



# Gender issues in sustainable management of natural resources

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# Sustainable Development and Gender Equality

- Sustainable development aims to improve the economy and society without compromising the natural environment or the well-being of future generations
- But for any development effort to be sustainable and effective, it must take into account the needs of all people, including those who typically have no voice in decision-making
- This is why gender equality is a critical and integral component to achieving sustainable development.



# Gender Equality and SDGs

- Gender equality can enable and even accelerate the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- While gender equality is an end in itself (SDG 5), its benefits are multiplied when gender issues are integrated into all SDGs.
- Addressing gender inequalities - including access to and control over natural resources - accelerates policy outcomes towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

# Sustainable management of natural resources



"The use of natural resources in a way and at a pace that protects and increases the sustainability of ecosystems and the benefits they offer. In doing so, the needs of present generations are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. "

# Inequalities in access and control

There is a complex and multidimensional relationship between gender equality and natural resource policies.

This relationship includes:

- productive sphere, with significant inequalities in access to, control and management of natural resources
- care work, with disproportionate inequality to the detriment of women
- the differentiated impact of climate change and the environment

# Structural inequalities

Structural inequalities place women at a clear economic and social disadvantage: pronounced inequalities in ownership and access to key resources such as land and water, inequalities in the quality of employment and decision-making positions, and inequalities in the economy of time use which deteriorated particularly in the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These inequalities translate into a pattern of economic growth characterized by exclusion, as women are not as well positioned as men to take advantage of the opportunities created by economic growth.

Particular attention should be paid to the control and ownership of land, from which economic benefits are distributed unequally. This goal is addressed by two different SDGs of Agenda 2030. In Albania only 19% of real estate belongs to women.



# Cultural inequalities

Climate change is expected to exacerbate the serious consequences of environmental crises that affect women and men differently, as long as issues such as declining water, reduction of agricultural productivity or the emergence of new diseases are particularly relevant to the care work carried by women.

Unequal cultural patterns and traditional gender roles in the division of labor exacerbate the situation as women spend more time in unpaid, care work, which is mainly related to access to and provision of natural resources such as water and energy. Lack of access to such resources increases the time for household chores, as well as the vulnerability especially of women and girls.



# Decision making inequalities

The exclusion of women from decision-making is also flagrant, at all levels of participation where decisions are made on resources such as water, sea, land and forests. This exclusion should be addressed by the development policies of these sectors.

Efforts to address inequalities need to identify the interrelationships that exist between the various SDGs, where there is an urgent need for an integral and multidimensional approach, which implies the integration of a gender perspective into all public policies regarding natural resource management.





# Gender Equality supports sustainability

Many of the obstacles to effective sustainable management policies are found in old discriminatory social norms and legal systems.

Investing in girls and women does not require radical new changes, but it can break down the systemic barriers to power and privilege that continue to leave millions behind.



# Thank you

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