

UN Environment submission to:

UNFCCC call for submissions on how to mainstream gender considerations into national adaptation planning and implementation

- **What are good examples of lessons learned and best practices in prioritizing/incorporating gender in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans in your country or constituency?**
- **How can gender best be incorporated into adaptation action?**
- **In your experience, what are remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation?**
- **What are useful sources relevant to this topic?**

The inputs will feed into the AC's upcoming deliverables, including a plan on how best to incorporate gender considerations into (1) adaptation action and (2) the AC workplan activities; and an event, in 2020, on identifying gaps and solutions related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation.

---

Women and men are affected differently by climate change and perceive the effects of climate change differently.

This is due to underlying gender inequalities and how these relate to economic, political and social opportunities such as: formal employment, access to credit and technologies, education, public participation and access to decision making platforms. Climate change exacerbates these underlying inequalities. More women than men are income-poor (70 per cent of the world's poor are women)<sup>1</sup>, and in most developing countries women and girls are responsible for more traditional household activities such as growing food, collecting water and fuel and serving as caregivers. They are therefore more reliant on the availability of natural resources and ecosystem services. Thus, when changes in climate (such as drought and water scarcity, and floods) exacerbate ecosystem degradation and reduce resource availability, it is often these women and girls who are most adversely affected.

Furthermore, women tend to be more vulnerable to climate change because they are often too busy with the running of the household to participate, or are not included, in decision making processes e.g. stakeholder consultations, making their views and opinions often not well integrated into adaptation planning.

*Lessons learned and examples in prioritizing/incorporating gender in UN Environment climate change adaptation projects:*

The UN Environment adaptation portfolio is relatively young, so we are only starting to collect lessons learned from terminal evaluations on various projects. Examples and lessons include the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> Gender policy brief and success stories. 2016: A guide to UN Environment's work

**In Djibouti** – it was noted that women did most of the vegetable gardening and are the primary users of the cook stoves; only a small number of women fish, and only from shore; men are more likely to use fishing boats, when available. Men did most of the mangrove rehabilitation work and women and children were observed making charcoal. This gender bias or preference in work was mirrored in how men and women participated in the project activities. The evaluator found a good number of women participating in the following project activities: project workshops; agriculture (Damerjog gardens); community associations (e.g., the president of the community association in Damerjog is female); and fishing (an association of women fishers in Khor Angar). The fisheries technical report explicitly highlights the avid interest and participation of women fishers in environmental protection in Khor Angar. The evaluator concludes that while the project made an effort to include women in project activities project, not all project activities attracted the interest of women. For example, women were not involved (and probably were not interested in being involved) in the canal renovation.

**The Gambia** - During the implementation of the project, the Women’s Bureau under the Office of the President was represented on the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The Women’s Bureau and the Women in Services and Development (WISDOM) NGO were very active and vocal in presenting gender issues. The evaluator found that sensitization and training sessions with stakeholders in pilot sites ensured participation of women.

Likewise in **Rwanda**, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion was a member of the PSC. The project put in place measures to ensure gender equality in the implementation of project activities. For example, 60% of the members of cooperatives are female and they have benefited from different training activities including mushroom production and poultry.

As part of the **Myanmar** Climate Change Alliance (MCCA), UN Environment and UN Habitat assisted the Government of Myanmar in recognizing the different perspectives of men and women through gender vulnerability assessments conducted in local communities. The assessments found that women in rural Myanmar, as well as bearing the burden of poverty and homecare responsibilities, are also disadvantaged by a lack of access to natural resources, limited participation in decision-making processes, and restricted access to economic production and land rights. In addition, women’s economic contribution to the fisheries and agricultural sectors was not recognized and as a result they are often excluded from climate change adaptation capacity-building interventions for farmers and fishers. This gender analysis was central to informing the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (MCCSAP) 2016–2030, the Myanmar Climate Change Policy and MCCA climate resilience interventions, ensuring integrated gender responsive action.

Lastly, in **Nepal** under the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Mountains Programme jointly implemented by UN Environment, UNDP and IUCN –the gender imbalance created by men migrating to other countries in search of better economic opportunities opened up new opportunities for the women of the region, leading to social change. The project funded the cultivation of Amriso (*Thysanolaena maxima*) – an indigenous plant commonly known as broom grass – to assist with additional livelihoods and stabilize soils on degraded land in the Panchase area. Since Amriso required little maintenance and grew quickly, it required minimal time and effort to cultivate, and was a good fit for the women’s demanding schedules and growing workloads. Amriso for commercial use was also integral in creating a much stronger social bond between the women in the Network, crossing traditional caste barriers.

“[T]here are a lot of different ethnic groups within our community - normally in Nepalese communities there is still distance between the castes, but where there used to be separation and discrimination, here

we have women from all strata and we are all working together and I really enjoy that fact.” Yam Kumari Dhungara, Secretary, Panchase Women’s Network.

With 280 members, the Amriso initiative was planned, executed and safeguarded by the women themselves which was an important lesson learned on the successes of the initiative. In addition to generating ecosystem and economic benefits, the initiative also challenged traditional gender roles in Nepal. By involving women from different castes, not only were the involved women being empowered; the initiative also helped to break down caste-determined social and cultural barriers.

Barriers to incorporating Gender in National Adaptation Plan (NAP) projects:

Through an analysis of Gender action plans and project proposals developed for various UN Environment projects under development, the following barriers to integrating gender into NAPs were identified:

1. Climate change risk assessments differentiated by gender and socioeconomic groups, are currently limited. And if they are any gender specific assessments carried out, they are often based on short-term (current) climate data. This was found specifically for the Lao PDR NAP proposal where medium- to long-term climate change projections were not available at the national and local level and gender specific risk assessments were not available at this level either.
2. Knowledge gaps and the changing baseline - There is often never enough research and information on what power and capacities women have, and how their capacities can be built on to tackle the daunting task of adaptation. In addition, as societies find ways to adapt to the changing climate, power dynamics shift and there is often not enough research done to understand these shifts and changes in power dynamics. More research and knowledge is needed on the existing and shifting power dynamics of women and men in different communities.
3. A lack of capacity in Government to understand and undertake gender sensitive assessments. Often technical staff within climate change departments and Ministries of Environment do not have the relevant skills and are not aware of the need to carry out gender sensitive assessments, consultations, monitoring, reporting etc..

Lessons learned during project development/ preparation and implementation include:

1. Ensure that all consultations consider the different experiences of women and men. In several cultures, men tend to lead the conversations that are in large groups and women are often not confident enough to speak out. Having specific gender consultations is key – e.g. women only groups and ensuring that a woman lead these consultations. Timing of these consultations needs to be taken into consideration as well– for example, to be conscious of when women have household commitments such as meal preparation.
2. Sensitizing government stakeholders that gender is an important factor to consider and is critical to project progress. Often Government partners do not see the value in seeing things from a gender perspective/ lens. Quantifying this effect on the project in terms of effectiveness is key e.g. being able to reach project targets and outputs more effectively through certain actions.
3. Including gender specific targets and activities in projects, as well as a comprehensive action plan that is costed and has provisions for monitoring results. In addition, thinking about how to better engage with women during project implementation e.g offering nursery or daycare opportunities when conducting training.

### *How can gender best be incorporated into adaptation action?*

Ensuring that the decision making is gender inclusive. This goes beyond having participation of women but allows for equal representation in the decision-making process – women voices count. This is especially the case when dealing with natural resource distribution and land rights.

In order to ensure gender is incorporated into adaptation actions, gender should be considered at all stages from prioritization of adaptation needs down to implementation on the ground. This can be carried out through the following:

1. Including gender perspectives and applying a gender lens when developing climate risk and vulnerability assessments – to better understand the impacts of climate change on women and men.
2. Inclusive stakeholder engagement with both genders in the appraisal and prioritization of adaptation needs/ actions. Taking into account and consideration the prioritization and needs of both women and men when prioritizing country needs. Understanding that women and men perceive climate change differently and hence will prioritize adaptation actions differently.
3. On the ground - developing outcomes, outputs and activities that are measurable, and take into account the differentiated needs of both women and men. Ensuring that this is measured throughout the lifetime of the project and is linked to broader national goals on gender equity and SDGs.
4. Lessons learned are fed back to a central body nationally and incorporated into other projects.

### *What are remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation?*

Gender is yet to be fully integrated into adaptation planning and implementation. We are still far from the ideal situation as countries/ governments lack the required incentives to fully incorporate gender into adaptation planning. It is often thought of as a tick the box scenario during proposal development. For example, in 2016, of the 162 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement 2015, only 65 (40 per cent) explicitly mention 'gender' or 'women' in the context of their national priorities and ambitions for reducing emissions<sup>2</sup>.

We need to learn from experience, to apply best practice on the what and how to ensure adaptation investments address the needs of men and women. In order to do this, it is necessary to understand what research information we require to set up a monitoring and assessment methodology. The main points/questions to ask when setting up the methodology would be:

1. What is being measured - identify the indicators;
2. What data will be gathered to measure the indicators;
3. What data gathering methods will be used.

The research questions would then be:

- What is the role of social capital in adaptation?
- How does culture affect adaptation – for women and men? And how does adaptation affect cultural dynamics?

---

<sup>2</sup> Gender and Environment – support kit for UN Environment staff

- How do gender norms and gender inequalities shape the issues of dependency and vulnerability in a climate change context?
- What are the impacts of climate change on gender norms and inequalities?

The information generated can then serve as a basis for quantifying how including gender in adaptation planning and implementation can have more successful/ better results in the long run. This can be done through generating analysis on non-gender sensitive approaches vs. a gender sensitive approach on specific adaptation actions/ projects to make the case.

The above relates to one of the main gaps which remains on the monitoring and collection of results. The effectiveness of gender inclusive adaptation needs to be measured and monitored – rather than simply tracking the number of women and men that are benefitting from adaptation actions. These results can then be used to generate the analysis needed to convince governments to ensure they incorporate gender into adaptation planning and implementation.

*Useful sources relevant to this topic:*

- NAP Global Support Programme (GSP) training materials and presentations on gender and climate change.
- Gender policy brief and success stories. 2016: A guide to UN Environment's work <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/policy-brief/gender-policy-brief-and-success-stories-2016-guide-un-environments-work>
- CARE International Gender Network. 2012. Good practices framework <https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Good-Practices-Brief.pdf>
- CCAFS Agriculture's prominence in the INDCs: Data and maps <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/agricultures-prominence-indcs-data-and-maps#.WNWXXaK1vIV>
- Chambwera, M., Zou, Y, and Boughlala, M. 2011. Better economics: Supporting adaptation with stakeholder analysis. Briefing IIED: Lessons from adaptation in practice.
- Dixit, A., McGray, H. 2013. Analysing climate change adaptation options using multi-criteria analysis: African and Latin American resilience to climate change (ARCC). USAID <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/analyzing-climate-change-adaptation-options-using-multi-criteria-analysis>
- Guillén Bolaños, T., Máñez Costa, M., Nehren, U. 2016. Development of a prioritization tool for climate change adaptation measures in the forestry sector – A Nicaraguan case study. Report 28 Climate Service Center Germany, Hamburg
- Huyer, S. 2016 Gender equality in National climate action: Planning for gender-responsive Nationally Determined Contributions. UNDP <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-in-national-climate-action--planning-for-gender-.html>

- de la Torre-Castro, M., Erocklin, S., Borjesson, S., Okupnik, J., Jiddawi, N. 2017. Gender analysis for better coastal management: Increasing our understanding of socio-ecological seascapes. *Marine Policy* 83 (2017) 62-74. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X16308259>
- UNWomen. 2017. Understanding cost effectiveness of gender-aware climate change adaptation intervention in Bangladesh. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2017/09/understanding%20cost%20effectiveness%20of%20gender-low-res.pdf?la=en&vs=1713>
- Watt, J., Peyrow, K., Schmidt, S., Kashi, B. 2017. Integrating Gender in Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Final report. USAID [https://www.academia.edu/36119258/Integrating\\_Gender\\_into\\_Cost-Benefit\\_Analysis\\_and\\_Cost-Effectiveness\\_Analysis](https://www.academia.edu/36119258/Integrating_Gender_into_Cost-Benefit_Analysis_and_Cost-Effectiveness_Analysis)

Useful tools:

- Gender and Environment – support kit for UN Environment staff [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25348/Gender\\_Environment\\_Kit.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25348/Gender_Environment_Kit.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
- The CRISTAL Screening Tool - <http://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>
- Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning for Community-based Adaptation: PMERL Manual - [https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014\\_PMERL.pdf](https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014_PMERL.pdf)
- Gender-sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA – Practitioners Guide [https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GCVCA\\_Practitioners-Guide-FINAL-July-2014.pdf](https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GCVCA_Practitioners-Guide-FINAL-July-2014.pdf)
- UNDP. 2016b. How to do a gender analysis. Guidance brief. [https://info.undp.org/sites/bpps/SES\\_Toolkit/SES%20Document%20Library/Uploaded%20October%202016/UNDP%20Guidance%20Note%20how%20to%20conduct%20a%20gender%20analysis.pdf](https://info.undp.org/sites/bpps/SES_Toolkit/SES%20Document%20Library/Uploaded%20October%202016/UNDP%20Guidance%20Note%20how%20to%20conduct%20a%20gender%20analysis.pdf)
- Vunisea, A., Leduc, B., Bernard K., Duaibe, K., Cleary, L., Manley, M., Leavai P. 2016. The Pacific gender and climate change toolkit: Tools for practitioners. [https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/Pacific\\_gender\\_toolkit\\_full\\_version.pdf](https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/Pacific_gender_toolkit_full_version.pdf)