



CIFOR.org/gender-climate

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

EVIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE

A set of briefs on gender and climate change that highlights how CIFOR and partner organizations are addressing current and emerging policy issues, with insights and recommendations based on experience.

BRIEFS



Gender
Brief

INTRO

Gender and climate change

Evidence and experience

This set of policy briefs seeks to address some of the most pressing policy issues concerning gender and climate change, by drawing on the extensive experience of each contributing partner organization. Our hope is that the concise and empirically grounded recommendations in each brief can provide guidance to policy makers and programmers to better identify and address gender issues in climate policy and action.

The briefs focus on a number of pressing issues such as **gender equality in climate change** adaptation and mitigation, **gender-responsive financing**, and **gender-sensitive monitoring** of sustainable development achievements.

We also report on the **status of gender integration** in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations as we enter the 21st Conference of Parties, and highlight the measures that need to be taken to ensure the new global agreement reduces women's vulnerability and promotes the goals of gender equality.

We represent a diverse group of organizations working on gender and climate change issues, ranging from CGIAR research centers to United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations. We routinely collaborate to raise awareness of the importance of taking gender into account in climate change negotiations.

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Photo by

Ollivier Girard for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Barry Aliman, 24 years old, rides her bicycle with her baby to collect water for her family, Sorobouly village near Boromo, Burkina Faso.

This brief introduces a set of Gender Climate Briefs.
See the full set here: CIFOR.org/gender-climate



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Seeds of adaptation

Climate change, crop diversification and the role of women farmers

 Women farmers around the world are taking the lead in putting crop and varietal conservation and diversification strategies into practice as a way to strengthen local climate change adaptation capacities.

Key messages

- Women farmers play key roles in local seed systems although they are often overlooked by researchers and development personnel, policies and programs.
- Climate change is putting pressure on farmers' seed and food production systems, often resulting in different impacts on women and men.
- Crop and varietal conservation and diversification can be effective adaptation strategies to respond to changing farming conditions and increased uncertainty.
- Women are at the forefront of implementing such new strategies, but more attention and support are needed from research and development agencies and from practitioners.

The problem

Farmers' own seed systems are at the heart of food security. These systems are currently under stress due to political, social, economic and environmental changes. Women farmers play key roles in these systems. However, they are often overlooked by researchers and development personnel, policies and programs.

Context

Almost everywhere, local seed systems – from selection, to storage, production, distribution and exchange – are under stress. Agricultural modernization (for example, substitution of local varieties with hybrids), privatization of natural resources and the strong concentration and expansion of corporate power in the life science industries (including the seed industry) are contributing to a decline in collective local management of plant genetic resources for both conservation and sustainable use. Many farming households have become more individualized in terms of decision-making and use of knowledge, labor, capital and seeds.

Traditional seed exchange relationships are becoming weaker in many areas or are disappearing altogether. Large-scale rural-to-urban migration is contributing

to a decline in farming or changing its nature radically. In some countries, this trend is leading to the feminization of agriculture, resulting in heavier workloads for women. Climate change, in the form of longer-term changes in temperature and precipitation and the increased occurrence of extreme weather events, is putting additional pressure on farmers' seed and food production systems, often with different impacts on women and men. Diversity of local varieties, in both number and area cover, is on the decline in many countries. Future impacts of climate change are expected to become more pronounced in many parts of the world, forcing farmers to change their practices and search for information about crops and varieties better adapted to new weather dynamics.

Crop and varietal diversification can be an effective adaptation strategy to respond to changing farming conditions. Women farmers around the world are taking the lead in putting this strategy into practice and, in the process, they are reorienting farming knowledge, practices and the social relationships of agricultural production. The following two examples illustrate this.

Evidence and experience

Crop and rice diversification in Bhutan

Pema lives with her parents, husband and daughter, aged four, in a traditional Bhutanese farmhouse in the village of Tsento, Shari, in the fertile Paro valley of the central western part of Bhutan. There are about 50 households in the village, arranged in the dispersed manner common in the country. Despite this dispersion, agriculture continues to depend on cooperation among villagers throughout the year. Pema explains:

"Right now is the rice transplanting season. Transplanting is done by teams of women. First, the men plow the land which is flooded before transplanting. Neighbors work together to finish the work on time, going from the field or fields of one household to the field of another. Nowadays, most of the household[s] cultivate a variety that

was introduced in the area about 10 years ago. It is named 'Nepali'. It yields well and responds effectively to increased fertilizer use. Two other varieties can be found, as well, named 'Paro China' and 'Chadanath 1'. Before, we used to grow two traditional red rice varieties 'Kuchum' and 'Raynam', but these were affected by disease and decreasing yields. With government support, we changed our varieties. 'Nepali' is a good variety."

Experimenting for adaptation

Pema and other farmers in the village are interested in growing new rice varieties, especially ones that adapt well to the changing environmental conditions. In recent years, they have been experimenting with new varieties introduced by breeders at the government's Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Centre. This is the first time the farmers, together with researchers, have tested these new varieties. The varieties are supposed to do well at higher altitudes, respond better to drier conditions and have good disease resistance. Farmers hope that one or more of the new varieties will produce good results. Bioversity International has offered training to breeders in the use of new research tools and techniques that allow the identification of promising plant genetic resources adapted to the changing climate.

Apart from rice for household consumption, Pema grows potatoes as her main cash crop. She also has a garden with several vegetables, herbs and spices, such as beans, cabbage, spinach, broccoli, turnips, pumpkins, rapeseed, onions, mint and some maize. In addition, she has a small field with oats (which are increasingly used for fodder, replacing the more drought- and disease-prone wheat), several fields with various types of chili peppers (for home consumption and for the market), and an orchard with apples and peaches. Pema is the first farmer in the locality to have a greenhouse. She has been selected by the Agricultural Extension Centre to cultivate vegetables in the greenhouse because of her willingness to collaborate on new projects. She has planted tomatoes, cucumber, chilies, climbing beans, salad and amaranth, among others. If the greenhouse is successful, it will give her more diverse produce throughout the year and she will be able to sell some of the harvest at the market.

Constraints to success

The villagers face several problems. Pema says:

"A major problem we have is wild boars. They come from the forest during the night and invade our fields. They dig up the potatoes and empty a field in one 'haul'. We have to stay overnight in the fields to chase them away, but it is not easy. One of my potato fields was invaded some days ago; the boar devoured all the potato seeds. When the maize is ripening, they will return. They also like rice and oats. That is why all our rice fields are fenced."

Another major problem is drought. Pema observes:

"Drought is affecting us in a severe way. For the rice, we still have irrigation water, but the reduced inflow has already caused some tensions between households that depend on the same source. The drought could cause the non-flowering of the potatoes and thus their loss. That would be a serious setback for me. The vegetables, oat[s] and maize are also suffering. I hope the rains will come soon."

Crop and variety conservation in South Africa

South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), through the Directorate Genetic Resources and in collaboration with Bioversity International, has initiated a national community seedbank strategy to support local smallholder communities in efforts to revive and improve their traditional seed-saving practices. It aims to promote food security, sustainable agriculture and conservation of the country's agricultural biodiversity at the local and national levels. This is especially important in areas where farming systems are subsistence oriented, deeply connected to local food culture and situated in complex, risk-prone low-input environments. In a community seedbank, local varieties are collected and the related indigenous knowledge documented. Then, they are stored, multiplied and shared. A community seedbank represents a simple community-based solution for improving access to, and availability of, plant genetic resources and safeguarding these in case of adversity.

Farming in Gumbu

Two pilot community seedbanks have been set up so far: one in Gumbu village of Limpopo Province in the northeast and one in the Sterkspruit district of Eastern Cape province in the southeast. Gumbu is a remote dryland village situated about 150 km from Mutale town near the border with Zimbabwe. It has poor market access and is far away from government agencies and services. Farming in Gumbu is largely practiced by women. Some of the men look after the livestock in areas surrounding the village, but many have migrated out in search of paid work. The main food crops are maize, white sorghum, calabash, cowpea, pumpkin and melon. These crops are mostly used for household consumption. Women also cultivate a variety of vegetables, such as cabbage, squash, onion, sweet potato, tomato and chili. These crops are mostly sold at the market. Crop varietal diversity at farm level is not very high, but some farmers maintain rare varieties. However, some traditional varieties have disappeared from the village. Seed exchange mostly takes place within the family and with fellow church members.

Women running the show

The Gumbu village community seed bank is managed and operated by a group of 40 women farmers. The women farmers of Gumbu contend that the community seed bank will allow them to maintain a range of different crop species and varieties inherited from their parents. Maintaining crop diversity not only supports their households in terms of food supply, but also gives them satisfaction and allows them to earn some extra cash. They expressed that exchange of seeds among farmers of different communities and cultures will help to stop the loss of crop diversity that is occurring in the area. The women farmers running the community seedbank are giving priority to nutritious crops that taste good and are easy to combine with traditional dishes. In terms of agronomy, they are doing everything possible to maintain crops and varieties that require few inputs, are drought-, pest- and disease-resistant, and have a short growing cycle and long-term storage quality.

Recommendations

The examples of Bhutan and South Africa illustrate the key role of women farmers in local climate change adaptation efforts and how these efforts in turn are changing local agro-ecological and socioeconomic landscapes. Yet, research and development programs and projects pay insufficient attention to the successes and challenges of such farmers' efforts. More attention and support is needed to:

- encourage the safeguarding and improvement of local plant species and varieties maintained by smallholder farmers and their communities, recognizing the central role of women;
- value and reward farmers' collective efforts to safeguard and improve agricultural biodiversity and associated cultural values and knowledge;
- support farmers technically and financially to organize themselves and strengthen their organizational capacity, taking into consideration the leadership role of women.

Further reading

Bhutan

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/rural-bhutanese-farmer-pema-faces-climate-change-with-a-cornucopia-of-agricultural-biodiversity/>

South Africa

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/seed-savers-of-gumbu/>

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/rural-bhutanese-farmer-pema-faces-climate-change-with-a-cornucopia-of-agricultural-biodiversity/>

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/supporting-community-seedbanks-in-south-africa/>

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/powerful-crops-empowering-farmers-through-community-seed-banks-in-south-africa/>

<http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/savouring-diversity-first-steps-in-implementing-a-strategy-to-support-community-seedbanks-in-south-africas-smallholder-farming-areas/>

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Photo by

Aulia Erlangga for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

A tea picker from Cianjen, within the boundaries of Mount Halimun Salak National Park in West Java, collecting tea leaves in a basket.

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Changing the climate

Why gender matters to achieving equitable sustainable development

 Achieving sustainable development and food and nutrition security in a changing climate requires addressing the fundamental issue of gender inequality whilst building the adaptive capacity of both men and women¹. Here we review lessons from practical approaches to integrating gender into community-based adaptation and food and nutrition security in Ghana and Bangladesh.

Key messages

- Understanding the interconnected factors shaping the aspirations of men and women, and their capacity to adapt, is critical for designing, implementing and monitoring effective and appropriate adaptation measures.
- Tackling the entrenched drivers of vulnerability and gender inequality that limit women's ability to adapt is essential for achieving equitable sustainable development.
- Investing in women's economic empowerment is a key contributing factor to building household and community resilience.

¹ CARE and Foodtank. 2015. Cultivating equality: Delivering just and sustainable food systems in a changing climate. http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CARE-Food-Tank-CCAFS_Report_Cultivating-Equality.pdf

The problem

While it is believed women produce 60–80% of the food in developing countries, worldwide they only own 10–20% of agricultural land². Rural women are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to limited access and control over resources fundamental to adaptation and limited participation in decision-making processes. Similarly, they lack equal access to productive resources needed for agricultural livelihoods, and are often the last to eat when food is scarce. However, women should not be viewed only as victims; they have valuable skills and knowledge that contribute to successful adaptation and play a key role in ensuring the food and nutrition security of their households and communities.

² FAO. 2015. Why gender: Key facts. Rome: FAO. <http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-why/key-facts/en/> accessed September 24, 2015; FAO. 2011 *State of Food and Agriculture*. Rome: FAO.

Context

It is critical that efforts to address women's empowerment are not limited to women-only focused strategies that could add to their workloads without commensurate rights over decision-making or benefits. These kinds of strategies can further entrench gender inequality. A transformative approach recognizes that focusing on women alone is unlikely to result in sustainable strengthening of adaptive capacity; instead it challenges existing power structures and aims to move the bar on inequitable social norms. Without challenging underlying causes of gender inequality such as early marriage and pregnancy, cultural norms of male dominated decision making or restrictions on women's mobility, or the lack of value placed on women's contributions and knowledge, the chances of achieving sustainable development and food and nutrition security are minimal³.

Evidence and experience

To address gender inequality CARE uses the following strategies to integrate an understanding of local gender dynamics and inequalities into its activities:

- Conducting standalone gender analysis exercises at various stages during program activities.
- Integrating gender into participatory analysis of climate vulnerability for effective local adaptation planning. For example, carrying out a climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA)⁴, which ensures the participation of both men and women, and asks questions about gender issues in climate adaptation.
- Integrating gender analysis information into adaptive management of activities throughout the program cycle.

Ghana – Closing the gender gap to reap economic and social empowerment dividends

In many countries, laws and customs still deny women land ownership or access to credit. In these countries, malnutrition amongst children is between 60 and 85% higher than in countries permitting women and men equal rights and access. If women had equal access to resources (land, education, credit, etc.) as men, 100–150 million fewer people would be hungry⁵. Therefore, both sustained access to productive assets, and good health, are central to climate change adaptation and food and nutrition security in rural areas.

Program interventions

- **Village savings and loans associations** (VSLAs) build women's economic and social empowerment by providing access to credit to support income-generating activities or household costs.
- **Participatory scenario planning**⁶ (PSP) forums provide people with access to livelihoods advisories based on the seasonal weather forecast aiding decision-making.
- **Farmer field and business field schools** provide experiential learning and training on sustainable agriculture practices, market engagement, gender and equity, nutrition, and group empowerment.
- **Community adaptation action plans**⁷ allow men, women and communities to prioritize risk and make collective decisions on new or improved actions they can take to build household or community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

3 ALP. 2015 *Gender dynamics in a changing climate: how gender and adaptive capacity affect resilience*. CARE International <http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Gender-and-Adaptation-Learning-Brief.pdf>

4 CARE. 2009. *Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Handbook*. CARE International. <http://careclimatechange.org/tool-kits/cvca/>

5 FAO. 2011. *Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*. Rome: FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e00.htm>

6 ALP. 2012. *Decision making for climate resilient livelihoods and risk reduction: a participatory scenario planning approach* CARE International. http://www.care.org/sites/default/files/documents/CC-2011-ALP_PSP_Brief.pdf

7 ALP. 2014. *Adaptation planning with communities: Practitioner brief 1*. CARE International. http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CBA_Planning_Brief.pdf

Results/impact

- New respect and support for women's roles and their contribution to the household. An example is men giving women access to land now they realize women are economically and technically able to make good use of it through access to credit (through VSLAs), seasonal forecasts and improved agricultural inputs and practices.
- Diversification into less 'climate sensitive' livelihoods such as handicrafts or petty trading using funds saved in VSLAs.
- Greater social empowerment for women – VSLAs build group solidarity and promote self-confidence and self-reliance that fosters changes in women's behavior. For example, they have an increased voice in decision-making processes, making household decisions collaboratively with men, access to public spaces and use of mobile phones.

Bangladesh – Tackling the twin challenges of food and nutrition security and climate change through women's empowerment

Bangladesh, the world's most densely populated country, consists almost entirely of low-lying shoreline and river delta. It is extremely vulnerable to flooding, drought and climate change. Coupled with this, Bangladesh faces a persistent challenge of child malnutrition, which can permanently impair a child's physical and cognitive development. CARE's interventions in the country aim to tackle both issues while focusing on gender equality – which is central to achieving success.

Program interventions

- **Health, hygiene and nutrition:** promoting more food during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months and increases in immunizations to reduce malnourishment and negative health impacts among the most vulnerable.
- **Agriculture and livelihoods:** agriculture sector productivity or food security training, linkages with local government and the private sector, access to information and new

technology, technical support and capacity building all contribute to building resilient agricultural livelihoods.

- **Disaster and climate risk management:** building awareness and capacity through community-based adaptation and emergency response to prevent the reversal of other development gains.
- **Gender empowerment:** through VSLAs, empowerment, knowledge and transformative action (EKATA) groups and leadership and decision-making training.

Results/impact

- Families' dietary diversity nearly doubled, and the number of children aged 6–23 months who had an adequate diet rose from 8% to 50%. The number of stunted children dropped 13 percentage points, more than double the national average⁸.
- The number of months per year that families spend without enough food dropped from 6.1 to 1⁹.
- Women are three times more involved in income generating activities, 15 percent more likely to control their earnings, and 2.5 times more likely to access ante-natal care¹⁰.

8 Smith LC et al. 2015. *Quantitative Impact Evaluation of the SHOUHARDO II Project in Bangladesh*. Tucson, AZ: TANGO, International.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

Recommendations

- Invest in context-specific analysis to understand the interconnected factors shaping the aspirations of men and women and their ability to adapt in order to design effective and appropriate adaptation action.
- Invest in improving women's economic empowerment in the face of climate change to address the way resources and labor are distributed and valued in the economy.
- Focus on identifying and overcoming the cultural and social constraints, such as limited freedom of movement, which impact on women's ability to adapt.
- Invest in information communication technologies and in addressing women's higher levels of illiteracy as a critical driver of change in gender relations and adaptive capacity.
- Tackle the entrenched drivers of vulnerability and gender inequality, such as poor access to health services and reproductive and sexual health information in order to remove barriers to successful adaptation.

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Photo by

CARE International

This brief is number 2 in a set of Gender Climate Briefs.
See the full set here: [CIFOR.org/gender-climate](https://www.cifor.org/gender-climate)



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Climate change, policy change

Five policy lessons to support women farmers in a changing climate

 This brief highlights policy lessons on providing support to women farmers, and offers guidelines for crafting gender-responsive climate policies at global and national levels.

Key messages

- New technologies must be appropriate to women's resources and demands.
- Extension and climate information services need to serve women and men.
- Institutions must address women's priorities.
- Women's innovation processes need to be recognized and supported.
- Policy-making processes must include women's voices.

The problem

Climate change demands new approaches to agriculture: farmers' practices will need to change to adapt to and mitigate the effects of changing conditions. Addressing gender inequality is key to ensuring this outcome. Agriculture is a fundamental part of women's livelihoods globally, most markedly in least developed countries, where four-fifths of economically active women report agriculture as their primary economic activity¹. More women are moving into agriculture as men move elsewhere for seasonal or paid labor. Yet women farmers have less access to inputs and resources that could improve their farming and meet climate change challenges². Policies, institutions and services aimed at helping farmers develop approaches to tackle climate change will need to produce results for men *and* women farmers. This brief provides five policy lessons to support this process, based on evidence from research in low- and middle-income countries.

¹ Doss C. 2011. *If women hold up half the sky, how much of the world's food do they produce?* ESA Working Paper No. 11-04. Rome: Agricultural Development Economic Division, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1MDIrgW>

² [FAO] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2011. *The state of food and agriculture 2010–2011. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development.* Rome: FAO. Available at: <http://bit.ly/LL9mfR>

Evidence and experience

New technologies and agricultural practices can help farmers meet the challenges of climate change. However, women and men often have different on-farm responsibilities and do not always have equal access to assets, time and resources (e.g. secure access to land, water, information or finances) that enable them to take advantage of new technologies or practices and participate in community-based climate adaptation practices³.

Women tend to have less access to formal agricultural extension services because they are not always seen as farmers. For example, fewer women attend community extension meetings or visit demonstration plots⁴. Women also tend to have less access to radio, mobile phones and other media, and access information in different ways than men. Using multiple channels to reach women may be more effective, e.g. radio, extension events, SMS, voice messages, community groups, health clinics and schools⁵. Women may also need different information than men because of their different responsibilities, needs, interests and constraints.

Institutions involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation need to address the different concerns of women and men. This may include broadening the focus of food security activities beyond agricultural productivity to include income-generation activities, financial services and strengthening

community adaptation capacity. Women's community-based organizations (CBOs) can be effective providers of information and services, filling the gap between services that formal organizations provide and the issues that women prioritize.

Given space and opportunity, women can be effective innovators in addressing climate challenges – identifying and designing new technologies and adapting existing ones to meet their needs. But capacity to innovate alone is not enough; an enabling environment must support women's innovation processes by providing access to facilities, services and incentives. For example, as the effects of climate change intensify, rural markets will expand for products and services that support climate resilience. Understanding and recognizing women's participation in value chains and ensuring the private sector addresses gender inequalities in market access and climate change insurance initiatives are important.

Women's voices are not always evident in decision-making processes in agriculture. When women are present, they tend to form a minority within leadership and in consultative processes. National policies and laws do not always translate well to the local level for reasons of discriminatory socio-cultural norms and laws, low visibility of women's work, limits on education and income, and caregiving responsibilities. Increasing women's voices at all levels of policy-making can lead to a more equitable distribution of the benefits and costs of climate change policies and programs, while improving their efficacy and sustainability.

Gender-responsive climate policy

Policy needs to ensure women and men benefit from climate policy implementation, addressing women's aspirations and priorities specifically, and developed through processes that listen to women's voices and incorporate women's contributions along with those of men.

Gender equality should be addressed in climate change policy and programming at all levels. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

3 Behrman JA, Bryan E and Goh A. 2014. Gender, climate change, and group-based approaches to adaptation. In: Ringler C, Quisumbing AR, Bryan E, Meinzen-Dick R, eds. *Enhancing Women's Assets to Manage Risk under Climate Change: Potential for Group-based Approaches*. Climate Change, Collective Action and Women's Assets. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. 3–8.

4 [IFPRI] World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute. 2010. *Gender and Governance in Rural Services: Insights from India, Ghana, and Ethiopia*. Washington, DC: World Bank; International Food Policy Research Institute.

5 Tall A, Kristjanson P, Chaudhury M, McKune S and Zougmore R. 2014. *Who gets the information? Gender, power and equity considerations in the design of climate services for farmers*. CCAFS Working Paper No. 89. Copenhagen: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). Available at: <http://bit.ly/1YLZtzZ>

Policy lessons

- 1. New technologies should be appropriate to women's resources and demands.** Women and men have different resources, constraints and priorities. Agricultural interventions to help farmers adapt to climate change must be appropriate to these resources and demands.
- 2. Extension and climate information services need to serve women and men.** Women and men often have different information needs, channels of communication, and access to information and extension services. Extension and climate services need to be adapted to their specific needs.
- 3. Institutions must address women's priorities.** Institutions supporting farmers to improve their food security under climate change need to address broader priorities beyond agriculture that are relevant to the concerns of both men and women. Cooperation among ministries and partnerships with civil society, universities and CBOs may have greater reach in addressing women's priorities.
- 4. Women's innovation processes need to be recognized and supported.** Women farmers need to be recognized as effective innovators with specific priorities and interests. They should be partners in identifying and designing appropriate labor-saving tools.
- 5. Policy-making processes must include women's voices.** Agricultural policy, law and decision-making processes at all levels – from community groups to international processes – will be more effective and relevant if they include both women and men.

Change (UNFCCC) and its subsidiary processes and working groups can and should lead by example to ensure that women are represented and heard at the very top of the international climate policy process. Systems need to go beyond ensuring adequate numerical representation of women towards mechanisms for raising the voice and credibility of women in policy processes. For example, the UNFCCC should institutionalize 'he for she' mechanisms, to encourage men to actively promote women's voices.

Key policy areas

Gender considerations should be incorporated into at least three key areas of climate change policies and programs:

- Inclusion of gender dimensions as part of the **qualifying criteria** for accessing international funding channels (such as REDD+, Green Climate Fund, Clean Development Mechanism, Adaptation Fund and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions). Organizations and countries applying for such funds should be asked to identify how programs and interventions will affect women, and how they will ensure that interventions will benefit women as well as men.
- **Needs assessments** that explicitly distinguish between women's and men's priorities and opportunities should inform policy and program design. This should be a prerequisite for any national policy and program that is carried out under the auspices of UNFCCC-mediated processes.
- Gender indicators should be incorporated into the **monitoring and assessment** of program implementation and impacts. These need to be indicators of real change – increased control of productive assets, participation in decision making, knowledge, awareness, empowerment and improved economic status for women and men. Gender indicators need to go beyond measuring the representation of women in climate change processes – women need to be actively involved in defining and monitoring implementation and impacts.

This brief is adapted from:

Huyer S, Twyman J, Koningstein M, Ashby J and Vermeulen S. 2015. Supporting women farmers in a changing climate: five lessons. CCAFS Policy brief no. 10. Copenhagen, Denmark: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS). <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/rest/bitstreams/60479/retrieve>

The original research was presented in March 2015 at a seminar in Paris on 'Closing the gender gap in farming under climate change', co-organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Future Earth.

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Photo by

Tri Saputro for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
A Lubuk Beringin villager walks home from the forest at Lubuk Beringin village, Bungo district, Jambi province, Indonesia.

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Produced by CIFOR as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA). This collaborative program aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests to farms. CIFOR leads CRP-FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and the World Agroforestry Centre.



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At the intersection of inequities

Lessons learned from CIFOR's work on gender and climate change adaptation in West Africa

 Gender is key to understanding how individuals' and groups' vulnerabilities and capacities to adapt and respond to climate change are shaped. Reducing gender to a comparison between women and men, however, risks painting an unclear picture. Effective and responsive adaptation planning needs to take into account the ways in which gender intersects with other factors, such as ethnicity, economic assets and social status.

Key messages

- Taking in account the specific needs of the most vulnerable – who are often women and girls – and examining issues surrounding their participation in decision-making are both needed to avoid exacerbating inequalities and advocating maladaptive actions and plans.
- Integrating gender into climate change adaptation is crucial, but the oversimplification of women as a homogenous group and the view of women as victims must first be overcome.
- Exclusion and marginalisation are often a result of the intersection of several context-specific determinants such as age, ethnic affiliation, origin and class. This needs to be considered during vulnerability analysis and adaptation planning.
- Evidence-based and context-specific gendered vulnerability assessment is needed to specifically identify not only different needs and perceptions, but also different capacities to adapt.

Why does gender matter for climate change adaptation?

Climate change will affect people differently depending on their economic, environmental, cultural, and social situations and contexts. A growing number of studies point to the need to recognize the importance of these differences as crucial to understanding vulnerability^{1,2,3}

To fully grasp the ways in which individual and group vulnerabilities and capacities to adapt and respond to climate change are shaped, an understanding of gender is critical. However, mainstream approaches to gender are still often characterized by oversimplifications and assumptions. Reducing gender to a binary

1 Adger WN and Kelly PM. 2001. *Social vulnerability and resilience: Living with environmental change: social vulnerability, adaptation and resilience in Vietnam*. London, Routledge.

2 O'Brien K, Leichenko R, Kelkar U, Venema H, Aandahl G, Tompkins H, Javed A, Bhadwal S, Barg S, Nygaard L, West J. 2004. Mapping vulnerability to multiple stressors: climate change and globalization in India. *Global Environmental Change* 14: 303–13.

3 Ribot J. 2010. Vulnerability does not fall from the sky: toward multiscale, pro-poor climate policy. In: Mearns R and Norton A. *Social dimensions of climate change: Equity and vulnerability in a warming world*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

comparison of women and men risks painting an unnuanced – or even false – picture. This might impede the effectiveness of adaptation planning and lead to unintended or harmful consequences, often affecting the most vulnerable groups or individuals. A vulnerability assessment that examines the ways in which gender intersects with other pertinent factors, such as ethnicity, economic assets and social status, is crucial to understanding differing vulnerabilities and capacities, and informing effective and responsive adaptation planning.

Vulnerability and adaptive capacity are also dynamic in nature. An adaptive strategy adopted by one group or individual can affect the adaptive capacity of another, either positively or negatively. Yet a clear assessment of gender relations may be key to understanding shifting adaptive capacities. It is increasingly evident that in order to meet climate and other development challenges, integrating considerations of gender into adaptation plans, policies and actions at all levels is necessary. We cannot hope to avoid exacerbating inequalities and advocating maladaptive actions and plans, if we do not understand and recognize the specific needs of the most vulnerable (who are often women and girls) and issues of their participation in decision making.

Evidence and experience

Beyond victimisation: Towards evidence-based vulnerability assessment

To ensure that CIFOR's work focuses on issues critical to advancing equitable adaptation, we reviewed the literature on differences in how men and women experience climate change-related problems. Most studies that conclude women are more vulnerable than men are based on comparisons between female- and male-headed households. While there is evidence that households headed by women do indeed tend to suffer greater losses in the face of climate-related shocks, this finding revealed that, somewhere along the way an unwarranted shift occurred in the "vulnerability discourse". That is, evidence on the vulnerability of female-headed households was transformed into

an oversimplification about the vulnerability of women. This shift conflates two issues and suggests that women are a homogenous group, ignoring important distinctions among women due to their class, age, wealth, etc. This misguided assumption seems to still be common in climate change and gender discussions, and may be leading to misunderstanding of the specific important issues that face female-headed households.

Gendered landscapes: Shifts in ecosystems and in landscapes induce shifts in social roles and activities

CIFOR's work in West Africa shows that women often have different preferences, and priorities for adaptation and development than do men. They often have different limits and opportunities for adapting to climate change in forest- and tree-based livelihoods.

Some of the important lessons we have learned come from several CIFOR projects carried out in Africa's Sahel. This region is currently experiencing complex economic changes (e.g. markets shifts), political changes (e.g. decentralisation and changes in land tenure), and climatic changes and variability (e.g. droughts). Since the severe droughts of the 1980s, scientists have studied the local livelihood strategies developed in reaction to external stressors. Livelihoods have undergone a continuous process of coping with environmental, economic, and political stressors, by adjusting their strategies or adopting new ones.⁴ Under environmental uncertainty and high spatial variability in precipitation, pastoralists have developed flexible individual and collective strategies for coping in reaction to shocks.

Specifically, our studies in Mali and Burkina Faso show: (i) cultural and social norms determine the strategies women and men can adopt, and (ii) strategies adopted by one group can affect the other. For instance migration is a strategy adopted mostly by men. However this strategy has an impact

4 Brooks N, Grist N and Brown K. 2009. Development futures in the context of climate change: challenging the present and learning from the past. *Development Policy Review* 27: 741–65.

on women's adaptive capacity, as they must take over men's tasks. It also increases the vulnerability of other groups, especially children. Results in Northern Mali show that households experiencing migration tend to stop educating their children – especially girls – because of the increased workload that stems from the outmigration of men. Tasks that children take on often include livestock herding, fetching water and fuelwood, and other basic livelihood activities. On the other hand, we also observe that due to the migration of men, women may take the opportunity to engage in previous male-dominated sectors, resulting in the so-called feminization of certain activities.

This shift has been seen, for instance, in the charcoal production and livestock sectors in many CIFOR study sites in West Africa. Overall, women's workloads usually increase due to an extreme climate event (drought) and because of gendered responses to it. But some climate change-induced effects on women are still unclear. An important question that remains is how women's new roles and responsibilities may affect and change power relationships within the households and communities.

Our research suggests that the emerging new societal roles could empower women to negotiate new institutional arrangements to access and control resources. However, despite the active roles women often take in developing new adaptive strategies, they are frequently impeded by insecure land tenure and social restrictions on their access to markets.

Beyond men and women: The intersectional nature of inequities

Another important lesson we learned through our work on adaptation in West Africa is that differences in vulnerabilities cannot be easily divided into male and female categories. This simplistic dichotomy cannot capture the range of complexities and the dynamics of vulnerability. Other factors like age, wealth, class and ethnic affiliation are often crucial. Therefore, we integrated an emerging concept called "intersectionality"

into our studies of gender and climate change. This approach calls for an integration of several factors in the gender analysis and asks how various biological, social and cultural categories determine identities, interact on multiple and often simultaneous levels, and contribute to systematic social marginalization and inequality.

One example of the implementation of intersectional gender analysis in Mali shows surprising vulnerability dynamics. Pastoral communities in Lake Faguibine in Northern Mali mostly belong to the *Illelan* social group. This group is traditionally the highest-ranked in the hierarchical *Tamacheq* society. Despite their higher societal roles, *Illelan* women seem to face more barriers as they diversify their livelihoods than do lower-ranked *Iklan* women. One important strategy adopted by *Iklan* women is charcoal production. This livelihood activity is not practiced by *Illelan* women. Cultural and societal barriers related to identities and hierarchical roles hinder women in *Illelan* communities from producing charcoal, as this activity is perceived as "beneath them".

We also observe that *Illelan* women experience stronger mobility restrictions and seclusion than *Iklan* women. They are therefore more constrained in taking advantage of new opportunities. Social class was identified in several societies as a determining factor of women's seclusion, mobility and autonomy, and seclusion and mobility restrictions of upper status women were reported in different contexts in North Africa, Middle East and Afghanistan.⁵

⁵ Moghadam VM. 2003. *Modernizing women: Gender and social change in the Middle East*. Boulder, CO, USA: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Gender relations, roles and perceptions are changing at the local level, furthered by environmental and climate change impacts and the adaptation process to them. Impacts and responses to climate changes are changing gender roles and relations on the ground.
- The emerging new societal roles and responsibilities tend to initially increase workloads of women and children. However, in the long run these changes could empower women to negotiate new institutional arrangements to access and control resources.
- Adaptation planning must take into account the specific needs of the most vulnerable – who are often women and girls – as well as issues of their participation in decision making in order to avoid exacerbating inequalities and advocating maladaptive actions and plans.
- Gender-sensitive analyses of climate change vulnerability and strengths must be based on solid research and should consider more complex, horizontal (inter-community) and vertical (national, regional, local) distinctions.

Further reading

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Photo by

Ollivier Girard for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Ugwono Pauline planting Gnetum (okok) in the village of Minwoho, Lekié, Center Region, Cameroon.

This brief is number 4 in a set of Gender Climate Briefs.
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Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ and PES

Lessons learned from Vietnam

 Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ and PES requires not only a policy on gender equity, but also political will and sufficient capacity in government agencies at various levels of governance.

Key messages

- Many policies emphasize the need for gender equity and the importance of mainstreaming gender into REDD+ and PES, but limited guidance is given on how gender should be addressed in forestry policies.
- Although several women are represented in the Vietnam National REDD+ Steering Committee, they need to take a more active role in order to influence policy outcomes.
- Many REDD+ projects and PES national programs have proposed benefit-sharing mechanisms, but not enough effort has been made to understand women's preferences for receiving PES and REDD+ payments. This has led to ineffective, inefficient and inequitable implementation of both REDD+ and PES.
- Despite the existence of several information channels related to PES and REDD+, many women lack access to these channels.

The problem

Vietnam was the first country in Asia to initiate the national Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) and is one of the countries under UN-REDD and the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Gender equity is supported by most national laws and strategies, including the national REDD+ program and Forest Protection and Development Law 2014. The Constitution of Vietnam emphasizes the principle of gender equality and specifically prohibits the violation of women's rights. However, in 2013, women accounted for only 10–12 percent of registrations of agricultural land-use certificates and often have limited awareness of their rights to access land and practice traditional customs. Despite the political vision and commitment, mainstreaming gender into REDD+ and PES in Vietnam has not been successful to date, and continues to pose a challenge for policy makers.¹

This brief synthesizes major challenges that are occurring at different government levels in an attempt to translate political commitment on gender equitable REDD+ into reality. It is based on research findings from the Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (see <http://www.cifor.org/gcs/>), the Global Comparative Study on REDD+ Benefit Sharing (www.cifor.org/redd-benefit-sharing) and the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (<http://www.cifor.org/asfcc/>) conducted in Vietnam since 2009.

Evidence and experience

National level

Many policies emphasize the need for gender equity and the importance of mainstreaming gender into REDD+ and PES, but limited guidance is given on how gender should be addressed in forestry policies.

Gender equity and the role of women in forest protection and development has been acknowledged in numerous legal frameworks and policies such as the Law on Gender Equality, the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011–2020), the national REDD+ strategy, the Land Law, Law on Forest Protection and Development, the National Strategy and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and the Vietnam MDGs, and the gender strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Yet, the country still faces many challenges to implementation. All local authorities and donors interviewed argued that the major barriers to mainstreaming gender in PES and REDD+ are the lack of guidance from the central government on how to translate and implement them. An interviewee from provincial government stated: “As much as we [want] to mainstream gender into PES and REDD+, we do not know how to translate these concepts on the ground. We need more clear guidance”.

Although several women are represented in the Vietnam National REDD+ Steering Committee, they need to take a more active role in order to influence policy outcomes.

In 2012, only 2 of the 15 members of the national REDD+ steering committee were women; by 2015, this had risen to 50 percent. But there is doubt about whether this will lead to increased participation by – and influence of – women on final outcomes. Most of the women participating in REDD+ discussions reported that they focused on representing their organizational interests and as such do not have a gender mandate. They do not see themselves as gender champions, do not promote gender topics in policy debates, nor do they prioritize gender mainstreaming.

Many organizations are identified as influential actors in shaping REDD+ and PES policy, but only a small number of those organizations are represented by women.

A total of 52 organizations are identified as influential actors in shaping REDD+ and PES policy, but only 30 percent of those actors are women. Among these, 95 percent come from local civil society organizations (CSOs) and international NGOs and only 5 percent are from government agencies.² This indicates there is limited scope for women to influence policy outcomes, especially since the most influential actor in Vietnam is the government.^{3,4}

Provincial and district level

There are many political commitments to mainstreaming gender in REDD+ and PES, but there is little evidence that these commitments are being translated into policy and concrete actions.

Findings show that the interest, knowledge and willingness to mainstream gender into REDD+ and PES is weaker among local governing bodies compared with national agencies. Of the provincial government actors who were interviewed, only one indicated a willingness to mainstream gender into the socioeconomic development plan and provincial REDD+ action plan. One provincial government interviewee explained: “The central government requested us to mainstreaming gender into REDD+ but it is unclear how this mainstreaming should be done. . . . Moreover, gender has to come at second place as we have more important issues to take care of such as MRV, improve legal framework on institutional setting.”

Although several leadership positions are open to women, few are eligible to apply for these positions.

In many provinces, the provincial government has set up a target of more than 30 percent representation by female provincial leaders. However, only 5–10 percent of such positions are currently filled by women. This low figure, according to many interviewees, is mainly due to three key factors: lack of political will to include women in the management group; biased recruitment and promotion protocol which prefers men to women, and; the lack of confidence amongst women candidates. According to our interviewees, the poor representation of women also holds for central government such as MARD. By November 2011, women held only 24.4 percent of seats in national parliament; thus the target of 30 percent set out in the National Strategy for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women to 2010 was not met. Women’s representation at lower levels of government, such as in People’s Councils or at the provincial or district level, reaches 20–24 percent, but women comprise only 1–4 percent of leadership positions.

Commune/village level

In our village study site, women have a stronger motivation and willingness to participate in PES and REDD+. For example, in Nghe An district, men often migrate to big cities or overseas for higher incomes and hence are not engaged in PES and REDD+ schemes, which in comparison offer very limited benefits. Women – on the other hand – remain in the village and show a strong motivation to participate in PES and REDD+. Key factors motivating women to participate are increased household food security, the opportunity for additional income, and access to social network such as women’s unions and farmers’ associations to obtain loans and

technical support. However, insufficient efforts have been made by local governments to involve women in PES and REDD+ schemes.

Inadequate understanding of women's interests and preferences with respect to REDD+ and PES payments result in ineffective, inefficient and inequitable implementation of REDD+ and PES.

Our research findings highlight that women and men have different perceptions and preferences with respect to benefit sharing mechanisms. For example, while men prefer PES and REDD+ cash payments, women prefer in-kind payments such as rice and tree seedlings, as well as technical support and training on financial management and market access. However, the current proposed benefit-sharing mechanism under both existing REDD+ pilot projects and national PES program adopts a uniform approach for both men and women, and also ignores differences in preferences within the two gender groups due to the different ethnic backgrounds. For example, in the delta where infrastructure and market access are often already established, women's key interest in PES schemes is access to loans and further market development, while for women in more remote areas the main motivation is to cover basic food security needs. As a result, women are not able to enjoy the benefits derived from PES payments, which are mostly in the form of cash and often managed by men, in turn leading to lower willingness to participate the scheme over time. There have been attempts to tackle those issues in the first trial of Free Prior and Informed Consent in Lam Dong province. However, under this design, women are still treated as a homogenous group.

Market information on PES and REDD+ is available and exchanged at village level through various channels. However, women are often not able to access many of those channels.

Our research findings indicated that there are six major channels through which local people can obtain information and market information on PES and REDD+: from friends outside villages, through government agencies (e.g. extension officers, national parks), mass organizations (e.g. farmers' associations, youth's unions), local NGOs working in the areas, traders and middle men. However, women's mobility in the study area was restricted due to patriarchal traditions and family responsibilities. Women often only speak local languages, while most of the information on REDD+ and PES was available only in Kinh (the language of the dominant ethnic group). Channels available for women to access information on PES and REDD+ were therefore restricted; the only accessible information channel was through mass organizations such as women's unions, farmers' associations and youth unions.

Many social organizations are mandated to represent women's interest and voice in decision making in both social economic development and environmental protection policies at all levels, but they do not perform this role efficiently.

Our research findings show that at village and commune level, the Women's Union is formally recognized to act on behalf of women's interest, to bring women's voice to political and social discussions, and support women to access to social programs and microcredit programs. However, these unions tend to also have a political mandate to support government policies and less so to identify and tackle shortcomings in existing policies and governance structures with regard to gender. Therefore, most of the women interviewed in our study see the need to improve the representation of women's interests in REDD+ and PES policy design and implementation.

Recommendations

- Detailed guidance on how gender mainstreaming should be carried out at provincial, district and commune level, coupled with clear indicators for monitoring the implementation of government commitments to the increased participation of women in decision-making positions, is essential.⁵
- At national and provincial levels, increasing the target number for women's representation in leadership roles and on management boards is a good start, but policies and measures as well as incentives structures inside the institutions should be in place to encourage the true participation of women.^{3,6} Local CSOs and international NGOs that already have women champions and play an active role in influencing REDD+ and PES debates can catalyze these changes.
- At the village and commune levels, REDD+ and PES programs need to: consider women's preferences and interests in participating in PES and REDD+; tailor benefit-sharing mechanisms, access to information and resources, and governance structure to address those preferences and interests; and strengthen women's willingness to provide environmental services.⁷

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Photo by

Ricky Martin for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Rosita, a 3 year old girl, showing a cabbage seed to be planted in the nursery area.

This brief is number 5 in a set of Gender Climate Briefs.
See the full set here: CIFOR.org/gender-climate



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Catalyzing sustainable and just change through funding

Overview and key recommendations from Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action

 By responding to the climate solutions proposed by local women around the world, funders can catalyze long-term change that benefits the environment and entire communities.

Key messages

- Small- and medium-sized investments in women-led efforts can have a sizeable impact on mitigating climate change and promoting women's rights, environmental justice and indigenous rights.
- Fostering collaboration among funders is critical to ensuring funding is efficient, timely and appropriate.
- Silos between environment, climate and women's rights funding should be broken down: approach issues from a community perspective instead.
- Supporting grassroots involvement in climate consultations on various levels is crucial to ensuring that their needs and preferences are reflected in climate policy and programming.
- Women face considerable risks in addressing climate change: adopt measures to ensure their security.

The problem

Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change that exclude women's input and perspectives are unsustainable and often detrimental to the environment, women's rights and entire communities. It is particularly unfortunate, then, that women are less likely than men to receive funding for climate-related initiatives. Compounding the problem is that most funders do not have adequate programs or systems in place to support women and their solutions for climate change at the grassroots. *That less than 1% of all worldwide grants go to projects at the intersection of women and climate is a clear reflection of this critical funding gap.*¹ By responding to the climate solutions proposed by local women around the world, funders can catalyze long-term change that benefits the environment and entire communities. For funding to realize these synergies, careful gender-responsive planning and implementation is needed.

¹ Data analyzed and provided by the Foundation Center July 2014 in conjunction with the International Network of Women's Funds and Global Greengrants Fund.

Historically, many environmental funders have not considered human rights to be within their grant-making scope. Similarly, many human rights funders have not considered the environment or climate change impacts to be within their grant making scope. However, Global Greengrants recognizes that the two areas are increasingly linked. For example, the more directly women are involved in climate change responses, the more likely they are to be targeted and subjected to human rights violations.

In many parts of the world, those involved in initiatives against environmental degradation, unsustainable development and related human rights violations are increasingly being harassed, targeted as criminals and/or killed. Women resource-rights defenders face greater risks than men because they may also be subjected to sexual assault and violence within their families and communities. This challenge is compounded by the fundamental lack of resources available from funders for addressing the human rights violations caused by climate change and defending the rights of the activists involved.

Evidence and experience

Nearly 100 leaders and representatives from women's rights and environmental funds in 37 countries gathered at the Summit on Women and Climate in Bali, held in August 2014, by the Global Greengrants Fund, the International Network of Women's Funds and the Alliance of Funds (collectively representing \$30 million distributed across 3000 grants in 125 countries annually). Participants included both indigenous and non-indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, North and South Americas, and Eastern Europe.

The gathering was an opportunity for fostering cross-collaboration and communication between the traditionally siloed women's rights and environmental movements. It was the first time that environmental and women's funding networks came together with women leaders, working at the grassroots, from around the world to gain a comprehensive understanding of women's contributions to climate change solutions and how to better support them.

Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action is a compilation of that sharing and deliberation, and includes key principles and lessons for grant makers that emerged at the summit. The eight case studies included in the publication reflect geographic and cultural diversity, and provide a range of approaches to addressing climate change, from community to engagement in local and national policy, to influencing industry, government and international bodies. Stories from projects in which women took leadership roles are emphasized in order to help inform grant-making strategies, techniques, and best practices for fostering women's leadership.

All of the case studies provide examples of how women are defending and advancing their land, resource and consultative rights with respect to climate change policies and programs. Each of the stories also clearly reflects the impact that small grants have made and lessons learned about small grant efficacy.

Using the lessons learned from the case studies, the publication provides concrete solutions to help funders ensure that the climate change work they support promotes women's agency, equality, physical security and well-being. It also offers guidance for funders supporting women's rights work in recognizing the impact climate change might have on women's rights activities.

Recommendations

Break down silos between environment, climate and women's rights funding by approaching issues from a community perspective.

- Bridge intersecting issue areas by supporting local causes and voices.
- Honor the expertise and struggles of local people by directly funding their work.
- Uncover potential donor alliances and better coordinate funding.
- Identify common values that inform effective collaboration.

Give small grants to catalyze action that will significantly impact women's rights and climate justice.

- Be a flexible funder by developing a portfolio of new and emerging groups.
- Get critical, timely resources to nascent groups, with nominal application and reporting requirements.
- Minimize transaction costs by identifying and coordinating with funders and intermediaries that are specifically structured to work at the local level.
- Increase small funding incrementally as grantees grow in strength.

Support networking and information sharing between women at the grassroots.

- Be aware that women often share knowledge, debate ideas or even mobilize action through informal associations and channels. Provide funding that gives them flexibility to propose and design their own mechanisms for exchange.

- Support gatherings by covering food, transportation and childcare costs.
- Put funding decisions in the hands of people who intimately understand local gender dynamics and networks.

Fund grassroots involvement in local, regional and national consultations on environmental and climate policy.

- Support organizations with the capacity to connect grassroots leaders with policy makers and networks in which local voices are under-represented.
- Support training for local groups and organizations on national policy and its implications. Provide strategic analysis of key players and policy spaces.
- Fund follow up and monitoring after a policy decision.

Understand the considerable risks women face in addressing climate change and support actions to ensure their security.

- Analyze the level of risk to activists in the groups you fund.
- Ensure your own organization has ethics protocols around the use of grantees' names and images.
- Help grantees develop security plans, media strategy, an urgent alert system and access to safe houses.
- Respond quickly and flexibly, funding both the work and the activists themselves (salaries, transportation and other expenses).

Climate Justice and Women's Rights is the first publication of its kind to feature case studies and practical steps for funders and policy makers to:

1. fund work at the intersection of climate justice and women's rights, and identify areas in which that funding is currently taking place;
2. honor how women's experiences influence grassroots climate justice funding;
3. deepen philanthropic practice and foster collaboration to get timely and appropriate funding to women and their communities;
4. bring women's voices into climate change policy discussions;
5. advocate for the strong impact small- and medium-sized grants can make in women-organized efforts to address climate change at the community level.

Download the full report at

WomenAndClimate.org or contact Global Greengrants at +303-939-9866 or gender@greengrants.org.

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Photo by

Terry Sunderland for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Children in Cameroon de-shelling food.

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Knowledge is power

Enhancing data for action on women's rights, equality, and environmental sustainability via the Environment and Gender Index (EGI)



IUCN's Environment and Gender Index (EGI) monitors progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment in the environmental arena, holding governments and policy makers accountable. Existing knowledge can effectively inform national gender and environment policies and their implementation, bridging data gaps and overcoming barriers, to formulate best practices for using sex-disaggregated data and establishing a way forward.



Key messages

- The Environment and Gender Index (EGI) brings together environmental and gender variables in a composite index, providing some of the best data to date on how countries are translating their commitments to environmental sustainability and women's empowerment into action.
- The pilot EGI exposed the limited availability of information on women's rights in natural resource sectors – because this data is not widely collected or reported – affirming the need for its existence.
- In its second full phase, the EGI will aim to improve and increase global and national efforts to reduce gender gaps and advance gender equality and the status of women in environmental sectors through analysis of gender and environment variables, creation of innovative databases, dissemination of knowledge, and capacity building and advocacy toward improving country performance.
- As the IUCN's Global Gender Office (GGO) moves forward in developing the next phase, the EGI's potential to serve as a critical baseline of information – and an accountability mechanism – is evident, especially as the global community makes progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The first accountability and monitoring mechanism of its kind, IUCN's Environment and Gender Index (EGI) was launched in 2013, bringing together environment and gender variables in a composite index that scored and ranked 73¹ countries worldwide along 27 dimensions in 6 categories: ecosystems; gender-based education and assets; governance; country reported activities; livelihoods; and gender-based rights and participation. With some of the only data to date on how countries are translating their commitments to environmental sustainability and women's empowerment, the EGI found that countries which take their commitments to advancing gender equality in environmental arenas seriously are making strides toward long-term wellbeing for all their citizens. In 2014–2015, IUCN has created new datasets – in particular on women's roles and participation in key environmental decision-making fora – and begun research and preparation toward a second full Index phase.

¹ The EGI Pilot first included 72 countries; Peru was added in 2014. Countries were included mainly based on availability of information.

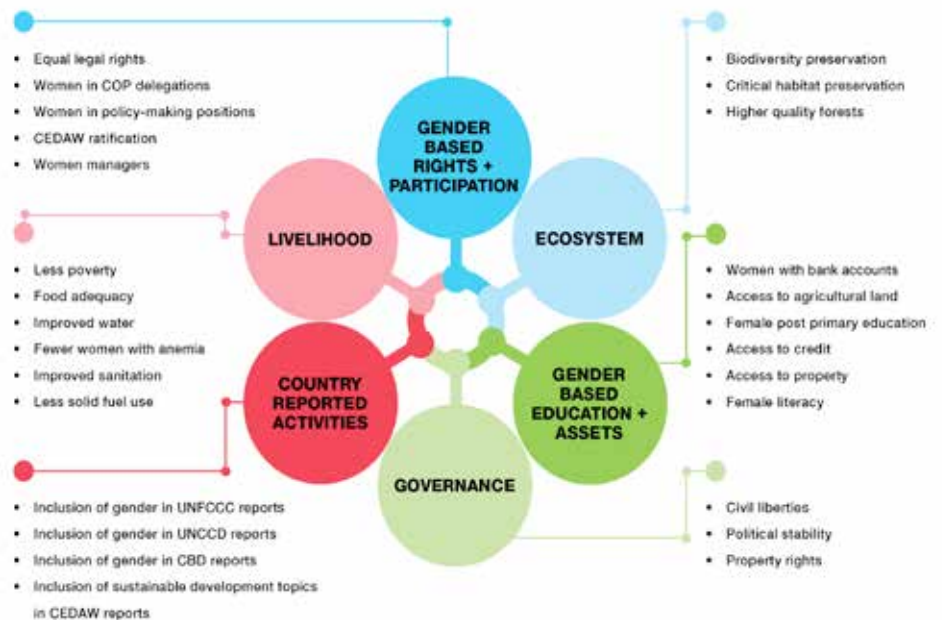
The problem

In 2011, the Human Development Report discovered a groundbreaking correlation between women's rights and national efforts toward sustainability. Countries with higher female parliamentary representation and higher rankings on the Human Development Index were more likely to safeguard protected land areas and to address climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions².

Simultaneously, the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization published evidence documenting the transformative impact of women's empowerment on the economy³ and agricultural production⁴. These revelations signaled to the global development community that women's limited access to land, forest, energy, water and other natural resources is a fundamental obstacle to securing their social and economic rights in developing countries.

For the past three decades, governments have established international commitments and mandates to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to environmental decision-making and sustainable development. This strong policy framework has suggested great strides and yet, without a mechanism to monitor and measure implementation of these commitments and drive further action, a void has remained in being able to identify real progress – not to mention persisting challenges, areas of comparative gains or gaps, or effective strategies for improvement.

Thus, recognizing the potential power of innovative knowledge for leveraging progress toward advancing women's rights and sustainable development alike, IUCN's Global Gender Office (GGO) developed the EGI⁵. Its 2013 pilot phase was followed by specific activities to fill data gaps on the most pressing gender–environment concerns and to analyze more deeply country data and information to find opportunities for improvement and identify significant context-specific challenges.



Evidence and experience

EGI pilot: Results and response

The pilot phase of the EGI revealed deeply ingrained inequalities across the 73 countries – for example, in the appointment of women to lead national environmental initiatives and to represent governments at major environmental negotiations. The EGI found that governments are not fully implementing their commitments to women's environmental rights in multilateral agreements, such as the Rio Conventions and CEDAW. Even more importantly, the EGI exposed the limited availability of information on women's rights in natural resource sectors – because this data is not widely collected or reported. For example, no data with broad country coverage is available on women's access to forest resources, women in senior agricultural positions, women's involvement in fisheries, women's land tenure or female graduates in environment-related areas. In essence, policy-makers, practitioners and women's movements face a significant challenge in addressing access to, control over, and sustainability of these critical resources because women's roles and needs are virtually invisible.

The response to the EGI pilot was, in itself, an affirmation of the need for its existence: from the grassroots to policy levels, stakeholders recognized the powerful co-benefits to advancing equality and sustainability and the major gaps remaining in information. They requested guidance for improving national performances and sought to delve deeper into the persisting challenges. As the GGO moves forward in developing the next phase, the EGI's potential to serve as a critical baseline of information – and an accountability mechanism – is evident, especially as the global community makes progress in implementing the SDGs.

2 UNDP, 2011 Human Development Report, 63.

3 World Bank, World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development.

4 FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–2011.

5 <http://www.genderandenvironment.org/EGI>

New datasets: Women in environmental decision making⁶

This dataset, developed in collaboration with UN Women, consists of nine indicators that cover diverse facets of the environmental decision-making arena, including international climate change policy; climate finance; and the forestry, energy and transportation sectors. Methods involved gathering the names and confirming the genders of delegates, focal points, ministers and other decision makers.

Results included:

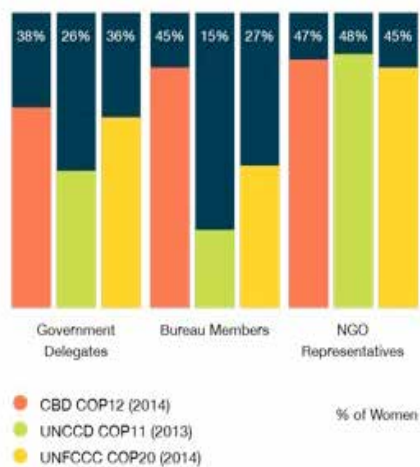
- During the most recent Conference of Parties (COPs) for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 38%, 26%, and 36% of government delegations were women; 45%, 15% and 27% of Bureau Members were women; and 47%, 48% and 45% of non-governmental organization delegates were women, respectively (see graphic below);
- 29% of Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Focal Points and 24% of Focal Points to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) are women;
- 18% of World Environment Center (WEC) Secretaries and 4% of WEC Chairs are women;
- 12% of heads of environmental-sector ministries are women (see graphic below); and
- 48% of nationally elected Green Party leaders are women.

Gender focal points and policies in national environmental ministries⁷

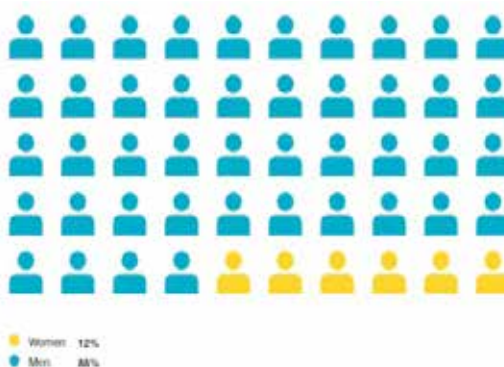
This dataset, developed in collaboration with UN Women, consists of five indicators in three categories: gender focal points in environmental ministries; gender policies and programs in environmental ministries; and environmental linkages in and with national women's affairs' mechanisms. Data was gathered through survey responses from ministry officials, Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) partners, IUCN regional and program offices, other practitioners and academics. Data was gathered from March to August 2015 and includes 65 countries. Results, according to survey respondents, are as follows:

- Of environmental-sector ministries, 35% have a gender focal point, 25% have a formal gender policy and 35% include gender considerations in their policies and/or programs;
- 63% of countries perform cross-ministerial work between the women's affairs mechanism and environmental-sector ministries;
- 32% of countries have an environmental focal point within the women's affairs mechanism; and
- Ministries of agriculture stand out as the leader on every indicator in this dataset.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE RIO CONVENTIONS



HEADS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL-SECTOR MINISTRIES



Data collection was completed in July 2015 and is global in scale.

⁶ https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/egi_factsheet_decision_making_web_sept2015.pdf

⁷ Environmental ministries included: ministries of environment, agriculture, energy, forestry, fisheries, and water.

Recommendations

How to use EGI data to promote gender equality

The goal of the EGI is to measure progress, enhance policy and program development, and ultimately empower countries to take steps forward for gender equality and sustainable development by improving and promoting broad use of data and information. In its second full phase, the EGI will aim to improve and increase global and national efforts to reduce gender gaps and advance gender equality and the status of women in environmental sectors through analysis of gender and environment variables, creation of innovative databases, dissemination of knowledge, and capacity building and advocacy toward improving country performance. Capacity building and information sharing across stakeholders to be able to gather and use disaggregated data will be a key activity.

1. Inform policy processes

- The target audience for the EGI is diverse: governments can identify their strengths and weaknesses and compare themselves against their peers; national NGOs and other stakeholders can both work for progress and hold their policy-makers to account; international development and conservation organizations can better tailor their interventions and programming; donors can maximize their investment strategies; and researchers and UN agencies – among many others – can continue to identify and fill data gaps, not least by recognizing how little disaggregated data is available. Based on EGI data, policy recommendations can be made for each target audience, with overall recommendations for increased collection of sex-disaggregated data at every

level, women's empowerment for meaningful participation in decision-making arenas, and enhanced mainstreaming of gender in the development and implementation of environmental policies and programs.

2. Bolster advocacy efforts

- The EGI was founded not only as a means for gathering and analyzing necessary data, but also as an advocacy tool.
- Information on gender equality and women's rights and access to resources and services at the national level can be used for understanding discrepancies and acting to reduce inequalities.
- Results and knowledge are crucial for effective planning, policies and programming for maximum impact, especially for enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience in the face of climate change.
- Monitoring and evaluating progress is facilitated in both environmental sustainability and gender equality.
- Development and channeling resources in the most effective and efficient way is enabled, advancing toward collaborative information systems on issues surrounding climate change and environmental responsibility.
- Gaps in information and data that research institutions and governments use can be identified.

A forthcoming second full phase of the EGI aims to update and expand pilot datasets to uncover further the drivers of inequality and unsustainability and pursue linkages with other key platforms for information and monitoring, such as those related to the SDGs, bridging the gaps between knowledge, commitments and accountability. **To learn more about the EGI please go to <http://genderandenvironment.org/egi/>.**

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Photo by

Photo by Tomas Munita for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Kichwa community listens to Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) scientists informing them of their findings, Napo Province, Ecuador.

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Gender equality as a pathway for sustainable development

Lessons learned in Eastern and Southern Africa

 Simultaneously addressing gender, environment and climate change by strengthening policy coordination, programmatic partnerships, research, capacities and knowledge sharing can advance sustainable development and address inequalities.

Key messages

- Addressing gender, environment and climate change as cross-cutting issues can advance sustainable development and empower women.
- Strengthening institutional and stakeholder capacities will accelerate implementation of gender-sensitive climate- and environment-related policies.
- Data demonstrating the added value of integrating gender into climate and natural resource frameworks are needed to convince decision makers to take action.
- Up-scaling proven climate- and gender-smart technologies will help close the gender gap, promote women's empowerment and enhance sustainability.

The problem

The cross-cutting issues of gender, environment and climate change need to be addressed simultaneously to advance sustainable development¹ in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and address existing inequalities. A common challenge in tackling cross-cutting issues is ensuring that they are prioritized – and implemented – in national, sector and district policies and budgets².

To this end, the UN Women's Eastern and Southern Regional Office (ESARO) has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme–United Nations Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Initiative (UNDP-UNEP PEI). Together, they are undertaking activities aimed at mainstreaming sustainable use of environment and natural resources (ENR), climate, and gender issues into national development planning and budgeting processes and country-level programming. Moreover, these efforts aim to increase the evidence base on gender, environmental and socioeconomic issues, which will better inform these processes in the future and facilitate improved decision making and capacity building.

1 UN Women. 2014. World survey on the role of women in development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development. New York: UN Women
2 UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative; Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development – A Handbook to Strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes, 2015

Evidence and experience: Tackling the challenge on multiple fronts

Policy and budgeting

Several tools can be used to influence national policy and budget processes across a range of ministries and sectors to promote gender responsiveness and sustainability. Among these are gender analysis, promotion of equal participation of men and women in decision making, estimating the economic costs of gender equality, capacity building, and expenditure reviews on climate, environment and gender³.

In Mozambique, the former Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs developed a national gender and climate change strategy in 2010. The country's Ministry of Planning and Development has developed gender-responsive planning tools and adopted a mainstreaming matrix for cross-cutting issues, including environment and gender. This matrix now serves as an important tool in ensuring that annual sector plans and budgets include objectives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and gender equality. These efforts have been supported by UN Women, UNDP-UNEP PEI, IUCN and the Danish International Development Agency.

Research

To convince ministries of finance, economy and development of the need to address gender, environment and climate issues, a solid evidence base demonstrating the added value of integrating gender into climate and natural resource frameworks is needed. The recent report published by UN Women, UNDP-UNEP PEI and the World Bank, *The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda*, quantifies lost growth opportunities and estimates what societies, economies and communities would gain if the gender gaps in the agriculture sector were addressed. It estimates the annual monetary value of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda to be USD 100 million, USD 105 million and

USD 67 million, respectively. Closing the gender gap could lift as many as 238,000 people out of poverty in Malawi, 119,000 people in Uganda and approximately 80,000 people in Tanzania every year. These striking findings send a strong signal to policy makers in Africa as well as to development partners: closing the gender gap is smart economics addressing both inequalities and sustainability.

Programming

Through the African Women in Technology (AWIT) initiative, UN Women is establishing an alliance to promote up-scaling of rural technologies for women⁴. Implementation of such approaches provides an opportunity to close the gender gap, promote women's empowerment and economic development, and develop societal resilience to shocks.

Through the innovative knowledge transfer mechanism of the Edutainment Initiative – a partnership between UN Women, other UN agencies and the TV production company Mediae – some 6 million viewers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have learned about various post-harvest technologies developed through AWIT.

Energy-efficient cookstoves are one such technology. In Malawi, the Ministry of Energy, supported by UNDP-UNEP PEI, piloted the production, marketing and distribution of energy-efficient stoves and briquettes in four districts. As a follow-up, the national government has developed a draft cookstoves 'roadmap' to further catalyze sustained uptake of cleaner cookstoves in the country.⁵

In Tanzania, UN Women is supporting the Rural Women Light up Africa project, in partnership with the Barefoot College in India. Through this, rural women are trained to install and maintain solar energy panels. As solar engineers, these women not only bring electricity to their communities, but also introduce a renewable and sustainable source of energy that can be maintained and replicated in other communities.⁶

3 See www.unwomen.org and www.unpei.org for more information

4 www.empowerwomen.org/cop/awit

5 Government of Malawi. 2015. Cookstoves Roadmap Draft programme document. Lilongwe, Malawi: Government of Malawi.

6 UN Women. 2015. Impact Story: Mothers lighting up homes and communities in rural Tanzania. New York: UN Women

Strengthening capacities

Designing and accelerating the implementation of gender-sensitive climate- and environment-related policies requires strengthened capacities of institutions, stakeholders and coordination mechanisms that can link policies to budgets and implementation⁷. For example, officials in environment sectors need to be equipped to integrate gender into sector policies and plans, even as gender ministries need to be able to integrate sustainability into their work.

To enhance capacity to integrate ENR–gender linkages into policies and plans, UNDP-UNEP PEI, UN Women, and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning used UNDP’s Global Gender Economic Policy Management Initiative to bring together some 60 representatives from environment, finance and planning, and gender ministries from 12 countries⁸. The follow-up survey showed that about half of the participants have since used the knowledge gained in the training to influence the design of programs and/or policy and budget processes in their country. One participant from the Ministry of Finance in Tanzania summed up the lessons learned:

“The training has shown how gender and natural capital are crucial variables of economic development, it has demonstrated that the mainstreaming of both gender- and environment-related issues require a systematic approach [...] But, most importantly, the training has provided me with the tools to apply this work in my country.”

Knowledge sharing

To promote knowledge sharing about replicable and successful technologies and innovations, UN Women – in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme – hosted a Sharefair on Rural Women’s Technologies in 2014⁹.

One of the solutions showcased was a green village model that took a holistic approach to environmental sustainability. In Rubaya, Rwanda, a woman-led cooperative helped the village to adopt a range of environmentally sustainable approaches and technologies, including biogas, and rainwater harvesting and land terracing, which have reduced soil erosion and deforestation. The solutions have also reduced the time women spend on water and firewood collection, as well as increased the social and economic benefits from the use of natural resources. Through the cooperative’s example, women have now been empowered to take the lead in community development.

The Government of Rwanda under the leadership of Rwanda’s Environment Management Authority led the initiative with support from UNDP-UNEP PEI Africa. The Rubaya model is currently being replicated in one location, and another three districts have accessed funds from Rwanda’s national environment and climate change fund to establish their own green villages.

7 UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative. 2015. *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development – A Handbook to Strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes*. New York: UNDP-UNEP PEI.

8 Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda (2014) and Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal (2015)

9 www.empowerwomen.org/en/sharefair2014

Recommendations

Although positive changes are emerging, several challenges remain to integrating gender issues more comprehensively into environment, natural resources and climate policies and programming, particularly in Africa, and to linking such policies more closely to effective implementation at the country level.

- Our experiences highlight the importance of informing policy makers and practitioners in the design and implementation of gender-sensitive climate and environment policies and programs. This includes applying a cross-sectorial approach and engaging with key sectors and ministries of finance and planning. At the local level, concrete, promising programmatic solutions need to be supported by national policies and linked to wider processes of structural reform. Women's groups should be empowered to claim their right and be actively involved in these processes.
- Concerted actions and partnerships at all levels – including significant policy measures and legal reforms, as well as initiatives by the private sector and civil society – are needed to develop and implement gender-sensitive climate and ENR policies that will help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Partnerships like that between UNDP-UNEP PEI and UN Women ESARO should be further strengthened to support the integration of gender, environment and climate-linked concerns in policies, budgets and programs and strengthening capacities for the implementation of such policies.

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Photo by

Ollivier Girard for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Portraits of a woman. Lukolela, Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Gender equality in the climate agreement

 Paris must deliver an ambitious and equitable agreement that keeps warming below the 1.5°C threshold, supports just climate action, respects the human rights of all people, and ensures gender equality at its core, as a guiding mandate. However, it is also critically important to look ahead to implementation and continued efforts toward gender-responsive climate solutions.

Key messages

- Gender equality and respect for all human rights are central to an effective climate change agreement.
- Gender equality and women's human rights advocates have clear asks for the outcome of Paris, ensuring that gender equality is a guiding mandate for all aspects of the agreement.
- The agreement must be just, ambitious and inclusive in terms of mitigation, adaptation, finance, loss and damage; strong gender language in a weak agreement will not achieve what the world needs.
- Advocates at all levels must follow-up post-Paris to drive political will and implementation, and to hold governments accountable.
- Women are already working to solve climate change, contributing innovative, gender-just and climate-just solutions.

The problem

The impact of climate change is already causing widespread socioeconomic and environmental loss, and human suffering around the globe. Climate change erodes human freedoms and limits choice. However, the impacts of climate change are not felt equally, with women often bearing the brunt of climate impacts. Without measures to address the injustice of climate change, those with the fewest resources, countries and individuals alike, will be most susceptible to its negative effects; and those in positions of wealth and power will be the first to benefit from transitions in the economy towards a low carbon society.

To ensure survival, well-being, and livelihoods of women and men all over the world for the long term, *any international climate agreement must be gender-responsive*. It must also be ambitious and equitable, to keep warming below the 1.5° threshold, support climate action and respect the human rights of all people. The 2015 Paris climate negotiations will determine whether the critical gender-responsive decision making, programming and action on climate change will be framed and supported within a robust and fair overall agreement.

Context

From the original climate agreement in 1992 until now, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has advanced from a focus on mitigation to a more complex and holistic view that extends beyond technical measures and incorporates social, economic and environmental dimensions together.

Advocates across sectors and constituencies, together with decision makers, have propelled this progress. The women's rights and gender equality community, as well as women leaders within the UNFCCC, have initiated a strong shift in how gender issues are included.

The twenty-first Conference of the Parties in Paris in 2015 is expected to produce a legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC, which should address the grave challenge of climate change. It is being developed under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). It will be applicable to all Parties, and will enter into force in 2020.

Evidence and experience

Results and impact of advocacy on gender equality and women's rights

In 2010, Parties agreed to decisions that mainstreamed gender aspects across finance, adaptation and capacity building, which sent a signal that gender equality and women's participation are necessary for effective action on all aspects of climate change. Since 2010, gender equality issues have been included in adopted decisions on nearly every UNFCCC thematic area. Key outcomes include:

- 2012 Decision 23/CP.18 on gender balance and women's participation;
- 2014 launch of the Lima Work Programme on Gender¹, a 2-year work program aimed at achieving gender-responsive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention;
- The Green Climate Fund took a fund-wide gender-sensitive approach in 2011, enhancing this with a Gender Action Plan in 2014;
- Draft gender language going into COP21.

¹ Lima Work Programme on Gender, https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gender.pdf

Where is gender going in the negotiations?

This year, 2015, has been highly anticipated as the final year of the ADP on all fronts, including gender equality. Since the very first ADP meeting, Parties and groups of Parties have expressed their strong views on the effective integration of gender equality into the new climate agreement – reiterating in submissions and interventions views that should be reflected to operationalize a gender-responsive approach to climate policy, namely as an overarching principle in the Objective section of the new agreement.

- **February Geneva text:** Parties called for gender language in the Preamble, the Objective/General section, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building.
- **August session:** Parties reiterated support for gender language across all areas, calling for the language to be fully retained. Three groups of Parties (AILAC, the Environmental Integrity Group and the African Group), and 12² individual countries, stated that gender equality must be in the Objective/General section, and not just in the preamble or in a decision.
- **October session:** Some key gender language was maintained. However, support was less vocal than in previous sessions, highlighting an ever growing contentious agreement, watering down of language and text, where key issues such as gender equality could easily fall out without sustained political will.

The **10 November drafts**³ are the starting point for negotiations on 30 November. Gender language in the draft agreement and in the draft decision text ranges from “gender equality” to “gender-responsive” to “gender-disaggregated data.” Still missing is gender text related to mitigation and technology transfer and development. In some cases, a whole paragraph is bracketed (e.g. Purpose), which means it is at risk of being altered, weakened or deleted.

² Costa Rica, Philippines, Liberia, Malawi, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Vietnam, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Bolivia

³ 10 November draft texts http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008681#beg

Recommendations

It is not certain what will happen in Paris as COP21 and ADP 2.12 begin, but advocates on the ground will be tracking the negotiations carefully, to follow the changing landscape and ensure governments make commitments and achieve substantive agreement.

1. Overall, the COP21 agreement must:

- Be gender-responsive, ensuring participation and gender disaggregation;
- Be ambitious in terms of mitigation, finance, loss and damage, and environmentally and socially sound technology;
- Adhere to the principles of the Convention – equity and common, but differentiated, responsibilities;
- Support transformative change;
- Include gender equality text in the Purpose section – or the operative text – which would mandate that all climate actions under the new agreement should be gender-responsive.

2. The operational language, the Purpose section, of the agreement must ensure a truly transformative and effective approach. Countries should support the following proposed language:

“ensure that all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfill human rights for all, including the rights of indigenous peoples; ensuring gender equality and the full and equal participation of women; ensuring intergenerational equity; ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs; ensuring food security; and the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems.”

3. In addition to ADP, it is critical to:

- move forward on the Lima Work Programme on Gender: ensure Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) conclusions that review and take action on key lessons learned from the June 2015 SBI Workshop on gender, technology and mitigation.
- maintain effective mainstreaming efforts under the SBI/Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice programs: ensure gender-responsive implementation.

Strong gender language within a weak agreement is not enough; the planet needs commitments to halt climate change and support adaptation. True gender equality is not possible while homes are disappearing and disasters are increasing. Countries must commit!

4. Action beyond COP21 is imperative:

- First and foremost, do not stop the advocacy efforts after COP21!
 - Agreements on paper are worthless without sustained political will and advocates have a critical role to play;
 - 49 countries have made explicit reference to gender and the role of women in their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) but more needs to be done.
- National level gender and climate change strategies
 - Advocate for them where they do not yet exist;
 - Participate in their development, updating and operationalizing.
- Implementation
 - Reach out to the relevant ministries or get involved at local/municipal level;
 - Provide technical support to governments to ensure actions are participatory, inclusive and just;
 - Follow up with women’s groups and others working directly on climate change in your region;
 - Prepare and raise awareness of your own projects that demonstrate women’s innovative climate solutions.
- Hold governments to account for their commitments
 - Work with colleagues on accountability, follow-up and review.

Women and gender equality advocates are demanding a strong agreement in Paris from inside the negotiation halls. But we will not wait. Already, women are mobilizing and taking action in schools, neighborhoods and in the halls of parliament. Women are leading the way with innovative, socially and environmentally sound solutions to climate change.

For more information, and to stay updated, follow these groups – and any of their active members:

Women and Gender Constituency: womensgenderclimate.org

Global Gender and Climate Alliance: gender-climate.org

Women's Global Call for Climate Justice: womensclimatejustice.org

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