



**Galvanizing stakeholders towards transparency
and accountability in environmental rights and
climate justice: A call to Action.**

CivSource Africa participated in an event in Gulu City that brought together government ministries, departments and agencies, civil society actors, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Acholi Cultural institution alike to the pertinent issues of natural resource rights and climate justice within the communities of northern Uganda. Dubbed the Northern Uganda Regional Context Conversation, this very apt and poignant discourse which was premised on the need to galvanize all stakeholders, including government and Civil Society around the need to reclaim a space for advocacy and accountability around natural resource rights and climate justice was hosted by the Gulu District NGO Forum and drew participants from across Northern Uganda.

The conversations of the day centered around the ongoing effects of environmental degradation and climate change as well as the need to have the duty bearers take up their responsibility to enforce existing legislation to ensure that activities such as charcoal burning and indiscriminate grazing are significantly reduced while building the agency of communities to demand for their natural resource rights and hold their leadership accountable. Recognizing climate change as a global challenge that has led to local problems, the participants were egged to link local advocacy to international conversations to ensure that local innovations and actions find relevance in the international discourse on climate change.



The meeting included sharing of best practices from areas like Omoro and Lamwo where the district political and civil leadership have come together to put a stop to indiscriminate tree felling for charcoal while also partnering with local initiatives such as Africa Clean Energy to provide low-cost eco-friendly solutions to meet their home needs.

The participants committed to fostering greater collaboration amongst themselves and continuing the discourse on this issue through revamping the District Disaster Management Committees for Northern Uganda Districts and providing exemplary leadership towards promoting Agro-ecology, mindset change programs in their work, advocating for changes in education curriculum to incorporate climate change adaptability, and most of all, to move the conversations around natural resource rights and climate justice to the communities that are bearing the brunt of its effects and identify coordinated resources to foster regular conversations on this very significant topic.

CivSource Africa believes in the power of conversations and was honored to be a part of this discourse, bringing the necessary stakeholders together and facilitating a space for open and robust communication on a topical subject with a view of stimulating and igniting further conversations among communities, civil society, and political leaders. We call upon the participants to honor their commitment to act, and act now, in the quest to better the lives of the communities they lead.

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