

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

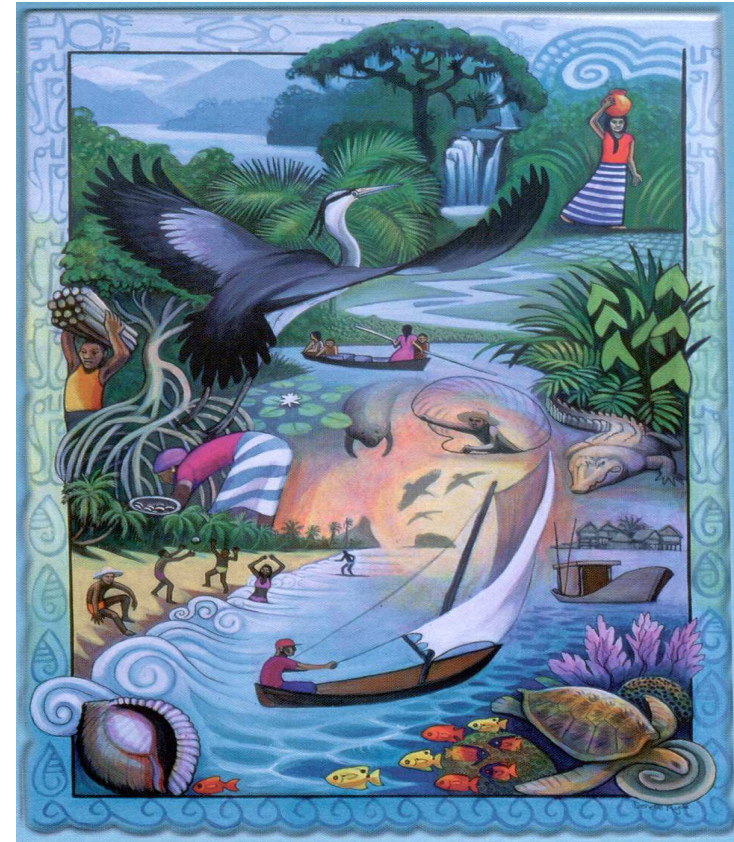
Why do we need to address gender in environmental and natural resource management?

- **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**



Why gender is important

- Permits to make visible the social interweaves and its relation with natural resources
- Diversity-no homogenous groups



Why gender is important

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



Why gender is important

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



Why gender is important

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



Why gender is important

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



Why gender is important

- 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



Why gender is important

- 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**



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



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



Awareness

- 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

**International Women
Environmental Entrepreneurs Fair**

How has my organization achieved this progress?

- 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?

Challenges and Gaps

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

Challenges and Gaps

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)

Challenges and Gaps

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



Challenges and Gaps

Other topics

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

