

**SUBMISSION BY SOUTH AFRICA ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PRIORITY AREA E ON  
MONITORING AND REPORTING UNDER THE GENDER ACTION PLAN**

**08 MAY 2019**

South Africa welcomes the opportunity to submit information on the following, including sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis, where applicable: (a) Information on the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples; (b) Integration of gender considerations into adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, Action for Climate Empowerment, technology and finance policies, plans and actions; (c) Policies and plans for and progress made in enhancing gender balance in national climate delegations. The Gender Action Plan seeks to improve tracking in relation to the implementation and reporting on gender related mandates under the UNFCCC.

**(a) Information on the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples;**

There has been relatively limited in-depth analysis of the gender dimensions of climate change to date. This is partly because of the uncertainties of climate change science and the lack of downscaled data, which makes it hard to predict how the climate will change at a very local level will impacts women and men. This high vulnerability is formed by the social, institutional and legal context, it is a product of women and girls' marginalisation. Climate change has a more gendered impact in its impacts on women and women-headed households due to structural and historic inequalities.

Climate Change impacts are widespread but the unprecedented impacts disproportionately burdens the poor and most vulnerable communities. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are in many instances more dependent for their livelihoods on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. In South Africa, large proportions of the population live in impoverished circumstances where informal settlements are set up in locations that are vulnerable to extreme weather events and they don't have proper housing/infrastructure and suffer the harsh conditions against rain, wind and cold.

Agriculture and fisheries plays a significant role in food security and employment opportunities, the small scale farmers and subsistence farmers are most vulnerable to the effects of water shortages and droughts. Since they don't have access to better infrastructure and they can't cope with water shortages and this leads to food insecurity and reduced agricultural production in rural areas. Indigenous people suffer greatly from the impacts of climate change because extreme weather conditions may increase the risk of cholera outbreaks and they lack proper sanitation as well as access to safe drinking water. Women also face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity. The global statistics on women discriminations are shocking, it is estimated that:

- 70% of those who live on less than a dollar a day are women,

- Women own 1% of the world's property, and
- 75% of illiterate adults are women.

**(b) Integration of gender considerations into adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, Action for Climate Empowerment, technology and finance policies, plans and actions;**

South Africa has developed National Strategy towards Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector. The Strategy outlines, how the sector can, and should, entrench values of gender mainstreaming and gender equality within the running of its environmental programmes. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that initiatives in the sector are aimed to support the creation of policies that support gender mainstreaming and gender analyses and mainstreaming during the development of new projects and including gender perspective into the whole project cycle management.

The objectives of the strategy are to provide strategic guidance for gender mainstreaming in the environment sector, provide direction on how gender mainstreaming for the environment sector can be put into practice and lastly to provide a framework for gender mainstreaming and outlining funding opportunities. There is a South African National Policy Framework for Women's empowerment and gender equality. The country has also made commitments to international gender priorities set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995, the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1993, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1995.

In South Africa women are important beneficiaries within the different sectors and accounted for 53% of opportunities in the environmental and cultural sector in 2014/ 2015 when an Extended Public Works Programmes was established to contribute towards gender equality through the implementation of the following; which seek to draw unemployed, marginalised people into the productive sector of the economy: Working for Water (WfW) - has a target of women recruitment of 60%, youth (20%) and disabled (5%). The programme has provided jobs and training to approximately 20 000 people 52% of which are women. 2. Working for Land (WfL) project - has targets of 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disability. And 3. Working on Fire (WoF) - employs more than 5000 young men and women 85% of whom are youth, 37% are women (the highest level in any comparable fire service in the world).

The government of South Africa, every year host women in environment conference and dialogues with specific themes related environmental issues, this serves as awareness raising and further serves as a platforms to share experiences and success as well as progress in gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector.

Further to this, as part of the preparations to the Conference of Parties under the UNFCCC, South Africa host an annual National stakeholder consultation, with one of the objectives

being to raise public awareness around climate change and climate change response efforts. The department is mandated by the South African National Policy Framework for Women's empowerment and gender equality to appoint a team focusing on the gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector and has established a team focusing on this. A gender focal point under the UNFCCC was nominated in South Africa with the role of ensuring that decision taken in the UNFCCC considers gender responsive approaches.

**(c) Policies and plans for and progress made in enhancing gender balance in national climate delegations.**

Participation of women, men and other identities is currently monitored by the UNFCCC national focal point in activities that are relevant to climate change, with the aim to advance a ratios 50:50 policy of government. The Department of Environmental Affairs appoints graduates annually in the field of environment and social sciences for a period of twelve months on an internship programme, with mentorship programme and it fully funds a South African youth representative every year to attend the Conference of Parties session under the UNFCCC, the youth funded travel as part of the South African delegation and is exposed to the daily routine of the negotiations, South African delegation as well as the UNFCCC processes.

**References**

[https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/publications/strategyto wardgendermainstreamingintheenvironmentsector2016\\_2021.pdf](https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/publications/strategyto wardgendermainstreamingintheenvironmentsector2016_2021.pdf)

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