

Gender Equality & Climate Policy: Words to Action



Women's Environment
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#ParlAmericasGender

Words to Action



“To be credible, effective and legally enforceable, international agreements must be transposed into national legislation, supported by appropriate budget allocation and robust oversight of government performance. This puts parliaments at the heart of the response to climate change.”

2016 Parliamentary Climate Change Action Plan

WEDO



A global women's advocacy organization for a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality, and the integrity of the environment.



WEDO



Goal 1: Women are empowered to claim their rights as decision-makers, advocates and leaders, especially on issues related to environment and sustainable development.



WEDO



Goal 2: Sustainable development policies, plans and practices are gender-responsive, environmentally and socially-just, and effectively implemented.



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Making the Links: Social, Science, Policy



Strategy



Generate intersectional knowledge:

- 'Evidence-Base' on Gender & Climate Change
- IPCC Gender Data Report

EXAMPLE

IPCC: The contrast in precipitation between wet and dry regions and between wet and dry seasons will increase [1].

Gender: When water is not available on the premises, women are more often responsible for water collection than men.

Gender Responsive Action to address changes in rain patterns and water availability Develop infrastructure for water supply in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas that recognizes and addresses the needs of women, such as technology for harvesting rainwater and collecting and recycling household water. The government of Nepal is committed to build the capacity of women to provide technical and maintenance support and to monitor and control water quality.

EXAMPLE

- **As of 2010, only 15% of land in sub-Saharan Africa is managed by women.** Rates are generally worse in Asia—only 13% of landholders in India are women, dropping to 11% in the Philippines and 9% in Indonesia.
- In Burkina Faso, rainfall variability is significantly associated with migration, **particularly for men**, who are likely to move from areas with poor rainfall to other rural areas that are wetter.

Gender



- Gender does not equal 'Women'
- Gender analysis, lens at which to view social roles
- Intersecting intersections (race, class, sexual orientation)

“Gender Equality is the equal enjoyment by women and men of socially valued goods, opportunities, resources, and rewards. The aim is not that women and men become the same, but that their opportunities and life chances become and remain equal.”

(OECD, DAC, 1998)

Gender & Climate Links



GENDER GAPS AROUND THE WORLD

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| POVERTY | OVER 50% OF THE 1.5 BILLION PEOPLE LIVING ON \$1 A DAY OR LESS ARE WOMEN (SOURCE: UNFPA) |
| WATER | ON AVERAGE WOMEN AND CHILDREN SPEND 8 OR MORE HOURS PER DAY COLLECTING WATER (SOURCE: UN WOMEN) |
| GOVERNANCE | GLOBALLY, WOMEN ARE 16.7% OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS; 19.5% OF PARLIAMENTARIANS; AND 9% HEADS OF STATE (SOURCE: IPU) |
| FOOD | WOMEN PRODUCE OVER 60% OF FOOD IN SOME COUNTRIES (SOURCE: FAO) |
| LITERACY | TWO THIRDS OF THE 774 MILLION ILLITERATE ADULTS WORLDWIDE ARE WOMEN (SOURCE: UNSTATS) |
| LAND | WOMEN OWN JUST 2% OF THE WORLD'S LAND (SOURCE: UN WOMEN) |

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

CROP FAILURE



FUEL SHORTAGE



WATER SCARCITY



NATURAL DISASTER



DISEASE



DISPLACEMENT



CONFLICT



IMPACTS EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUITIES

Women experience increased agricultural work and overall household food production burden

Many women in developing countries can spend between 2-9 hours a day collecting fuel and fodder, and performing cooking chores

Increased burden on women walking further distances to access safe water, impacts the education and economic stability

Women have a higher incidence of mortality in natural disasters ; women can suffer from an increased threat of sexual violence

As caregivers women often experience an increased burden for caring for young, sick and elderly as well as lack of access to health care facilities

Forced migration could exacerbate women's vulnerability

While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression

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Examples



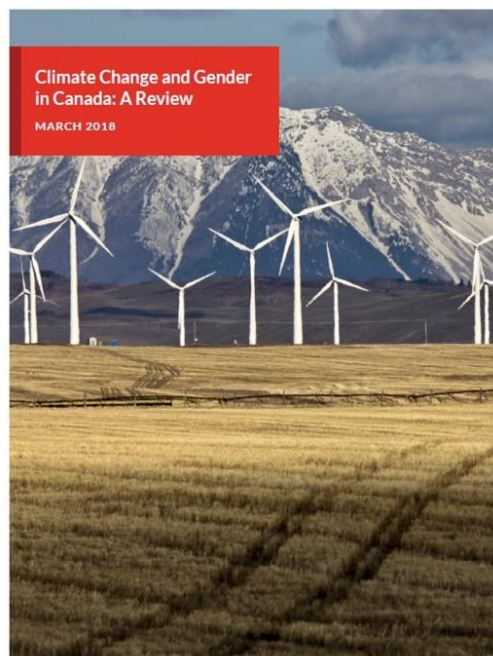
- Transport

In Latin America and the Caribbean over 50% of users of public transportation systems are women.

- Forestry

Forestry is critiqued as a sector that is heavily male dominated around the world, and this has historically resulted in the exclusion of women from forest governance, limiting their influence over forest rule-making, monitoring, access to forest resources, and ultimately their ability to use forests to adapt to climate change.

Research



The Policy Context of Gender and Climate Change

- Climate Governance
- Climate Finance

Gendered Livelihoods

Impacts and Adaptation Strategies

- Agriculture
- Forests
- Fisheries
- Water Resources Management
- Energy
- Urban Livelihoods
- Migration

Gendered Health Impacts

- Mortality
- Hunger and Food Security
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health
- Reproductive and Maternal Health
- Personal Safety during Disasters

What are the benefits?



In principle, taking a gender-responsive approach to climate action aims to:

- 1) ensure the promotion of human rights and that projects and policies do not work to further exacerbate inequalities, and;
- 2) to enhance the overall effectiveness of action on sustainable development.

Holistic Solutions



- Low-carbon manufacturing of all-natural Caribbean beauty treats, started in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Women-led energy efficient agricultural model in the dry zones of Chicamocha Canon;
- Integrated waste management system to promote food and energy security among Mayan indigenous women with women being trained on the use, management and maintenance of the biodigester;
- Bike Anjo in Brazil, with a project focused on – a biking collective training for women;
- Solidarity Microcredit Funds created by Madre Tierra, a funding scheme between women to improve their housing and access to drinking water.

<http://womengenderclimate.org/gender-just-climate-solutions/>

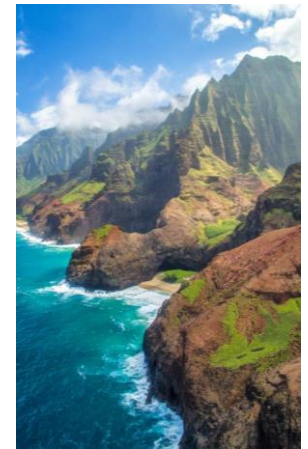
Local Efforts to Strengthen Capacity



Ex. Mexico

- Support from the Program for Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming, financed by the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES);
- State of Hidalgo, support from Hidalgo's Institute for Women;
- Veracruz Institute for Women, offering several courses for public officers at the municipal level on topics such as gender, environment, and risks.

Global Policy Context



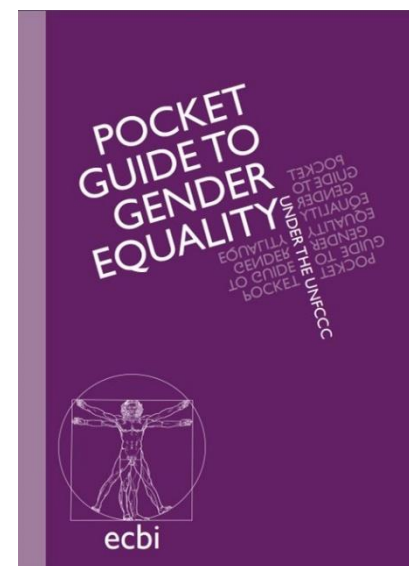
Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework, SDGs
World Conservation Congress, RAMSAR, CBD, CCD, MEAs.....

Paris Agreement



Gender was mainstreamed into the following areas of the Paris Agreement:

- **Preamble:** Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as **gender equality, empowerment of women** and intergenerational equity.
- **Adaptation:** Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach...
- **Capacity Building:** Capacity-building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity-building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive.



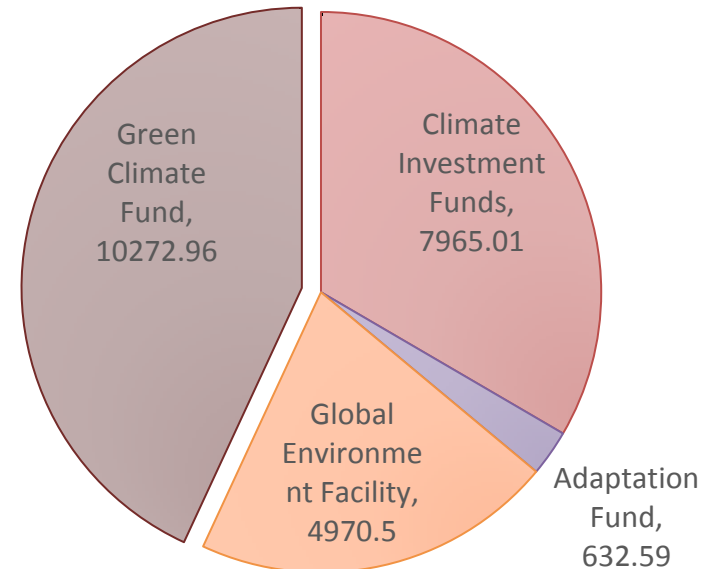
Meanwhile... there are over 65 other mandates on gender under the UNFCCC related to finance, technology, etc. & ALL public climate finance mechanisms have gender policies and action plans.

Climate Finance



- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Adaptation Fund (AF)
- Climate Investment Funds (CIF)

Pledges in US Millions



Climate Funds Update: <http://www.climatefundsupdate.org/>

Gender Action Plan



As part of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (COP20/ COP22), Countries in 2016 adopted the Gender Action Plan.

- A. Capacity-building, knowledge sharing and communication
- B. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership
- C. Coherence
- D. Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation
- E. Monitoring and reporting

Gender Action Plan



D.3 Strengthen the capacity of gender mechanisms, including for parliamentarians, the International Parliamentary Union, commissions, funding ministries, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, for the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into climate finance, access and delivery through training, expert workshops, technical papers and tools.

Acting on the GAP



- Countries are supporting implementation via direct support for trainings and enhancing women's participation;
- Countries are transposing or linking their own national strategies on gender and climate change to the activities of the GAP (Sudan);
- Countries are developing tools to integrate gender in NDCs;
- Countries appointed National gender and climate change focal points and national taskforces;
- Organizations, local governments, etc. are creating their own self-assessments of the GAP (i.e. what activities are being implemented or what activities would like to be implemented)

Final Thoughts



- Successful implementation of the Paris Agreement is in our hands.
- Tools are readily available, but sub-national solutions must be implemented, monitored and feedback into global processes.
- Form unique partnerships with local women-led community groups, CSOs and larger entities and support the promoting of a cooperative model around multiple industries.
- Ensure the collection of sex and gender disaggregated data, particularly when looking at sectors that will need to shift to combat climate change (i.e. fossil fuel based economy, transport, agriculture, forestry, etc.).

Additional Resources



Resources:

- Pocket Guide to Gender Equality under the UNFCCC (2018): <http://wedo.org/pocket-guide-gender-equality-unfccc/>
- Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects (2017): [https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/Guidelines - GCF Toolkit Mainstreaming Gender.pdf/860d1d03-877d-4c64-9a49-c0160c794ca7](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/Guidelines_-_GCF_Toolkit_Mainstreaming_Gender.pdf/860d1d03-877d-4c64-9a49-c0160c794ca7)
- The Relationship between Gender and Transport (2016): <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/7441>
- Gender and Climate Change: A Closer Look at Existing Evidence (2016): <http://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GGCA-RP-FINAL.pdf>
- Power for the People: Delivering on the Promise of Decentralized, Community-Controlled Renewable Energy Access (2016): <http://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Power-for-the-People-1.pdf>
- Global Policy Landscape. Roots for the Future (2015): <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2015-039.pdf>
- Background Paper: Gender Mainstreaming Practices in the Context of Climate Responses (2015): <http://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Gender-mainstreaming-practices-in-the-context-of-climate-responses.pdf>
- Creating Conditions for Gender Equity in Rural Electrification Projects: Experiences from the Nicaraguan Electrification Project (PELNICA) (2014): <http://genderandenvironment.org/resource/creating-conditions-for-gender-equity-in-rural-electrification-projects-experiences-from-the-nicaraguan-electrification-project-pelnica/>

Thank You

