

Climate change and food security among the Batwa Pygmies of Kanungu, Uganda

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Over 1 Billion people practice some form of subsistence livelihood. Climate change will impact these people to a greater extent than other groups because they have a heightened reliance on natural resources and the environment for food production. Africa is expected to be particularly impacted by climatic events such as extreme drought, increased temperatures and unpredictable precipitation. This study conducted a systematic literature review and a case study of the Batwa Pygmies in Southwestern Uganda. The systematic literature review analysed 16 peer reviewed articles. Adaptation and coping strategies were extracted from each study to determine resilience to climate exposure. The literature relayed the complexity and extent to which adaption methods are being implemented. Poverty and financial difficulties were found to reduce resilience and increase vulnerability to climate change. The case study of the Batwa examines the prevalence of food security within the Kanungu district of Uganda an adaptation of the USDA household food security survey module. A census survey was administered in January 2013 to 130 households of which 99% were categorized as food insecure. The analysis identified possible determinants of food security status but the population was homogeneously poor and little variation emerged between households.

