

Women's role in the sustainable management of natural resources

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OVERVIEW

- Albania's commitment to Environment & GE
 - International and National Framework
 - SDGs and Agenda 2030 and Beijing Platform for Action
 - EU Gender Equality Index
- Gender and sustainable management of natural resources
- Gender and Nexus related sectors: food-water-energy
- Project's objectives on gender equality and upcoming activities
- Questions as food for thoughts

Albania's commitment to Environment

Albania is party to and has ratified a large number of international environmental agreements including, but not limited to:

- Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Energy, Wetlands, Trans boundary waters, the Sea, protection from air pollution, Biodiversity, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, etc.

National Legislation

Albania has adopted a number of legislations with the most recent ones to be compatible with the principles of sustainable development as well as EU directives:

- Law on Environmental Protection, on chemical substances, biodiversity, on concessions focusing mostly on Renewable Energy, on protected areas and wild fauna, land use planning, waste management, etc.

National Strategies

It has prepared several strategies and numerous decisions:

- NSDI II, Cross-Sectorial Strategy of Environment (CSES), Energy Strategy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Cross-sectorial Strategy for Rural and Agricultural Development; National Action Plan on Land Desertification as well as National Air Strategy; a strategic document on “Health system to adapt to climate change 2011-2021”, Climate Change Adaptation in the Drin-Mati River Delta and Beyond-Policy Paper

Albania's commitment to Gender Equality

- As a UN member, Albania is committed to implement the principles and goals stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, CEDAW and SDGs therefore all national and sectoral policies need to be adapted to the objectives and course of action stated in them.

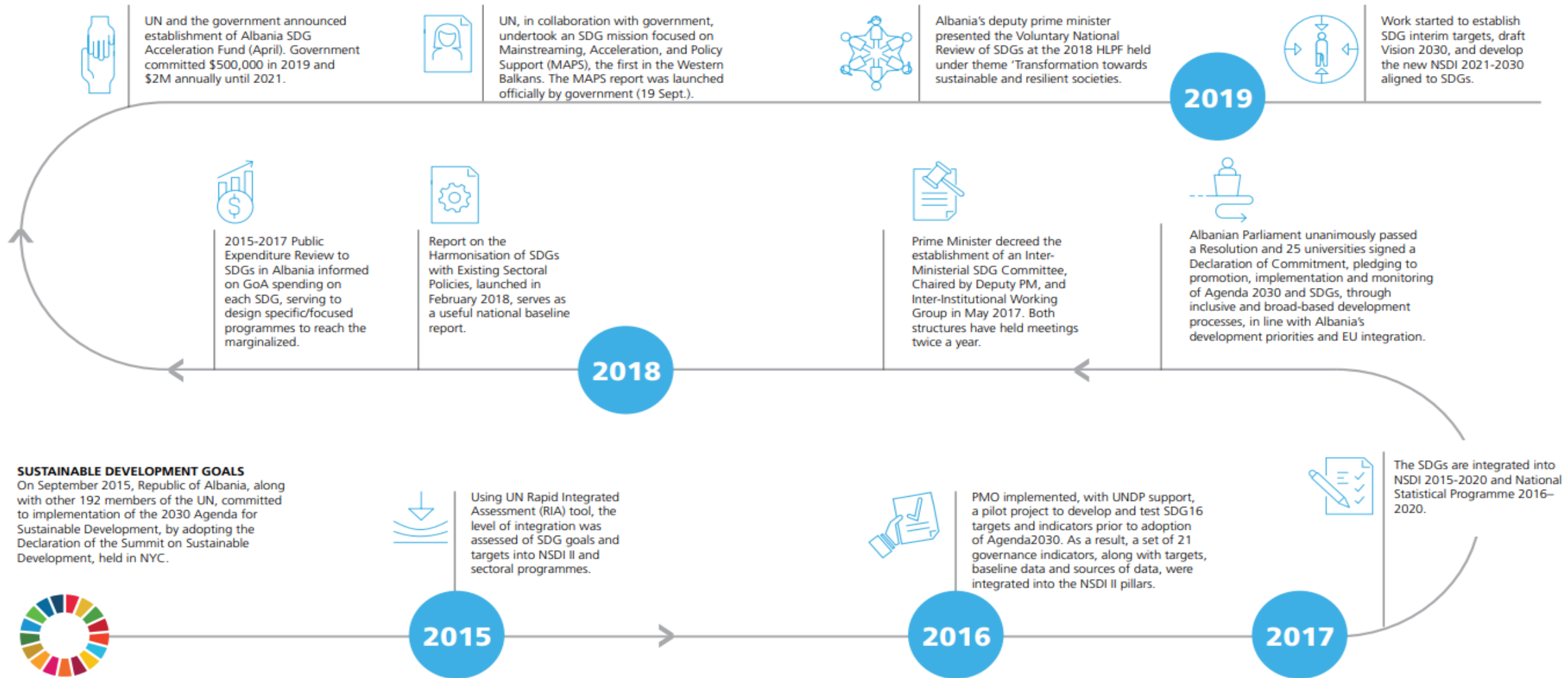
Beijing Platform for Action

The Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern: Women and Environment is one of these areas.

The Platform highlights three strategic objectives for government action on the environment:

- (i) involving women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels;
- (ii) integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes;
- (iii) establishing ways to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (JOURNEY IN ALBANIA)



Source: Agenda 2030 – Albania's achievements towards SDGs, Progress Report 2019

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



GE accelerates progress towards Agenda 2030

- Gender equality is integral to achieving a wide range of objectives pertaining to sustainable development, from faster economic growth and poverty reduction to food security and environmental sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction, and peaceful and inclusive societies.
- Improving gender equality, both in terms of balanced participation in decision-making and substantive influence on decisions, has a profound intrinsic value.

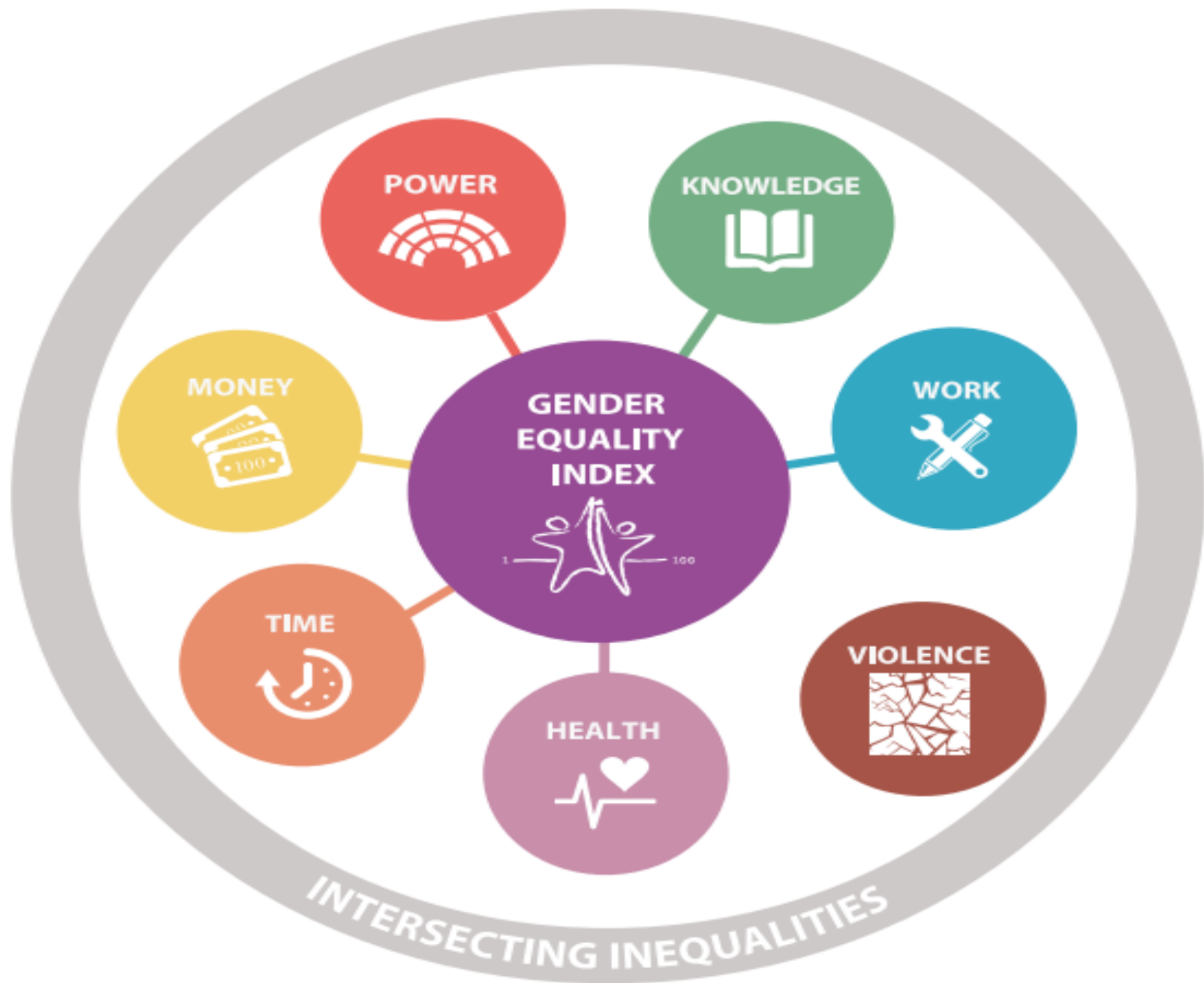


EU key policy documents

- European Commission's Women's Charter 2010, The Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the Council of the European Union Pact for Gender Equality 2011-20, etc.
- The second Gender Action Plan for 2016-2020 (GAP II). The plan set ambitious objectives to transform lives of women and girls through EU external relations, applicable to the Western Balkans.

EU - Gender Equality Index 2020


- The overall Gender Equality Index for Albania reached 60.4 in 2017, indicating a substantial gender gap. This finding confirms the need for stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society and citizens to renew their commitment and efforts to achieve full gender equality.
- The Gender Equality Index for Albania is 7 points below the EU average (67.4), except in the domain of *power*, where Albania has higher gender parity than the EU. The largest gaps to the EU are in the domains of *knowledge*, *money* and *time*, while scores are similar in the domains of *work* and *health*.



National Legislation on GE


In recent years important steps have been taken to build an institutional framework for gender equality in Albania

- The Constitution of Albania, adopted in 1998, provides for and ensures equality between women and men, the policy of equal opportunities and the prohibition of discrimination, among other reasons, also because of gender. (Article 18)
- The law on Gender Equality approved in 2008 the law on Protection from Discrimination approved in 2010
- The National Strategy for Gender Equality and the Action Plan was adopted in 2016 and extends its effects until 2020



Gender and sustainable management of natural resources

- **SMNR** is defined in the Environment Act as: “using **natural resources** in a way and at a rate that maintains and enhances the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.
- The challenge of reversing the degradation of natural resources while meeting increasing demands for them involves significant changes in policies, institutions, and practices (FAO 2007).
- Women and men use NR in a different way due their gender roles, rights, and responsibilities at the household and community. Effective policies and programming requires understanding and addressing of the gender-specific relationships to natural resources use and management and specific linkages between natural resources, cultural values, and local knowledge.
- Environmental changes, including biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification, natural disasters, and energy development have different impact on women and men. This is essential if we're to promote sustainable development and effective conservation and appropriate management of natural resources.



Gender and sustainable management of natural resources

- Gender Roles – women have disparities in economic opportunities, access to productive resources and knowledge; they hold the overburden of household and care and are less involved in political community and decision-making processes. They don't enjoy the same rights as men to land – crucial resource for poverty reduction, food security and rural development. Poverty, along with socio-economic and political marginalization, all together put women in a disadvantaged position.
- At the same time, the unique roles men and women have leads to different bodies of knowledge about the environment. Due to their roles gathering resources like wood, water and forest products, not to mention subsistence agriculture, women have a unique understanding of the natural resources around them.
- If women are not specifically included to input into the design of policies and programmes this knowledge can be lost. Inclusion ensures greater success and sustainability of interventions while properly safeguarding natural resources and enhancing the shared benefits of their careful use.



FOOD, ENERGY AND WATER

Source:

Global Gender and Environment Outlook

UN Environment

FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

Key Messages

- Closing the gender gap in access to and control over resources such as land and production inputs, and in access to information and technology, would increase agricultural productivity and therefore reduce poverty and hunger.
- Subsistence farming, home food production and wild food collection (sectors heavily dominated by women) are not sufficiently valued in national and global data sets, nor by research and extension services. Yet they contribute more to household food security and gender equality than does the production of commodity crops, especially in times of price and market instability.
- The environmental impacts of the currently dominant high-input, large-scale model of agriculture and the failure to meet food security goals, together with the onset of the effects of climate change, have led to widespread acknowledgement that a “business-as-usual” approach to agriculture is inadequate.
- Women and men may be exposed to agricultural pesticides and related hazards along different pathways. The health effects of chronic pesticide exposures on women and men vary considerably.
- The prevalence and nature of food insecurity differ across types of households and within households. Within food-scarce households, women and men typically use different strategies to cope with food insecurity.
- Agroecological approaches that consider the entire food system (including ecological, economic and social dimensions) supports gender equality. Such approaches can reduce the environmental impacts of agriculture, promote participation and decision-making by women and men, and so contribute to both food security and food sovereignty.

Food – Agriculture

- Women in agriculture and rural areas have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities. The gender gap exists for many assets, inputs and services, including land, livestock, labour, education, extension and financial services, and technology.
- Closing the gender gap in agriculture would generate significant gains for the agriculture sector and for society. 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%, which could in turn reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17%.

Source: Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development (FAO 2011)



Food - Health

- Pesticides in breast milk: At least 35 pesticides have been found in breast milk in a wide range of countries, indicating exposures not only of the women concerned, but also of new-born children.
- These exposures occur at a critical period in the child's development, when exposure to endocrine-disrupting substances can have profound and life-long impacts.
- More recently, the widely used herbicide glyphosate, classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2015 as a “probable human carcinogen” (IARC 2015), has been measured in breast milk in the United States (MAA and SP 2014)

Food – Attitudes and opinions

- Gender differences in perceptions of GM foods: Where data exist, women are revealed to be generally more skeptical than men about the safety of GM food. In the United States, a survey in 2015 identified significant racial and gender differences: 47% of men but only 28% of women believed eating GM foods was safe; 41% of white Americans, 32% of Hispanics and 24% of African Americans believed it was safe (Pew Research Centre 2015). In a 2003 global survey, 73% of Canadian women believed “genetic foods are bad” compared to 52% of men; in Japan 82% of women and 69% of men believed GM foods were “bad” (Pew Global Attitudes).
- Gendered views on animal rights: in a 2015 Gallup opinion survey in the United States, 42% of women said they wanted the same rights for animals as for people compared with 22% of men (Mephibosheth 2015). In a 2003 survey, women were 14 percentage points more likely than men to support strict laws for treatment of farm animals, 19 points more likely to support banning product testing on laboratory animals, 14 points more likely to support banning medical research on laboratory animals, and 10 points more likely to support banning all types of hunting (Moore 2003).

Food – Technology and Knowledge

- Mobile phones are used to share information useful to farmers. Globally, the use of mobile phone technology to share agricultural information (e.g. on markets, weather conditions and farming best practices) has greatly increased in the last decade or so.
- However, women and men do not always have equal access to information or to technology such as mobile phones, internet connections and computers.
- Using mobile technology may exacerbate gender differences in access to information. A global survey of mobile phone use found that women were significantly less likely than men to own a mobile phone: in Africa, 23% less likely; in the Middle East, 24%; and in South Asia, 37%. “Household” ownership of a mobile phone did not mean women and men had equal access to it: 82% of married women reported that using these phones made their husbands suspicious and, in many cases, husbands would not allow their wives to use the phone at all (GSMA Development Fund 2012)

DOMESTIC WATER AND SANITATION

Key Messages

• Water use, supply and access are conventionally associated primarily with the hydrological cycle. Understanding that there is also a “hydro-social cycle” draws attention to gender dimensions. At every stage of the hydro-social cycle there are different demands, risks and benefits for women and for men.

• It is largely women’s responsibility, everywhere, to manage household needs for water. This responsibility becomes even greater in the face of pervasive water quality problems in both developed and developing countries, which will become worse with climate disruption.

• Within households, women and men typically express different views on water priorities and the solutions to water deficits.

- Women and girls remain the primary water collectors in households where piped water is unavailable, which can place them at risk of harassment, sexual assault and rape.
- The gendered profile of water collection varies with access to mechanization: men assume water collection responsibilities mostly when mechanized transport is available.
- The health effects of polluted or poor-quality water are gendered. More males than females suffer and die from diarrhoea in every region except South-East Asia.
- Public toilet provision for women, almost everywhere in the world, lags far behind that for men. Absence or inadequate provision of public toilets for women reflects – and reinforces – women’s exclusion from public power and public spaces more generally.
- Gender inequity in access to toilets has stimulated robust activist movements that are shifting women’s toilet and menstrual hygiene needs from being considered a private or “hidden” concern to a more public one.
- Women are poorly represented at the decision-making level in the water and sanitation sectors.

Water – Safety

- Sexual assault while collecting water and firewood ‘Doctors without Borders’ reported that between October 2004 and February 2005 MSF clinics in West Darfur treated 297 rape victims, 99% of whom were women.
- Almost 90% said rape occurred outside a populated village; 82% were raped while pursuing ordinary daily activities such as searching for firewood or thatch, working in their fields, fetching water from riverbeds or travelling to a market.
- On top of the physical and emotional trauma, harassment and rape often also results in social exclusion and abandonment by husbands and families (House et al. 2014).

Water – Gender Statistics

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reported on the state of gender statistics across the UN system and across national platforms. Gender-disaggregated water and sanitation statistics were among those that were least available among the sectors government collected regular statistics:

Region	Percent of sewage treated
Mortality	85 (highest)
Labour force	83
Education and training	81
Poverty	71
Agriculture	44
Access to sanitation	39
Access to clean water	37 (4th lowest % of 22 indicators)
Informal employment	37
Media	15

Source: UN ECOSOC (2013)

ENERGY

Key Messages

- Using renewable and sustainable energy can catalyze gender equality, but this type of energy is not inevitably socially or environmentally friendly. Without employing a social justice lens for energy planning, large-scale renewable projects can be environmentally damaging and may do little to enhance gender equality.

- Decision-making in formal energy sectors is heavily gender-skewed, as is staffing and employment. Women are often excluded from decision-making, while the industry's energy policies are mostly gender-unaware.

- There are significant gender differences in perceptions of current energy options, and of the risks and choices relating to various energy technologies.

- Insecure land ownership and energy-related land grabbing have different gendered impacts.
- At the community and grassroots levels, women and men are not waiting for top-down energy transformation. In many cases they are creating their own pathways to clean energy technology that level the playing field in regard to economic and social opportunity.
- In developing countries the time spent, predominantly by women, collecting biomass-based energy supplies is responsible for tremendous time poverty and foregone opportunities.

- In both developed and developing countries energy poverty is a large and often invisible problem, and one that is gendered.

- Pervasive lack of gender-differentiated data has implications for the assessment of technology needs with respect to technical training and capacity-building activities. It has the potential to reduce development initiatives directed at gender and energy as the deep inequalities in the energy sector cannot easily be quantified.
- A priority for all energy plans should be to make safe and sustainable household energy available to the 3 billion people who currently do not have it. Enabling the creation of local renewable energy user groups and co-operatives, and empowering women to fully participate at all levels of decision-making, is essential for sustainable energy provision.

Energy – Nuclear Power

- In EU survey more women than men said nuclear energy should provide a lower share of overall energy production (EC 2007).
- In the United Kingdom the level of support for building new nuclear power stations showed a 40% discrepancy, with considerably more men wanting to see new power plants built (Populus 2011).
- In Canada the gender preference gap on this topic was 17 percentage points in 2003; an assertive campaign by the nuclear industry led to a higher level of acceptance by both women and men in 2005, but the gender difference remained constant (Brissette 2006).
- In the United States in 2015, 54% of men and 36% of women favored building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity.
- In Australia in the same year, 19% of men favored nuclear power as one of three energy preferences compared with 8% of women (Hasham 2015).

Energy – Biomass Air Pollution

- Exposure to household air pollution from biomass burning kills nearly 4 million people per year.
- Millions more suffer from cancer, pneumonia, heart and lung disease, blindness and burns, while smoke from cooking fires is associated with cataracts, the leading cause of blindness in the world (GACC 2013).
- The premature deaths of more than 2 million women and children annually due to household air pollution are directly related to use of solid fuels for cooking and heating (Prüss-Ustün et al. 2016; WHO 2014b; GACC 2013).
- Women spend more time cooking than men, and in the case of unsafe fuels and stoves they are more exposed to smoke from cooking with solid fuels.

Gender sensitive management of natural resources

- Business-as-usual approaches are proving disastrous for people and the planet alike. For a sustainable, equitable and just management of natural resources and ecosystems it is essential to adopt gender-and-environment approaches.
- While the gender-and-environment nexus is increasingly acknowledged in international agreements and national policy documents, implementation and follow-through have so far been weak or absent.
- Gender equality cannot be measured by women's and men's "presence" alone. Presence does not necessarily mean participation, nor does it imply influence: the nature of people's participation is what makes their presence meaningful or not.
- A transformative agenda recognizes gender equality as a driver of social change, leading to more people smart environmental policies



Project Gender Activity Plan

- Preparation of a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Gender Action Plan including gender sensitive indicators
- Two workshop focusing on gender equality
- Establishment of a Gender Advisory Group
- Different communication activities
- Mainstreaming gender in all project activities



Upcoming events

21st December

Learning Workshop on Gender and Sustainable
Development

Nexus Assessment

Gender Chapter and mainstreaming

Questions as food for thoughts

- What are the key challenges to gender-responsive strategies?
- What are the most efficient measures to make national plans and strategies more gender responsive and inclusive?
- In which ways have women's active participation, voice, and agency in national decision-making processes been promoted and advocated for?
- How can we address capacity and resource gaps?
- What are some examples of how institutions have addressed these issues?
- How can international organizations, government agencies work more systematically with women's organizations to strengthen environment/climate resilience for men and women equally?
- How can we collectively make this an urgent priority?



Questions as food for thoughts

- What social forces are producing the changes seen in the environment, and are they gender-dependent?
- What are the large-scale consequences of ongoing environmental changes for social systems and women and men security, and are these consequences gender differentiated?
- What do future projections and outlooks look like, are they gender-differentiated, and will there be different outcomes for women and men?
- What actions could be taken for a more sustainable future that would position women and men as equal agents in taking such actions, and which socio-economic factors could shape different outcomes and responses for women and men?



Thank you

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