

The importance of the gender-environment nexus

Gender inequality, gender mainstreaming and
key entry points in environmental sectors

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IUCN's Global Gender Office

- IGO with the longest record in the promotion of gender equality - 1984
- Positioned strategically: Center of Excellence
- Global to local outreach
- Promotion of gender beyond mere recognition of inequalities and vulnerabilities
 - Gender-responsive actions
 - Gender equality as driver of transformation



Objectives

- To provide background on the concepts of gender, gender inequality and gender mainstreaming
- To highlight gender entry points in key environmental and climate change-related sectors, particularly in relation to the priority areas of this project

The value of gender
mainstreaming

Understanding gender (in)equality

What is “gender”

The term ‘gender’ refers to:

- Socially ascribed roles, values, responsibilities and opportunities associated with women and men, and
- The power structures—both hidden and overt, customary and legally prescribed—that govern relationships between them.

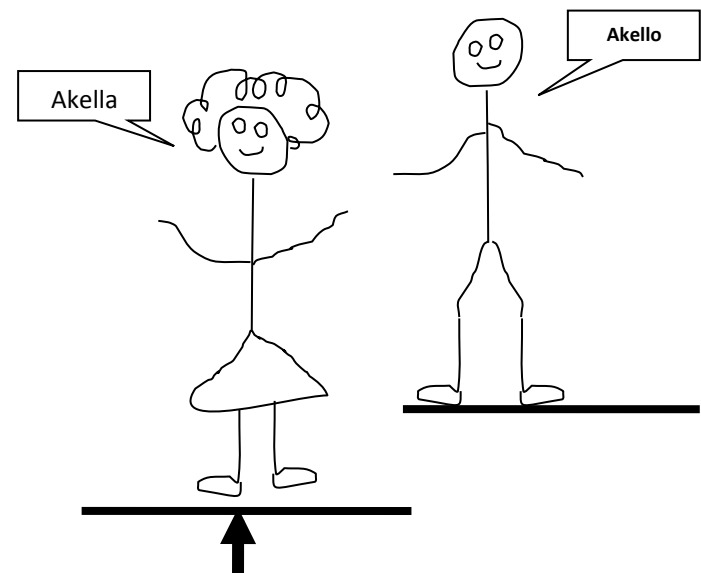
Gender inequalities exist across regions and sectors

For example:

- Of more than 1 billion people living in the deepest levels of poverty, women are widely considered to be the majority. (UNDP)
- In 2011, globally less than 20% of all landholders are women. The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) found that women had the same legal rights as men to own and access land in only 28 of the world's countries. (FAO; OECD)
- At the current rate of progress it will take 75 years to make the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' a reality for women and men. (ILO)
- Women make up two-thirds of illiterate adults (15 years and older) in the world, and among youth, more than half are girls. (UNESCO)
- As of January 2017, only 23.3% of all parliamentarians are women. (IPU)

Gender mainstreaming is a globally agreed strategy to identify gender inequalities and advance actions toward gender equality

- Gender mainstreaming is pursuing decision-making, policies, and initiatives at all levels with a gender perspective.
- This serves the interests of both women and men in its long-term purpose of eradicating inequities, transforming discriminatory laws and practice, and achieving a higher level of wellbeing for all.

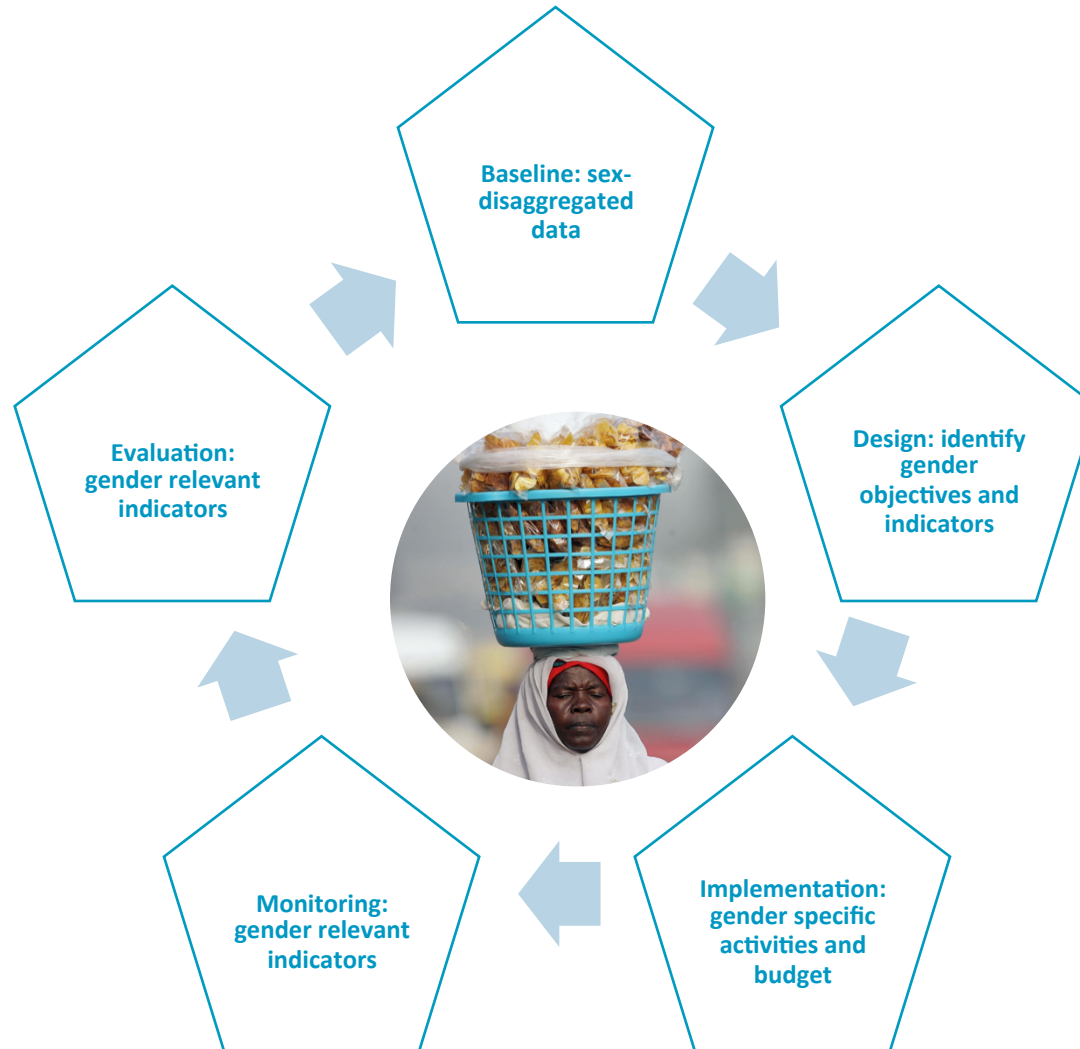


Based on IUCN presentation 2010

“One can walk only so far on one leg. You need both legs to stand strong.”

– Lorena Aguilar, IUCN

Gender mainstreaming in policy and project cycles



Added value of gender mainstreaming

1. Increases efficiency and effectiveness
2. Ensures the incorporation of important knowledge, skills and experiences
3. Enhances sustainability
4. Improves credibility and accountability
5. Increases impact in livelihoods/ensure distribution of benefits
6. Guarantees compliance with human rights standards
7. Prevents increasing gender inequality



Gender in environmental sectors

Particularly considering the key sectors in the priority areas

Global Framework

- The three Rio Conventions have strong mandate (CBD-UNFCCC-UNCCD)
 - Paris Agreement includes gender equality as a guiding principle & specific mention to gender in adaptation, capacity building and technology
- For the first time, all major financing mechanisms have gender as a requirement for IA as well as projects/programs
- Gender obligations under SDGs, and one goal on gender equality (Goal 5)



Climate change

- Women and men are likely to experience climate change differently, with some common gender inequalities pervading and persisting around the world.
- Though there are many ways in which women are more vulnerable to or more deeply affected by the impacts of climate change than men, gender-responsive climate change policies and action plans can prevent perpetuating existing inequalities and instead provide opportunities for enhanced gender equality and women's empowerment.



Agriculture, food security and land ownership

- Women are on the frontline in food production, which makes them exposed to climate change impacts —particularly risks of drought and/or flooding— affecting food and nutrition security and health.
- Although women and men both contribute to and benefit from rural development, women still lack legal and property rights, as well as access to finance and modern business practices to enhance their farm management, inputs, and outcomes. [World Bank (2011a); Haute, L. (2012)]



Agriculture -continued

- 1.2 billion people depend on agro-forestry farming and forest resources
- Globally, women account for **43%** of the agriculture workforce, yet
 - **5%** have access to extension services
 - **2%** have access to land tenure
 - **1%** have access to credit
- According to FAO, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms **by 20 - 30%** -- this could raise total agricultural output in developing countries **by 2.5 - 4%**
 - Production gains of this magnitude could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by **12 - 17%**



Health and well-being, as related to the impacts of climate change

- Differences occur in women's and men's vulnerabilities to climate change in both direct impacts on health (e.g., heat waves, droughts, storms and floods) and indirect impacts (e.g., water and food and nutrition insecurity). [WHO. (2012).]
- Women, and in particular pregnant and breast-feeding women, are often more susceptible and at a higher risk for water- and vector-borne diseases.
- The health sector offers interesting opportunities to mitigate climate change and to enhance gender equality through recognizing women as agents of change.



Energy –increasing access and climate change mitigation opportunities

- Worldwide, 1.3 billion people are without access to electricity, and about 2.6 billion people depend on traditional solid fuels for cooking and heating, with women representing a vast majority of those living in energy poverty.
- Women and men have different priorities and needs with respect to energy use and access, as well as different means for participation in decision-making processes and labor markets in the energy sector.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency interventions are key to achieving mitigation goals. Women's engagement in renewable energy technologies may be an important factor for success, increasing their participation in the labor force and supporting a development path that relies on more sustainable energy sources and consumption patterns.

Energy and infrastructure

- During 2016, US\$ 187.1 billion was invested in utility-scale projects –i.e. large-scale wind farms and solar arrays– while investment in small-distributed capacity, such as household solar panels, represented US\$ 39.8 billion.
- Upstream (generation and transmission), impacts can range from:
 - Access to land and natural resource use;
 - Access to job opportunities (formal/informal; temporary/permanent);
 - Relocation and compensation plans; to
 - Interaction with construction brigades may bring: increased social and health problems including proliferation of gender-based violence (GBV), human-trafficking and prostitutions, unwelcome pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases
- Downstream (distribution/usage): depending on who benefits from the services and who makes decisions to have access to these services.



Water & sanitation

- In less developed countries, 663 million people do not have access to improved drinking water, and 2.4 billion people lack access to improved sanitation facilities. [Schuster-Wallace, C.J. & Sandford R. (2015).]
- In most parts of the world, domestic and public gendered roles dictate women and girls as responsible for collecting water for cooking, cleaning, health, hygiene, and—if they have access to land—growing food. This leads to women being disproportionately and adversely impacted by water accessibility, system design and management, and the high costs of water distribution. [Haule, L. (2012).]
- Globally, women and girls spend an estimated 150–200 million hours a day collecting water, yet they are frequently shut out of decisions relating to water. [Duncan, K. (2007).]

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Aguilar, L., Granat, M., & Owren, C. (2015). *Roots for the future: The landscape and way forward on gender and climate change*. Washington, DC: IUCN & GGCA.

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