

GENDER IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Workshop for the Development of Policy Guidelines on Mainstreaming Gender into Disaster Risk Reduction



Office of the Senior Gender Adviser



Why do we need to address gender in environmental and natural resource management?

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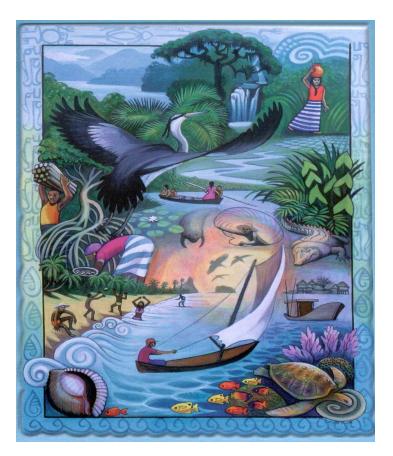
- International mandate:All conferences and conventions that relates to environment in the last 15 years have stated the importance of gender
- Issue of human rights and social justice





 Permits to make visible the social interweaves and its relation with natural resources

 Diversity-no homogenous groups





Recognized that both have knowledges, needs, particular interests, aspirations and contribute in different ways in the conservation and manage of natural resources





Assure that the benefits and services that are associated with the conservation and sustainable use of the resources are distributed more equitable among the different stakeholders and social actors





A gender perspective also means going beyond recognizing gender differences to working towards more equitable relationships between women and men





- Impact of the actions in relation to the conservation and sustainable use are more effective
- Better impact in the quality of live (livelihoods)



Example

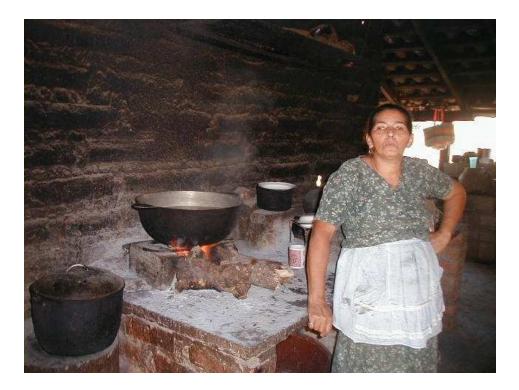


Female earnings from the sale of forest-related products or employment is more likely to be spent on family needs (98%); male earnings from forest-related products or employment is more likely to be spent on their own personal expenses (5-15% family needs)





- Brings innovation and participatory approaches to research
 - Women's recipes, one can see the changes in available resources over time and by season
 - Jau National Park





- It allows that policies for the environmental sector:
 - Promote an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the use and management of biodiversity
 - Avoid reproducing traditional roles
 - Avoid negative impact in women life's





What has my organization done to promote gender equality in environmental and natural resource management?

Internal capacity



• Gender Policy

• Training

 Gender Task Force-Council level



Internal mandates and requisites

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Knowledge generation



- Elaboration of new methodologies and instruments
 - Project cycle
 - Specific ecosystems or topics (water, energy, coasts, biodiversity, arid zones,climate change)
 - Fact sheets
- Building capacity in organizations such as SDC, UNEP, HIVOS,TNC,WWF



The 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 predicts that greenhouse gases and aerosols will alter the energy balance of the climate system and over the next two decades it is projected that there will be a warming of 0.2°C (IPCC, 2007). Climate changes are expected to have unprecedented effects on people



worldwide, particularly through the increase in natural disasters (Giles, 2007). Social, economic and geographical characteristics will determine the vulnerability of people to climate change. Many studies have determined that poor women are more vulnerable to natural disasters given socially constructed gender roles and behaviours.

A study of disasters in 141 countries provided decisive evidence that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. In inequitable societies, women are more vulnerable to disasters; for example, boys are likely to receive preferential treatment in rescue efforts and both women and girls suffer more from shortages of food and economic resources in the aftermath of disasters (Neumayer and Pluemper, 2007).

Women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during a disaster. In the 1991 cyclone disasters which killed 140,000 in Bangladesh, 90% of victims were women (Aguliar, 2004). Similarly, in industrialized countries, more women than men died during the 2005 European heat wave. During Hurricane Katrina in the USA, African-American women who were the poorest population in that part of the country faced the greatest obstacles to survival. During the 2006 tsunami, more women died than men – for example in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, male survivors outnumber female survivors by 3 or 4 to 1 (Davis et al., 2005).

Women's Environment & Development Organization



Knowledge generation



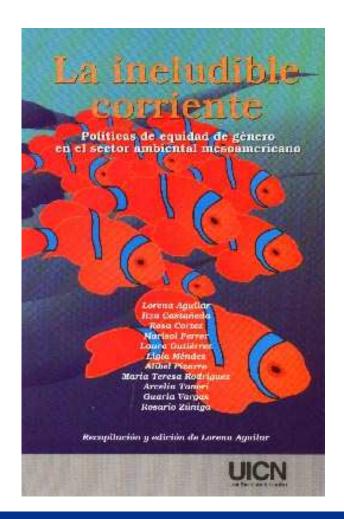
- More than 10,000 people trained in IUCN's methodologies
- Elaboration of gender indicators
 - Participatory methodology to develop gender equity indicators with stakeholders
 - Specific gender indicators according to the topic or the level of implementation (national, programs, projects or initiatives)
- Learning community gender and environment website(genderandenvironment.org)



Policies



- Guidelines and methodologies on how to elaborate gender policies for the environmental sector produced
- Processes with partners and governments to develop gender policies or gender strategies
 - Eight Ministries of Environment in Mesoamerica
 - UNEP
 - CBD
 - In the process with UNFCCC







- Advocacy efforts at international fora (women caucus, workshops, publications, text suggestions)
 - Water Forums
 - CSD, COPs of CBD and UNFCCC
 - UNEP
 - Commission on Status of Women
 - Network of Women Ministers of Environment
- Formal education
 - Course at University for Peace on Gender, Peace and Environment, Michigan University, Rhode Island
 - Virtual course
- Media
 - Various training courses for media on the importance of gender for conservation and sustainable development
 - Workshops on how to communicate results from research to policy makers (media and researches)



Hands on action

- Ecotourism
 - Whale watchers
 - Eco-lodges
- Management of protected areas
 - Research, monitoring species
 - Concession for exploitation of natural resources





Hands on action

- Payment for environmental services
- Green women entrepreneurs
 - Organic
 - New products (paper, oils, essences, fish skins)
 - CHANGE initiative





- Technical approach
- Making it specific to the topic
- Demonstrating that gender "does makes a difference"
- Working in collaboration with other colleagues-networks
- Persistence
- Resources
- Understanding the political context



What were the obstacles and lessons learned in promoting gender?



- Political commitment
- Responsibility of all the staff in relation to the topic
- Need to provide technical assistance and "how to do it"
- Resources
- Specialized personnel-against the topic
- Work with others-generate your network
- The way that gender issues have been address





What will be our future focus in gender in the environment and natural resource management?

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Equitable participation in decision making at all levels in the environmental sector and fora

- To develop and implement a coordinated advocacy strategy for the CBD, UNFCCC and CSD
- To integrate women's networks and organizations at global, regional and national levels into the decision-making venues of the environmental sector (increase capacity for public participation as well as increase representation of women). Special importance in climate change



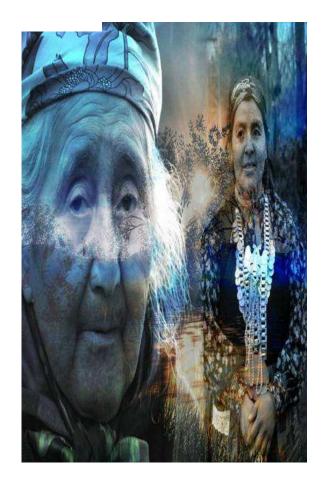
Institutional capacity and policy changes

- Capacity-building processes at the national and regional level (environmental and women organizations) have to be practical and learning by doing
- Development of gender policies within environmental institutions (international and national NGOs and GOs)



Gender considerations for environment-poverty initiatives

- Increased access to and control over productive assets (land, forest, water, marine resources)
- To elaborate gender guidelines
- Link environment with aspects such as health, empowerment, governance, new sources of income, mitigation, adaptation, risk management





Other topics

- HIV/AIDS-environment and gender
- Markets, chain
- Energy (bio fuels)
- Climate change (mitigation, adaptation and recuperation)

