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village) activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village) Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People (mixed), direct observation			previously by the UOBDU and	
(Getebe village) houses, the rest are temporary shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 28 Housing (relocated in mid-2018), crop farming and tourism groups (male only activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation for Marginalised People observation			CARE Uganda	
shelters) and 0.5 acre land per household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village)  About 1	Site-2	58	Housing (only 12 permanent	Focus group
household (mostly barren); housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village)  Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Activities supported in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation	(Getebe		houses, the rest are temporary	(mixed), direct
housing project supported by the Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village)  Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  Focus group (mixed), direct observation	village)		shelters) and 0.5 acre land per	observation
Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village)  Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature Uganda supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Separate focus groups (male only), direct observation  Focus group (mixed), direct observation			household (mostly barren);	
Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye crop farming and tourism groups (male only activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Uganda supporting in vegetable growing and water conservation supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Separate focus groups (male only), direct observation direct observation  Focus group (mixed), direct observation observation			housing project supported by the	
growing and soil and water conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye village)  Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Growing and soil and water conservation  Separate focus groups (male only) and female only), direct observation  Focus group (mixed), direct observation			Lift Up Jesus Church; Nature	
conservation measures; also supported by UOBDU and ADRA  Site-3  (Nyagakyenkye village)  Activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  (Rukeri village)  Acconservation measures; also supported in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation			Uganda supporting in vegetable	
Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye Crop farming and tourism groups (male only and female only), direct observation  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Separate focus groups (male only and female only), direct observation  Separate focus groups (male only and female only), direct observation  Begin activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  Site-4 Supported by the Kisoro Concern (mixed), direct observation			growing and soil and water	
Site-3 (Nyagakyenkye crop farming and tourism groups (male only activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 (Rukeri village)  Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  Focus group (mixed), direct observation			conservation measures; also	
(Nyagakyenkye village) crop farming and tourism activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group (mixed), direct observation			supported by UOBDU and ADRA	
village)  activities supported by a private company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  30  Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  and female only), direct observation  Focus group (mixed), direct observation	Site-3	28	Housing (relocated in mid-2018),	Separate focus
company - Volcano Safari; Batwa heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People observation	(Nyagakyenkye		crop farming and tourism	groups (male only
heritage trail (eco-tourism project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  (Rukeri village)  Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  observation	village)		activities supported by a private	and female only),
project) supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  (Rukeri village)  Housing (relocated in mid-2018) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  observation			company - Volcano Safari; Batwa	direct observation
Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  (Rukeri village)  Wildlife Authority (UWA); advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Focus group supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People observation			heritage trail (eco-tourism	
advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Site-4  (Rukeri village)  Advocacy and capacity building (UOBDU)  Housing (relocated in mid-2018)  supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People  observation			project) supported by the Uganda	
(UOBDU)  Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group (Rukeri village) supported by the Kisoro Concern (mixed), direct observation			Wildlife Authority (UWA);	
Site-4 30 Housing (relocated in mid-2018) Focus group  (Rukeri village) supported by the Kisoro Concern for Marginalised People observation			advocacy and capacity building	
(Rukeri village) supported by the Kisoro Concern (mixed), direct observation			(UOBDU)	
for Marginalised People observation	Site-4	30	Housing (relocated in mid-2018)	Focus group
	(Rukeri village)		supported by the Kisoro Concern	(mixed), direct
			for Marginalised People	observation
Organization (set up by a local			Organization (set up by a local	
councillor); health project			councillor); health project	
supported by CARE; ADRA and			supported by CARE; ADRA and	
African International Christian			African International Christian	
Ministry supporting agricultural			Ministry supporting agricultural	

		projects (e.g. provision of Irish	
		potato seeds)	
Site-5	30	Settlement started in 1995 with	Focus group
(Nteko/Sanurio		support from Bwindi and	(mixed), direct
village)		Mgahinga Conservation Trust	observation
		(BMCT); 240-260 Batwa now live	
		in mostly tin-thatched houses;	
		training on craft making and sale	
		provided by UOBDU (through a	
		Global Greengrants Fund); Batwa	
		kid's education supported by	
		BMCT and Nkuringo Community	
		Conservation and Development	
		Foundation which is also	
		supporting in tourism (e.g. Batwa	
		trail in Buniga pocket forest) and	
		livelihood improvements projects	
		(e.g. provisioning of heifers, sheep	
		and pigs through revolving loan	
		schemes)	

Additionally, we also had the opportunity to carry out participant observation of a one-day workshop (number of participants >30) organised by the Nature Uganda for partners working on conservation and development, including on Batwa issues. Additional data about climatic conditions, associated risks, and adaptation plans and projects in place were collected and analysed from existing reports and secondary sources. Similarly, five community (sub-county and village) and six district level key informant interviews were conducted with a number of actors working on the Batwa (e.g. officials from UOBDU, Kisoro district government, and representatives of humanitarian and development organisations) in order to understand a range of issues that the Batwa have. We also conducted four national level key informant interviews with both state and non-state actors in Kampala, involving representatives from organisations working on issues of marginalised people, Indigenous communities and the Batwa (see Annexes 1 and 2 for further details).

Data generated from interviews and focus group discussions were recorded in fieldnotes (after obtaining consent from the participants), which were then transcribed and analysed through thematic coding, according to dominant narratives on different aspects of justice and adaptation. To support our analysis, we have also presented some relevant quotes from the respondents, anonymising their identities. Besides the analysis of research data generated from interviews and focus group discussions, we also draw on other secondary sources to validate the information provided.

#### 4. Justice and adaptation at the local level

In general, all the case study sites (Table 2) have been supported by a variety of non-state actors (NGOs, community-based organisations or CBOs, charities as well as private actor) through a range of projects. As highlighted earlier (Section 1), these range from adaptation-focused interventions such as installation of household rainwater harvesting tanks and adoption of climate-smart agriculture, to those with more of a development focus such as housing and education projects, through to interventions based on awareness raising and early training on adaptation (DK-2, DK-3).<sup>7</sup> However, these projects are not always successful in achieving their targets due to a combination of factors such as lack funds, corruption, capacity deficit or lack of coordination (DK-5, DK-6).<sup>8</sup> The piece-meal approach to improving the livelihood conditions of the Batwa means that there are limited successes in terms of achieving justice-related impacts. We show below how multi-dimensional experience of distributive and procedural injustices resulting from Batwa's socio-economic and political marginalisation contribute to impede their capacity to adapt to climate change.

### 4.1 Batwa's basic needs and distributional issues

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This is necessarily a loose trichotomy: as noted in the introduction it is not always easy to separate climate adaptation interventions from other development interventions, since the latter often have an impact on adaptive capacity even if that is not the explicitly stated aim of the intervention. Many supposedly 'development' activities do contribute to reducing climate vulnerability of the Batwa through provision of housing, land, capacity building, income generation and livelihood support.

<sup>8</sup> As the Chief Administrative Officer of Kisoro district explained: "We need more coordination... We need to make sure that we are not competing, but all working together for the same purpose.... Some people are buying land here, others there, planting bamboos here and there in the name of Batwa. We should avoid such duplications (Nature Uganda workshop)."

A key dimension of injustice is the issue of benefit-sharing and distributional implications of a number of projects targeted for the Batwa (e.g. provision of land, housing, income generation, tourism etc.) as well as other larger concerns of distributive justice related to their marginalisation, particularly in the contexts of pre-existing structural inequity and climate change challenges. The focus-group discussions and interviews that we conducted with Batwa and related organisations reveal at least six distributive injustices and inequalities that, we argue, negatively affect the adaptive capacities of the Batwa.

First, among the issues raised during the focus group discussions, forced eviction of the Batwa from their original habitat where they purely lived as a hunter gatherer lifestyle without putting in place any alternative livelihood options or compensatory mechanisms for them was perceived by many interviewees as the major case of 'historical injustice' (FGD-1, FGD-2, FGD-6), jeopardising their adaptive capacity. While the UWA officials claimed that "Batwa owned nothing whilst they still lived in the forests and hence were not eligible for compensation" (DKI-1), various Batwa members and those working on Batwa issues considered this a case of injustice, lack of empathy and gross violation of human rights (FGD-1, FGD-2, DKI-4). The lack of ownership, tenure and access rights to land and forest resources (both formal and customary) for Batwa, despite their high dependency on these resources, have increased Batwa's vulnerabilities to cope with the challenges of climate change. This is further exacerbated by their traumatic experience of displacement and loss of ancestral lands. Lack of land ownership also limits their opportunity to access credit via mechanisms such as collateral, which reduces adaptive capacity.

Second, although UWA has a benefit sharing mechanism where a certain percentage of the revenue from the park and its enterprises (e.g. lodges and tourism) goes to the local community (including Batwa) for enhancing their adaptive capacity, the revenue is often used for community services such as the building of schools. Batwa members that we talked to often showed their resentment with this arrangement of redistribution, as there are insufficient benefits going directly to the Batwa. UWA also allows permits for local community (including Batwa) to access forest and collect firewood in the park, however the

level of benefit for individual Batwa household is considered 'negligible' (FGD-5). Even though they have been helped with housing, they do not have any land and employment (FGD-4, FGD-5). This lack of land asset endowment and access to any other forms of capital, as well as no or limited opportunities for stable income (e.g. paid employment), further diminishes Batwa's adaptive capacity as they are unable to afford, for example, food to compensate for low agricultural output, building materials, such as bricks and mortar, to construct resilient housing, and, more intangibly, education, skills training, and other basic services.

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Third, in a range of other projects focused on Batwa, benefit-sharing involves direct benefits (e.g. cash payment to Batwa members or supply of food items such as maize flour and beans, and support for individual housing) and indirect benefits (e.g. community facilities such as schools, health centre or training on income generation or capacity building activities). However, the benefits from some of the household and community-based adaptation schemes (such as rainwater catchment investment in the form of household roof tanks or community tanks) are limited to only the minority of the Batwa who have permanent houses while the majority of landless Batwa living in temporary houses and often working as full-time labourers have not benefitted. The Batwa members that we interacted with think that they have been supported to a larger extent by these projects run by a number of organisations, but these are not sufficient (FGD-1, FGD-2, FGD-5). For example, they have not been able to benefit from some of the government initiatives such as the National Agricultural Advisory Services and Operation Wealth Creation that aim at creating wealth and reducing poverty through profitable agricultural production, as "there are strings attached", requiring sufficient landholdings and co-funding which the Batwa cannot afford (FGD-5; CKI-3; DKI-4). Furthermore, even though primary schooling is free in Uganda, poverty affects the retention and performance of Batwa children, particularly girls. Neither can they continue secondary education unless they are supported through external sponsorships for school fees, accommodation and food (CKI-1, CKI-3). With limited education and skills, Batwa children will have limited livelihood options in the future, which further restricts their adaptive capacity (e.g. due to limited potential to diversify livelihoods and income in the time of climatic risks). Furthermore, direct cash payment and food

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> For example, the revenue sharing of 20 per cent of gate fee, plus the additional 1 per cent of gorilla permits raised from protected areas that goes to Batwa is considered inadequate as it fails to reach those Batwa households living in poverty.

supplies to Batwa households have increased their dependency rather than providing sustainable livelihood options, which could otherwise have enhanced their adaptive capacity.

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Fourth, Batwa's vulnerability is exacerbated by the lack of provision of basic needs and insufficient affirmative actions. In the views of Batwa members, the government is running from its obligation to cater for their basic needs (e.g. housing, food, clothing, health and education). In fact, in some instances the money that was to be targeted for the Batwa has been diverted elsewhere for the benefit of others. For example, in some sites, the benefits from local projects (e.g. eco-tourism, Batwa Heritage Trail) have been used instead for local development activities such as to build schools, which should have been the mandate of the local government (FGD-1, FGD-2, FGD-5).

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Fifth, according to UOBDU, Batwa's illiteracy and critical impoverishment have been used by some organisations to "use Batwa as a ladder to improve their own livelihoods" (DKI-4). For example, in one of the sites, an organisation bought some land and resettled Batwa strategically as their marketing tool for foreigners. In another case, one charity would consider that "they own the Batwa group there", as they would even go to the extent of blocking another charity from constructing permanent houses for the Batwa (DKI-4). In yet another site, we found that a local organisation was charging USD 25 per person for visiting the Batwa settlements, however there was no transparency in the redistribution of funds (FGD-6). There were also some anecdotes of certain individuals engaged in malpractices of pocketing money generated from Batwa handicraft sale and forceful religious conversion (FGD-6). Furthermore, while there seems to be a general level of acknowledgement about the role of Indigenous knowledge and skills that the Batwa possess (e.g. their sharing culture, conflict management skills, and ability to adjust to changing ecosystem), a large number of interventions for them have focused on modifying, rather than strengthening their adaptive capacity, livelihoods and practices (DKI-4). In fact, Batwa's Indigenous knowledge and skills have been damaged over the years through a chain of insensitive interventions, rendering them out of use.

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Sixth, abject poverty and illiteracy have further contributed to perpetuating injustices and the limited potential to have a functioning life. For example, Batwa groups were resettled in single-room narrow box houses built by a charity, however they were reluctant to ask

questions, as "it is better to have something than having nothing at all" (FGD-4). The project was considered by a local organisation and many others as a case of "violation of Batwa rights to decent accommodation, proper family life and privacy" (CKI-4). In another location, the Batwa have been resettled on a barren land in steep slopes where they are expected to live and do farming (FGD-3). In most sites, the Batwa have been resettled in isolated locations, with very limited chance of integration with the rest of the other communities, which further perpetuates their marginalisation and discrimination. In particular, their adaptive capacity is affected by this relocation because of the limited potential for growing crops on the steep slopes. They also do not have property rights and land titles where they live and are in a constant fear that their settlement may be taken away (DKI-2; FGD-5).

In summary, although it has been almost three decades of the Batwa's eviction from their ancestral lands and forests, their concerns for compensation and distributive justice have not been heard nor they have been able to benefit directly from a range of projects. Despite the different forms of revenue sharing and benefit distribution, which have become a commonplace in different projects (e.g. Batwa Heritage Trail), there still remains larger issues of distributive injustice such as lack of financial redress for Batwa and other complex issues of epistemic injustice (e.g. lack of recognition and rights of Indigenous communities and their exclusion in decision-making processes; see Section 4.2).

# 4.2 Issues of recognition and deficits in procedural justice

In addition to distributive injustices affecting their adaptive capacity, the Batwa are also subject to many procedural injustices in terms of recognition, representation, and participation in the design and implementation of adaptation responses at the local level.

The public perception of Batwa is negative among a range of other stakeholders, including some of the organisations claiming to work for them. As a representative from Kisoro District Government argued, "if land titles were given to Batwa, they would sell off the lands and waste the money... Batwa would slaughter goats and cows the next day when these animals are given for rearing" (DKI-6). One of the interviewees who was also the main architect of designing national parks and evicting Batwa from forests held very strong views: "because Batwa are careless people, their misery has been out of control... those Batwa who still roam around the Kisoro town are a public nuisance" (DKI-3). Another government official argued:

"on their part too, the Batwa must understand their rights and feel that they are equal citizens of this country... Improvement in their living condition is slow, for which they are to be blamed to some extent" (DKI-1). These examples show the stereotypes about the Batwa and the on-going discriminations against them in Uganda even today.

On the other hand, there are continued grievances among the Batwa that they cannot continue to access the local forests for their basic needs (e.g. collection of food, medicine) and practice their culture (e.g. pray inside the forests). The loss of access rights to their ancestral land and nature, in which Batwa used to live in harmony for centuries, not only resulted in loss of their livelihoods but also eroded their traditional knowledge systems to cope with natural disasters and other risks (including climate risks). Most Batwa members that we talked to feel that they have become psychologically tortured due to hunger, starvation, poverty and disease; they have been curtailed of their cultural rights and are like a 'lost generation' (FGD-1, FGD-2). Conversely, the UWA officials would see that the eviction was inevitable due to the mandatory provisions for creation of national parks and that Batwa used to live "like aliens on the rock" and "were threats to wild animals, UWA employees, private operators and tourists" (DKI-1).

In general, there is a lack of recognition of specific identity, history and rights of Indigenous communities in Uganda, as it is commonly held belief that "everyone in Africa is Indigenous... and obviously some (e.g. Batwa) are more Indigenous than others" (NKI-1, NKI-3). Batwa are often couched under marginalised/minority groups, lacking specific identity and provisions as Indigenous groups. Hence it can only be assumed that they also fall within the ambit of those entitled to affirmative actions (e.g. along with other minority groups). Although national policies and plans recognise the increased vulnerability of marginalised groups such as the Batwa and highlight the need for wider consultation in decision-making (Section 3), they do not provide specific guidelines on operationalisation of procedural justice (i.e. equitable representation and meaningful participation of marginalised groups such as the Batwa). As a result, the implementation of adaptation responses and related project interventions (such as on housing, land and income generation) has happened without following any specific protocols. While in some cases, the Batwa have been represented through UOBDU, the lack of their meaningful participation in the local decision-making means that most of the adaptation responses targeted at them actually are implemented with their very limited inputs.

Although some specific projects targeted at the Batwa have helped them to improve their livelihoods and adaptive capacity to some extent, these projects have not been able to change their societal status. In the majority of adaptation responses targeted at the Batwa, there are limited opportunities for their participation in the design of such projects (FGD-1, FGD-2, DKI-4, CKI-3). Accordingly, there are also gaps between need or vulnerability assessment and project design and implementation (CKI-3), as evidenced from box-like houses built by a charity.

The lack of public consultation and limited opportunities for participation is evident from the concerns raised by a UOBDU representative during the Nature Uganda workshop: "While we are discussing here today on the proposal to upgrade the Echuya forest to national park status, I want to ask few questions: have the local communities been consulted? Is FPIC of the Batwa and others considered? Why cannot we learn lessons from the past, as the livelihoods of local people, particularly the Batwa have been affected from the top-down declaration of Mgahinga and Bwindi national parks?" Another respondent shared similar concerns: "Sadly, many projects in Uganda are developed in air-conditioned offices and hotel meeting rooms, and then implemented, without prior consultation with the Indigenous peoples" (NKI-1). Furthermore, capacity deficit in terms of leadership and communication skills and time commitment required to attend frequent meetings also put off many Batwa from participating in decision-making processes.

The exclusion of Batwa from local decision-making has resulted in negative or limited outcomes of adaptation responses in some cases, as these projects were designed by others (e.g. external organisations) in a somewhat top-down manner. For example, the relocation of Batwa on steep and rocky slopes proved a misguided project, as Batwa could not do any farming there. Another example is the box-like housing project, as mentioned earlier. In a further case, we found that a charity was distributing crop seeds to Batwa households who did not even have any farmland. Similarly, few other projects labelled as adaptation were more like usual development projects (e.g. projects focused on tourism or income generation activities) with no clear links to adaptation, even in some cases amounting to maladaptation (e.g. water-harvesting open ponds which no one uses and have high rates of evaporation). In sum, lack of proper vulnerability assessment and limited consultations in

the project design have resulted in poor design and implementation of the projects targeted at the Batwa.

Besides their limited participation in specific projects, Batwa members also feel very much excluded from the political processes in Uganda due to systemic structural barriers (NKI-1, DKI-4), which also limits their ability to influence national policies, including climate and adaptation policies. First, most of them even do not have national identification and birth certificates. Second, there are certain minimum educational criteria to take part in political structures, which most of the Batwa do not have. Third, it needs certain skills and competition to take part and succeed in elections in free or reserved quota among other marginalised/minority groups. Batwa local leaders from a community are thus only limited to their own community, it is hard for them to go beyond that level. So far, Batwa can only hope that their voices are taken up and heard in higher levels of decision-making processes through their indirect representation such as UOBDU and their networks who participate in district meetings (e.g. organised by the Office of Community Development) and national level consultations (e.g. organised by the Office of the Prime Minister) (DKI-4, DKI-5, NKI-1).

 In summary, recognition injustice against the Batwa stem from the inequitable societal and political structures that have been produced from historical injustices, resulting in perpetuation of lack of respect, discrimination and domination against the group (see also, Martin et al., 2013, 2015; Fraser, 2001; Marino & Ribot, 2012). This also influences the way they can participate in national and local decision-making, including the designing and implementation of adaptation responses.

### 5. Discussion

With a case of Uganda's Batwa Indigenous community, this paper set out to investigate empirically the gaps between justice conceptualisation (in the existing literature and climate policies) to its contextualisation in national policies and operationalisation in the local implementation of adaptation responses. In so doing, we highlighted the importance of looking into the chain of processes from poor planning to poor delivery and linking the current pattern of injustice with wider social inequalities, history of marginalisation, and past interventions. In this sense, we are in agreement with multi-level approach to justice analysis as stressed by earlier studies (Paavola & Adger, 2002; Barrett, 2013; Byskov et al.,

2019; Matur et al., 2014) and looking into the 'larger story' to injustice experienced by Indigenous peoples (Whyte, 2017) as well as being mindful of multiple layers and forms of epistemic injustice (Fricker, 2007; Alfanso & Skorburg, 2018).

Employing the conceptual framework that we detailed in Section 2, the findings from our fieldwork reveal a multi-dimensional range of systemic injustices experienced by the Batwa, resulting from their continued social-economic, cultural and political marginalisation after their eviction from Uganda's forests. This suggests that the design and implementation of adaptation responses need to pay more specific attention to the issues of recognition, participation and deliberative processes than the existing depoliticised and technical approach focused on distribution. In that sense, we need to look into a broad range of things beyond adaptation (Byskov et al., 2019) and consider how existing inequality and lack of epistemic power further aggravate the climate vulnerability of marginalised groups (Tan et al., 2015; Holland, 2017; Sovacool et al., 2015; Anguelovski et al., 2016; Fricker, 2007).

As we illustrated in the specific case of the Batwa, on the distributive side, they still lack fulfilment of very basic needs for human development and functioning (food, clothing, shelter, access to education and health) and face serious discrimination by others. There have been small-scale projects focusing on enhancing their adaptive capacity (e.g. provision of land, housing, income generation etc.) run by a range of non-state actors (NGOs, local organisations and charities). However, there is a lack of coordination and/or overlap among these actors and activities. Additionally, there is a concentration of initiatives in certain areas (also see Few et al., 2015), often resulting in duplication of efforts and non-transparency and lack of accountability and sustainability. In many cases, there is also no apparent distinction between pre-existing development activities and projects labelled as adaptation, highlighting part of the problem in the designing and implementation of adaptation responses (Section 1; see also Scoville-Simonds, 2015; Few et al., 2015, 2018). In this context, we argue that adaptation responses need to be effectively mainstreamed with wider development goals and practices, which might also facilitate paths to their implementation (see also, Few et al., 2015, 2018).

A crucial procedural issue is the degree of participation in designing and implementing adaptation activities: while public consultation in planning processes do happen, they are mainly because of donor driven demands than the ones asked by the communities

themselves. In some cases, national policies may emphasise the requirement, however the problem is of implementation of these provisions on the ground. The lack of enabling conditions (e.g. democratic ideals of fairness, equity and justice in national policies and programmes, supportive policies and legal frameworks on rights of Indigenous communities) and lack of operationalisation of international frameworks and provisions (e.g. ILO-169 or UNDRIP or FPIC) in Uganda mean that there is a long way to go for enhancing their effective representation and participation in decision-making, including in adaptation planning and implementation. In this regard, we agree that more attention is needed on procedural issues related to the implementation of adaptation initiatives (Sovacool et al., 2015; Anguelovski et al., 2016).

Most importantly, for the realisation of environmental and social justice in a true sense, it is necessary to link distribution with capabilities (i.e. needs of and rights to food, to development, to avoid being harmed, to freedom) and incorporate other elements of justice, including the recognition of distinct status and histories of the affected groups, and focussing on procedural matters (Schlosberg et al., 2017; Nussbaum, 2011; Sikor, 2014; Sikor & Newell 2014; Byskov, 2018); Wood et al., 2018; Marion & Ribot, 2012). However, as we have seen in our case, most of the existing projects that are targeted to the Batwa at the local level tend to emphasise on one particular dimension of justice, often focusing on distribution of material benefits while less attention is paid to the more intricate issues of compensation, political discrimination and uneven participation in decision-making. This is also supported by the fact that there is limited body of empirical studies focused on detailed assessment of justice and adaptation, as much of the studies tend to take a technical and simplistic approach to justice analysis (Section 2). This depoliticised and compartmentalised approach (i.e. with focus only on distributional aspect) at the expense of socio-cultural and historical issues of injustice and other complexities such as addressing recognition and rights of Indigenous peoples (Martin et al., 2015; Wood et al., 2018) suggests the slow and incomplete way of operationalising justice in the design and implementation of adaptation responses.

In sum, our research particularly demonstrates how socio-economic factors and issues of representation coalesce to generate systematic injustices for Indigenous communities. This is especially so in response to climate change, where Indigenous communities are some of the most vulnerable populations and lack the epistemic power to influence a particular

discourse, such as the adaptation planning process (cf. Fricker, 2007, p. 1; Ford et al., 2016; Ford et al., 2018; Oviedo & Fincke, 2009; Salick & Byg, 2007; Byskov et al., 2019). As we have illustrated through the case of the Batwa, Indigenous communities are often subject to multi-dimensional and systematic injustices and inequalities, including the lack of provision of basic needs (e.g. adequate nourishment, housing, and clothing), with little to no way of having these injustices addressed due to a lack of political representation. The Batwa's vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change is both reinforced by a lack of basic goods necessary to withstand these effects as well as a lack of opportunity to rectify this situation due to social, cultural, and political marginalisation.

In light of these findings, we call for sincere efforts to address recognition, rights, and disproportionate levels of disadvantage for Indigenous communities like the Batwa, including their official/constitutional recognition, financial redress and more opportunities for participation in decision-making at all levels. More specifically, we suggest at least three actions that need to be considered for promoting environmental and social justice to Indigenous communities and developing a just and effective framework of climate adaptation.

Most fundamentally, first, it is necessary to recognise the equal rights and voices of Indigenous communities as important stakeholders in addressing and adapting to climate change, as well as recognising their distinct history, identity, values and views. It is necessary to uphold and implement the provisions set out in international accords, such as the Paris Agreement, ILO 169 and UNDRIP. In that regard it would be worthwhile to draw on best practices and lessons from similar cases, for example in Peru, and using the lessons from the recently established Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to the UNFCCC.

Second, because many Indigenous communities suffer from additional social, economic, and democratic inequalities and injustices that negatively influence their epistemic power (Alfanso & Skorburg, 2018; Fricker, 2007) to influence the agenda on climate change and climate adaptation, it is necessary to address structural and socioeconomic inequalities and pre-existing politics of exclusion at the national and local levels. Theories of distributive justice, such as the capability approach (Nussabaum, 2011; Lindley et al., 2011; Robeyns, 2016, 2017), could help establish what is owed to the Batwa and other Indigenous peoples in

terms of socioeconomic justice, in general, and in relation to climate adaptation justice, in particular.

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Third, more efforts are required to end discrimination and domination against Indigenous communities and promote more inclusive structures and processes through legal and policy reforms and strengthening of a rule of law. Normative political theories and philosophical approaches (i.e. applied ethics) could be of help to articulate the moral duties of authorities and practitioners to include Indigenous communities in climate adaptation planning and implementation (Byskov et al., 2019). Social movements around climate change and Indigenous rights in both the Global North and the Global South are also increasingly seeking to provide a channel for marginalised voices, including Indigenous peoples (Whyte, 2017), but there is still a long way to go.

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#### 6. Conclusion

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Using insights from theories of environmental and social justice, this paper focused on understanding a range of injustices experienced by the Batwa, such as inequalities in terms of land use, housing, access to food. We sought to understand both how these injustices are exacerbated by climate change (e.g. reduced food security or increased exposure to natural hazards) and how they affect the adaptive capacities of the Batwa. Our case study analysis shows how there is a fuzzy distinction between adaptation responses and development interventions operating on the ground, highlighting the need to mainstream and reinforce adaptation more widely in development plans and projects. Our findings also illustrate how socioeconomic inequalities and systematic injustices limit Batwa's access to resources, such as land, capital, employment, and other basic needs (housing, health, education), and how these collectively hinder their adaptive capacity. More importantly, we show how existing interventions that have an impact on adaptive capacity – including both those styled as specifically adaptation interventions and those styled more generally as development projects – have disproportionately focused on distributional aspects and often neglected procedural aspects. In such a context of partial and insufficient approaches to justice, we argue that recognition and procedural aspects are pivotal core issues without which no justice is possible (see Honneth, 1995; Wood et al., 2018; Scoville-Simonds, 2015). Recent theorising on recognition and environmental justice even goes further to urge decolonisation of justice (see Pellow, 2016; Pulido & Lara, 2018) and understanding 'larger

stories' and many layers to the injustices experienced by the Indigenous peoples (Whyte, 2017).

Our analysis of the Batwa situation provides valuable insights and lessons for both the Ugandan context as well as other contexts, in particular in Africa, where Indigenous peoples share similar experiences of socio-economic inequalities and systemic injustices. Indigenous peoples around the world are more vulnerable to climate change challenges as they lack appropriate capacity and resources to adapt (Oxfam, 2017; Kronik & Verner, 2010; Meybeck et al., 2019; Ford et al., 2018). However, the support for Indigenous peoples in adaptation initiatives remains largely ad hoc, small in scale, and insecure. Insights from this research can help to upscale and place issues of Indigenous peoples higher on the adaptation agenda; this can also guide efforts to enhance rights and opportunities for them, whether by governments, development partners, civil society organisations or Indigenous peoples' organisations and their leaders.

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# Annex 1. Additional methods of data collection

Type of data	Number	Types of organisation and place
collection		
Community key	5	Representatives of local authorities and
informant interviews		community-based organisations working on
(CKIs)		Batwa issues in various locations in Kisoro
District key	6	Representatives of government, non-
informant interviews		government and charity organisations in Kisoro
(DKIs)		
National key	4	Government and non-government
interviews (NKIs)		organisations in Kampala
Participant	Number of	Nature Uganda (host); government officials
observation of a	participants =	from Kisoro, Kabale and Rubanda districts;
workshop	>30	Charities, non-governmental organisations or
		NGOs and community-based organisations or
		CBOs
Secondary data and	-	Organisational reports of various NGOs,
policy analysis		charities working on Batwa, analysis of national
		development and adaptation plans and policies

#### Focus group discussions

- FGD-1, focus group discussion with mixed Batwa members in site-1 (4 female, 7 male), 13/12/2018
- FGD-2, focus group discussion with mixed Batwa members in site-2 (8 female, 16 male), 13/12/2018
- 3. FGD-3, focus group discussion with Batwa 10 female members in site-3, 14/12/2018
- 4. FGD-4, focus group with Batwa 4 male members in site-3, 14/12/2018
- 5. FGD-5, focus group with Batwa members (4 male, 4 female) in site-4, 14/12/2018
- 6. FGD-6, focus group with Batwa members (5 male, 2 female) in site-5, 15/12/2018

#### Community level

- 1. CKI-1, interview with a non-Batwa member in site-2, 13/12/2018
- 2. CKI-2, interview with a grassroots organisation official near site-5, 15/12/2018
- 3. CKI-3, interview with a grassroots organisation official, 15/12/2018
- 4. CKI-4, interview with a local government official, 16/12/2018
- 5. CKI-5, interview with a grassroots organisation official, 17/12/2018

#### District level

- 1. DKI-1, district level government official, 14/12/2018
- 2. DKI-2, district level I/NGO official, 16/12/2018
- 3. DKI-3, district level NGO official, 17/12/2018
- 4. DKI-4, district level Batwa network NGO (i.e. UOBDU) official, 17/12/2018
- 5. DKI-5, district level government official, 17/12/2018
- 6. DKI-6, district level government official, 17/12/2018
- Participant observation of inter-district workshop: Nature Uganda, local
  government officials from Kisoro, Kabale and Rubanda districts, National Forest
  Authority officials, Charities (Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust, African
  International Christian Ministry), NGOs and CBOs (UOBDU, Bamboo for Good),
  18/12/2018

# National level

- 1. NKI-1, national level NGO official, also affiliated with the Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples in Uganda, 10/12/2018
- 2. NKI-2, national level INGO official, 10/12/2018
- 3. NKI-3, national level NGO official, 11/12/2018
- 4. NKI-4, national level government official, 20/12/2018

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