

# **Impacts of extreme weather conditions on communities and the resultant legal consequences**

Presentation

by

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# Climate Change definition

- The systematic change in the long-term state of the atmosphere at a given time in a specific location.

# Causes of climate change

Climate change is mostly human induced.

- **Deforestation:** About 11% of all global green gas emissions caused by human activity are a result of deforestation
- Global warming from **burning of fossil fuels**
- **Change in land use**
- **Increasingly intense agriculture for example livestock farming** due to methane emitted in their dung
- Fertilisers containing nitrogen produce nitrous oxide emissions.

# Impacts of climate change

- **Loss of lives:** floods in Kasese-Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Djibouti, tornados in USA, Indonesia and the Phillipines, resulting into more than 400 deaths)
- **Loss of natural capital:** minerals, forests, loss of wildlife from wildfires, a case in point the Amazon rain forest fires etc
- **Damage to commercial buildings :**Rise in water levels of L.Victoria that damaged buildings

# Woman drowns in a manhole, Kampala Uganda



# Locust invasion in Uganda



# Rise in lake Victoria water levels-2020



# Legal consequences

- Increasing **suits** against governments, institutions, companies against pollution, deforestation, destruction of wetlands.
- Judicial officers must be equipped with sufficient knowledge on the environment and the law itself
- Courts have been **receptive and alive** to climate change and its negative impacts. Andrea Lozano Vs the Government of Columbia(STC4360-2028), Royal Dutch(Eric Bariza Dooh and Millieudefensie Vs Royal Dutch Shell(200.126.8480)
- Judicial officers should be **conscious** and **alive** to cases brought before them for some are of a commercial nature yet they are actually a result of climate change.
- We must be prepared to explore outside the box of traditional law while dealing with environmental issues.



**Thank you very much**

