



The Art of Implementation

Gender Strategies Transforming National and Regional **Climate Change** Decision Making



Produced by the IUCN Global Gender Office on behalf of GGCA.

The Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature—IUCN— has been spearheading the development of national frameworks on gender and climate change in developing countries. National action plans on gender and climate change have been developed on behalf of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) since 2010. Roadmaps on gender and REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) have been developed since 2011. We wish to thank the following individuals for contributing additional information related to the national processes: Fadwa Abdelqader, Anu Adhikari, Hussein Badarin, Haydeé Castillo, Sandra Freitas, Fidaa Haddad, Dominique Jannini, Ana Lucia Moreno, Cécile Ndjebet, Andrea Quesada-Aguilar, Mino Randrianarison, Judie C. Roy, Doreen Ruta, Vivienne Solis, and Chantal Wandja.

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We hope the lessons contained in this publication will provide some insights into your own efforts or inspire you to join us in developing strategies in more countries.



Prologue

For the first time, governments have equipped all three of the Rio Conventions with strong mandates on gender equality and women's empowerment. By signing and ratifying the conventions on biodiversity (CBD), climate change (UNFCCC), and desertification (UNCCD), governments officially committed to implement these agreements and monitor and report on their progress. These international agreements are an historic step forward, but the second half of the equation—implementation at national level—now requires urgent attention.

As the title of this publication suggests, implementation of international agreements in individual countries is an art, not a science. There are diverse factors and challenges at play, including political will, adequate finance, and complex governance arrangements. These international agreements are not self-executing; that is, translating them into national policy and programming requires consistent and purposeful action. The art of implementation is a journey toward the realization of important ideas, a bridging of the gap between our aspirations and our achievements, and a continuous learning curve.

This is where IUCN—International Union for Conservation of Nature—comes in, taking on the world's vital aspirations about sustainable development, including the crucial role of gender equality, and working on the achievement of these goals. The strength of our entire Union is behind the national gender and climate change strategies (ccGAPs) and gender and REDD+ roadmaps. IUCN's network of 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts provides high quality technical advice; our more than 1,200 government and non-government members empower and convene stakeholders and influence policy at all levels through their collective strengths; and our staff members participate in the implementation of the Union's actions through hundreds of projects all over the world.

We hope the lessons contained in this publication will provide some insights into your own efforts or inspire you to join us in developing strategies in more countries. In the years to come, we expect to look back at these national strategies and roadmaps on gender and climate change and appreciate how far they have taken us toward a more just and sustainable future. If we continue to work together, I am confident that we will be able to celebrate considerable achievements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Marton-Lefèvre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN



We will not be able to meet the challenges of climate change and achieve the Millennium Development Goals with the contribution of men only; women's input will double the impact.



Forward

Climate change is a major threat to the environment and natural resources, which we need for the sustainable development of our globe. Climate change will undermine the very foundation of socioeconomic development and will increase inequality and poverty. It will have a serious impact on the livelihoods of poor women in developing countries, as the increasing droughts and storms will affect agriculture and water resources, which are often the responsibility of women.

Women can, however, play a central role in adaptation to climate change. Women can also lead the way towards more sustainable consumption in developed countries and emerging market economies, as they will make some 80 per cent of the daily purchasing for families and take the lead in households combating climate change.

Thus, the full participation of women in all decision-making and activities concerning climate change is essential. We will not be able to meet the challenges of climate change and achieve the Millennium Development Goals with the contribution of men only; women's input will double the impact.

This was also one of the key conclusions of the UN Secretary General's Panel on Global Sustainability, which I co-chaired with the President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. The panel emphasized the importance of women's full participation in strengthening green economies and providing women access to property, credit, and other productive resources. The role of women in promoting sustainable economic development cannot be overestimated. Recently, it has come to light that women's global earning power has had a bigger impact on the global economy than the GDPs of China and India combined.

Finland has supported the participation of women in the recent climate negotiations. For this purpose, we established a Women Delegates Fund as a component of cooperation with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance. Improved awareness has led to greater participation of women, which is now over 30 per cent. Gender considerations are already included in the work programmes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and in the decisions relating to new bodies such as the Green Climate Fund and Technology Mechanism.

In addition to international cooperation, Finland has supported active participation of women in national and local activities. The interested governments have prepared first national and regional strategies in cooperation with IUCN, its global programme, commissions, and members.

This valuable publication describes the process and strategies for integrating women in national climate activities in their countries. I hope that these examples will encourage other countries to follow suit. At present, local and national action is needed to make the difference.

Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland
Co-chair of the UN Secretary General's Panel on Global Sustainability



Overview

Women are central actors in a country's response to climate change

In Nepal, women farmers avoid crop failure in the face of changing weather patterns by growing off-season vegetables and bananas, which are more resilient to flood and drought (ActionAid, 2007). In Jordan, women's management of small-scale irrigation projects and involvement in water harvesting and soil conservation improves the efficiency of water use (Al-Naber & Shatanawi, 2003). In Tanzania, when men migrate from home for longer periods due to the impacts of climate change, women take over the role of livestock herding and pasture management (Matinda, 2010). In Nicaragua, following a disaster, women were actively involved in evacuating those at risk, transporting materials to clear roads, and organizing food collection brigades and health care campaigns (Delany & Shrader, 2000). Women often lead the way in adapting to climate change impacts, but they also play a key role in mitigating climate change by optimizing energy efficiency, using low-footprint energy sources and techniques, and influencing a household's and community's consumption patterns (Rojas, 2012).

Until recently, policy responses at the global or national level did not reflect this reality, and even at this juncture we still have a long way to go. For more than twenty years, gender was absent from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in decision-making by its Conference of the Parties and Subsidiary Bodies. Likewise, few National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) or national communications submitted by Parties to the UNFCCC addressed gender considerations in a comprehensive manner, and some did not mention gender considerations at all. This lack of a connection between gender and climate change at the global and national levels was a sign of the times—prior to the UNFCCC Bali Action Plan, and the launch of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) in the same year, the theme of gender and climate change was largely nonexistent on the global stage, and most NAPAs and national communications had already been written.

Now, following several years of advocacy, capacity building, and awareness raising, governments have agreed multilaterally that gender equality is a key component in achieving climate change goals. Since 2008 and to date, more than 60 official gender references have entered the UNFCCC negotiation text, and the final outcomes of the Cancun (2010) and Durban (2011) conferences included eight and seventeen references to gender, respectively. With these global mandates in place, the urgent next step is implementing them and determining how to design climate change policies and programming in a way that addresses gendered realities.

The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 and convenes over 60 UN agencies and civil society organizations.

A critical step in the implementation process is anchoring global agreements within national contexts—through the development of climate change gender action plans (ccGAPs). Beginning in January 2010, ccGAPs were developed in various countries and regions under IUCN’s leadership. IUCN on behalf of the GGCA supported the development of ccGAPs in Nepal, Liberia, Tanzania, Jordan, Egypt, Panama, and Haiti. In Haiti, IUCN engaged the support of WEDO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop that country’s ccGAP. Two regional governing bodies—those of Central America and the Arab states region—also broke new ground by collaborating to develop regional strategies on gender and climate change. Separately, IUCN collaborated with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the development of Mozambique’s strategy.

In parallel, IUCN leveraged the methodology of the ccGAPs to facilitate distinct processes in other countries and had similar results. IUCN worked with partners to support the mainstreaming of gender in Costa Rica’s action plan for the national climate change strategy and partnered with WEDO to develop Gender and REDD+ roadmaps in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon.

These visionary countries and regions are among the world’s pioneers in integrating gender in national climate change decision-making. More strategies will soon follow, as still more countries have communicated requests to IUCN for facilitating these processes.

Established in 1948, IUCN is a membership organization made up of more than 1,000 member organizations including more than 80 states, more than 110 government agencies, and more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Strategies by country
ccGAPs (climate change gender action plans) or similar processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia: Nepal. • Africa: Liberia, Tanzania, Mozambique. • Arab States: Jordan, Egypt, Arab League of States regional process. • Latin America: Central America regional process, Panama, Costa Rica, Haiti.
Gender and REDD+ roadmaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon.

Why do the ccGAPs matter? They represent a country’s intention to empower and respond to the needs of the often invisible “other half” of the population in the context of climate change. They link national and global policy in a concrete and synergistic manner, communicating to women’s constituencies, a country’s population at large, and the international community that gender matters and why it matters. Most importantly, ccGAPs have the potential to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of climate change and socioeconomic development responses.

The underlying principle of the ccGAPs is the transformative nature of gender interventions. If women had the same access to the resources that male farmers do, farm yields could increase by 20-30 per cent and the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by 12-17 per cent (FAO, 2011). More equal control over household resources and subsequent investment in women’s and children’s education and health have been linked to a country’s economic growth. Women’s participation in decision making at higher levels has specifically benefitted environmental policy, such that countries with more women in their parliaments are more likely to set aside protected land areas and ratify international environmental treaties. In fact, new data reveals that there is a causal relationship between environment and gender; when gender inequality is high, forest depletion, air pollution and other measures of environmental degradation are also high (UNDP, 2011).

World Bank President Robert Zoellick confirmed these findings while noting, “Gender equality is smart economics... We will not release the full potential of half of the world’s population until globally we address the issue of equality; until countries, communities, and households around the world acknowledge women’s rights and change the rules of inequality” (Zoellick, 2011). In the realm of climate change, and in any development challenge, gender equality is an objective with tangible economic, environmental, and social benefits. Gender equality is, indeed, at the heart of smart governance.



National strategy workshop in Egypt



Cameroon



REDD+ and gender workshop in Cameroon

This publication shares IUCN's experiences in developing the world's first gender-responsive national strategies and roadmaps on climate change. The work was led by IUCN at the national level as part of a joint initiative with the GGCA, and with the financial support of the government of Finland for the ccGAPs and of DANIDA for the REDD+ roadmaps. The section that follows outlines the steps and elements of creating a ccGAP or REDD+ roadmap. The third section delves into some of the principles behind the strategies and what has worked best. The fourth section tells a story from each country, highlighting key sectors that demonstrate the gender dimensions of climate change in different national contexts. The final section concludes with some recommendations for how to continue the momentum.



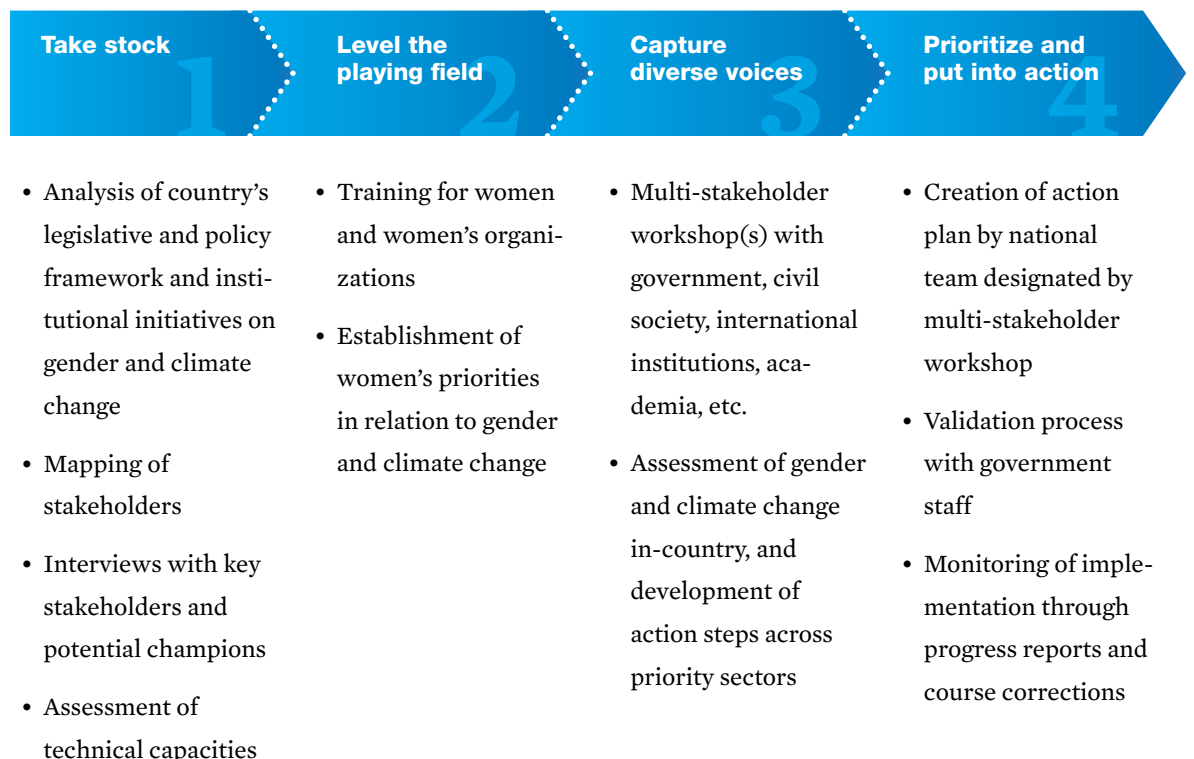
The Journey

The path to a ccGAP

The development of gender-responsive national climate change strategies marks a natural progression in IUCN's longstanding partnership with governments and civil society. The motivation for these strategies is also closely linked to a growing global recognition of the importance of a gender dimension in climate change and environmental decision making, in which IUCN, the GGCA, and other actors have played an important role.

Each country presents a distinct context that requires a targeted approach. However, some elements of the methodology are universal: an understanding of the political, socioeconomic, and environmental circumstances; capacity-building on targeted themes to ensure strong engagement and ownership; and a meaningful participatory and multi-stakeholder process.

Steps Toward the Development of a ccGAP



1. Take stock

The ccGAPs are anchored to a country's existing national processes on climate change, and on gender. Following a government's formal request to develop a ccGAP, IUCN undertakes research to map the country's legislative and policy framework and any institutional initiatives in areas as diverse as natural resources, socio-economic issues, industry, and finance. This examination of existing frameworks encompasses the multiple legal layers in the country, including existence of both traditional and customary law. Based on this assessment, IUCN identifies and interviews key stakeholders and institutions, as well as potential champions, in order to ascertain the top priorities, challenges, and gaps. Assessing technical capacities in collaboration with IUCN's country offices, relevant government departments, and other constituencies rounds out the knowledge base and helps to orient the country team.

2. Level the playing field

In order to enhance the engagement of women and women's organizations in the development of the ccGAP and in climate change activities in general, IUCN organizes a training session to build both technical knowledge and women's confidence on climate change themes, and to identify women's priorities and ideas. Depending on the country context, the representation in training sessions ranges from women with experience in national and global policy to women who are farmers or entrepreneurs.

3. Capture diverse voices and views

As part of a multi-stakeholder workshop, representatives from government, non-governmental institutions, academia, international institutions, and community groups, among others, assess the country's current situation in relation to gender and climate change, envision a future scenario across priority sectors, and agree on action steps toward that scenario. Actions fall within the realm of both adaptation and mitigation in line with a country's existing climate change planning processes.

4. Prioritize and put into action

A national team elected by participants in the multi-stakeholder workshop turns the action steps into an action plan and continues after the workshop to gather input from various stakeholders in order to complete the ccGAP. The ccGAP undergoes a validation process with the government in order to finalize and internalize the plan and to chart a course for putting actions into motion. Regular progress reports and course corrections are helpful in identifying on-going capacity, technical, and other resource needs as the plan is implemented.



Women's workshop in Nepal



National strategy workshop in Egypt

The resulting strategies:

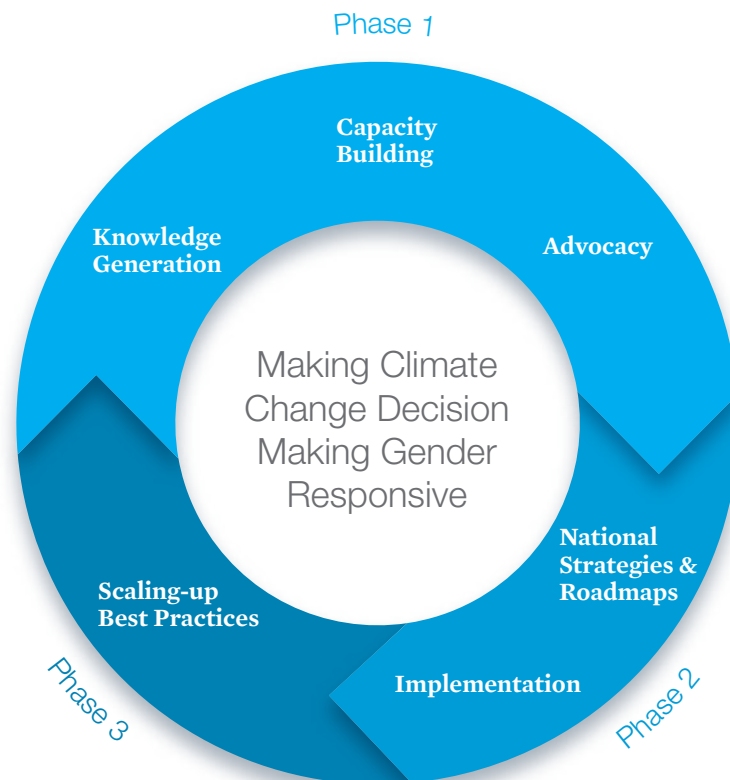
- Are *demand-driven*, tailor-made, multi-stakeholder in nature, and designed from the *bottom-up*;
- Function as a vehicle for *capacity-building and coordination* inside and between government institutions;
- Constitute a *platform for enhanced cooperation* between government and constituencies;
- Represent a *wide range of issues* as agreed by stakeholders; and
- Are filled with actions and indicators at *multiple levels*, from the household to national policy, and for both *rural and urban* communities.

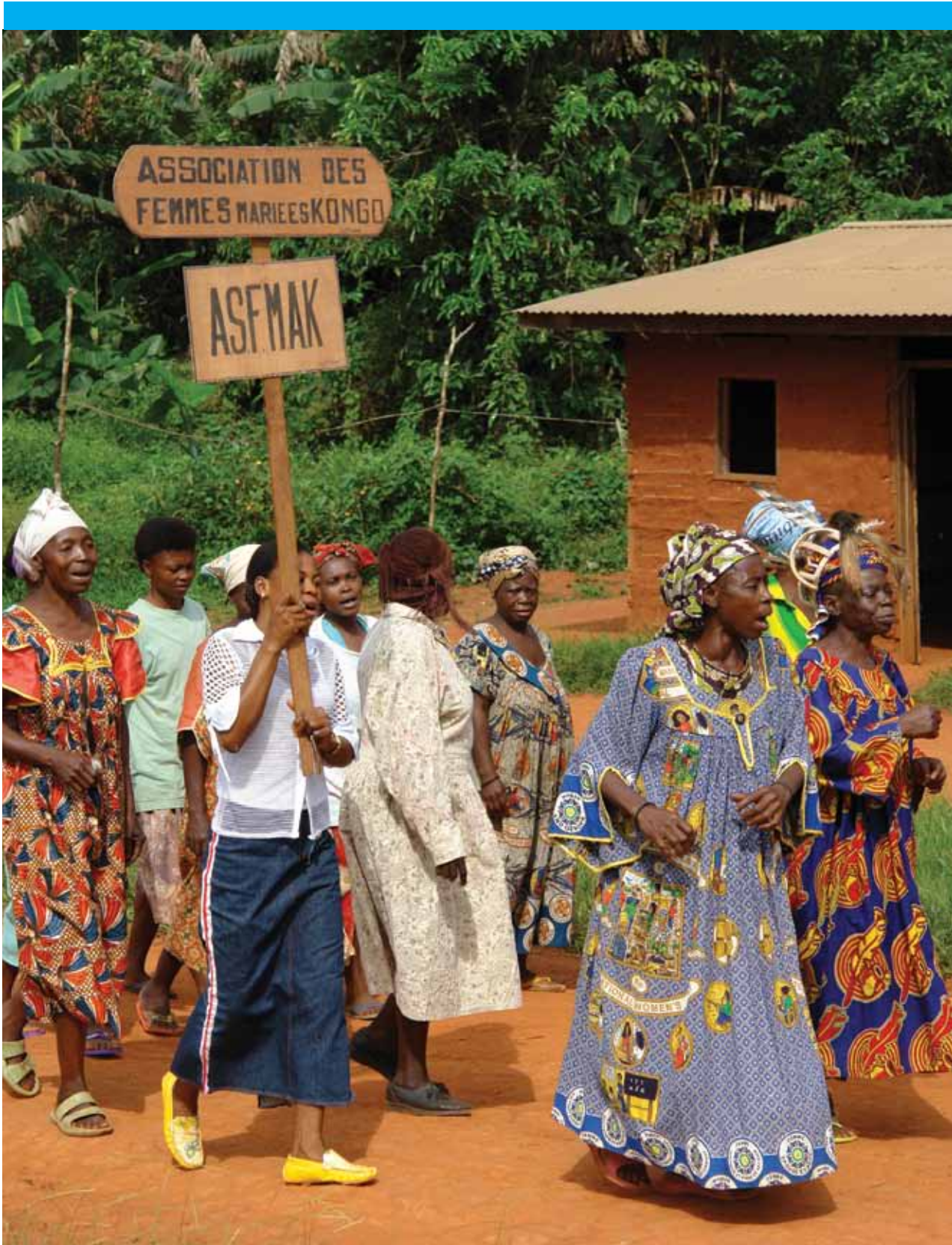
But the strategies are also diverse in terms of:

- Geo-political context (local area, country, region, North and South)
- Ecosystems (dryland, coast, mountainous area, etc.)
- Prioritization of adaptation, mitigation, or linking both
- Proposed solutions based on the country context
- Positioning as a strategy, roadmap, action plan, or otherwise

The development of the ccGAPs is a core component of a broader effort to make climate change decision-making gender responsive worldwide. In addition to national strategies, the broader components include knowledge generation, capacity building, advocacy, policy implementation, and scaling up best practices.

Making Climate Change Decision Making Gender Responsive





Lessons Learned

In supporting the development of the ccGAPs and Gender and REDD+ Roadmaps, we have learned some important lessons



1. Connecting multiple sectors

Gender equality is a crosscutting topic that is pertinent to diverse sectors and brings seemingly strange bedfellows together. The national multi-stakeholder workshops are often a unique, and sometimes the sole, opportunity for representatives from diverse government departments and ministries to sit together and consider the linkages among them. Participants in the workshops welcome the opportunity to build social capital between government departments and have the space to brainstorm innovations outside the box of their own sector. New connections are also forged between government representatives and participants from NGOs and other institutions. The opportunity to address gender from a multi-stakeholder perspective has led to a sea change in individual attitudes on the subject. Time and again, participants have expressed their surprise at gender equality being a development issue rather than a cause limited to feminists; thus, gender equality was newly recognized as a precondition of sustainable development.

The presence of diverse viewpoints and experiences makes for a more holistic and ecosystem-wide approach to both gender and climate change and is more institutionally realistic for the ccGAP itself. Although a wide thematic berth is useful at the outset of the workshops, the final ccGAPs are more narrowly focused on priority sectors and actions. And while gender dimensions can be found across many sectors and initiatives, a pragmatic approach that leverages the potential of women and women's organizations in critical sectors is a solid first step.

After the development of several ccGAPs, it became clear that integrating the ccGAPs within the existing country policy and institutional frameworks is essential. Working across multiple sectors can mean a more lengthy, complicated, and involved process, but an integrated approach avoids the development of a stand-alone document that has no relevance to other national priorities and initiatives. A ccGAP that is part of the existing fabric of a country's policy regime will gain much more relevance and buy-in.



2. Capacity to build an effective strategy

Governments, donors, and institutions at all levels express significant interest in addressing the gender dimension in their climate change programming, but they also express limited understanding of what steps to take or how to orient their overall approach for optimal impact. Thus, the ccGAP development process is underpinned by targeted capacity building that guides stakeholders' preliminary steps. Participants come away with enhanced knowledge of climate change and/or gender themes, as well as an enhanced understanding of gender and development. Depending on the country and institutional context, the training content may focus heavily on the technical components of mitigation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, REDD+, or other topics. Those familiar with climate change have the opportunity to understand the impact of socioeconomic processes, and those familiar with the broader realm of women's empowerment build their understanding of gender-differentiated roles in the specific context of climate change and natural resources.

Taking the time to enhance participants' comfort across these themes is a critical component of designing an effective ccGAP. The participation of all staff from the bottom administrative posts to the top management posts is also key to capturing diverse viewpoints and ensuring comprehensive institutional understanding and cooperation in the strategy's implementation.



3. A placeholder for emerging opportunities

The development of a ccGAP is a key moment in a country's acknowledgement that gender equality is central to climate change decision making and implementation, but it is only an initial step. While strategies and roadmaps include short-term actions, any legislative and institutional reforms will take time. Importantly, the ccGAP is a long-term placeholder for the moment in time when policy and planning opportunities emerge. Participants note that having the ccGAP in place can be most useful at the moment a country is ready to undertake the next phase of adaptation planning, set emissions reductions goals, prepare REDD+ plans, or to reform policy in any climate-related sector. In one case, the ccGAP turned the attention of an international institution to gender and catalysed the inclusion of a gender approach in a major regional report.

Civil society and other institutions have noted that the ccGAPs provide a platform for coordinated actions, and a fountain of action ideas, on the gender dimensions of climate change across multiple actors at the national and local levels.



4. Ownership, harmonization, and guardianship

Anchoring the ccGAP in existing national climate change processes, rather than creating a parallel process, is critical to ensuring ownership and avoiding a document that will gather dust on a shelf. A harmonized approach avoids the pitfalls of high transaction costs, fragmentation, and over-burdening of governments and institutions, and it opens the door to efficiency, coordination, and cost effectiveness—all elements of good governance.



Cameroon

National ownership is not just government involvement but also includes the engagement of civil society and other concerned stakeholders, such as academia and the private sector. Because they are driven and led by countries themselves, the national strategies are built on the capacity of local actors, are entrenched in the local context, respond to local needs, suit internal institutional arrangements, and undergo national validation, thus securing ultimate success in implementation. As the ccGAP is validated and adopted, guardianship of the strategy by government and civil society that can shepherd it through is critical.



5. Monitoring and learning

The ccGAPs benefit considerably from the long-term presence of IUCN and its partners in these countries. The ccGAP development process—from the preliminary phase of information gathering to the later stages of implementation—leverages existing local relationships built over decades and a deep knowledge of the country's circumstances and challenges. These relationships are built on trust and mutual understanding, leveraging in no small part on-going collaboration around other projects and initiatives, which in some instances has spanned decades. This reputation allows for a close monitoring and mentoring relationship with ministries and other stakeholders as the ccGAP is designed and put into practice.

At the outset of the ccGAP's adoption and implementation, it is important that government representatives who are new to the theme can count on a trusted institution to accompany the process. This relationship can help with course corrections, troubleshooting, additional capacity building, sustained momentum, and monitoring to determine whether initial actions resulted in the intended impact.

Monitoring can also be useful beyond the individual country. Participants in the ccGAP development process have benefitted from learning about what other countries are doing, including how certain sectors are interlinked, how to get beyond characterization of women as victims, and how to expand actions to other sectors such as transport, tourism, waste, and urbanization. In some instances, the ccGAP processes have spurred greater regional coordination. At their best, the national processes have developed tremendous innovations, connecting climate change and gender equality goals across multiple sectors in a pioneering manner.



Jordan national strategy workshop



The ccGAPS and REDD+ Roadmaps

The ccGAPS and REDD+ roadmaps vary greatly, representing the diverse ways in which gender and climate change elements manifest in each country.

Nepal



Overview of ccGAPs and REDD+ roadmaps

The country profiles summarized here, and organized by region in the following sections, outline how climate change issues impact a variety of sectors, and how the ccGAPs and REDD+ roadmaps respond to these challenges by looking at them through a gender-sensitive lens.

Nepal	Liberia	Tanzania	Mozambique	Jordan
FEBRUARY 2012	MAY 2012	SEPTEMBER 2011	JUNE 2010	NOVEMBER 2010
TITLE Climate Change Gender Action Plan	TITLE Climate Change Gender Action Plan	TITLE National Strategy on Gender and Climate Change	TITLE Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	TITLE Programme for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan
PARTICIPANTS 44 representatives of government, civil society, and academia, as well as donors, UN agencies, and parliament	PARTICIPANTS 53 representatives of government, civil society, academia, research institutions, UN agencies, parliament, and international organizations	PARTICIPANTS 42 participants from government, UN agencies, and indigenous and civil society organizations	PARTICIPANTS 35 representatives of government and civil society	PARTICIPANTS 22 representatives of government, civil society, academia, research institutions, UN agencies, and international organizations as well as donors
PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and food security • Forests and REDD • Water • Energy • Health • Urbanization 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and food security • Coasts • Forests and REDD • Health • Water and sanitation • Energy 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Water • Health • Energy • Forestry/REDD+ • Integrated coastal management 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment of women • Empowerment of communities • Climate change mitigation • Climate change adaptation • Natural resources use • Participation, education and training • Gender equity 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Energy • Agriculture and food security • Waste reduction and management

THE ccGAPS AND REDD+ ROADMAPS

Egypt	Panama	Haiti	Ghana	Uganda	Cameroon
MAY 2011	DECEMBER 2011	JULY 2011	NOVEMBER 2011	JANUARY 2012	JANUARY 2012
TITLE National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change in Egypt	TITLE Aportes para la equidad de género en la revisión de la Política Nacional y la Estrategia de Cambio Climático	TITLE Programme pour la généralisation de l'analyse selon le Genre dans les efforts de lutte contre les changements climatiques en Haïti	TITLE Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into REDD+ Processes in Ghana	TITLE Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into REDD+ Processes: A Gender and REDD+ Roadmap for Uganda	TITLE Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into REDD+ Processes in Cameroon
PARTICIPANTS 35 representatives of civil society, academia, UN agencies, and government	PARTICIPANTS 33 government, indigenous, and civil society representatives	PARTICIPANTS 48 participants from various government ministries and civil society organizations	PARTICIPANTS 27 representatives of government, civil society, and UN agencies	PARTICIPANTS 27 representatives of government, civil society, and international organizations	PARTICIPANTS 40 representatives of government, civil society, and international organizations
PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated coastal management • Agriculture • Water • Tourism • Health • Energy and transport • Urbanization • Waste management 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use and land use changes • Energy • Water • Agriculture 	PRIORITY AREAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and food security • Management of water resources • Disaster risk management • Health 			





Nepal

“In the context of climate change, those at high risk are often the same people who are part of solutions and can be powerful agents of change. We must strengthen their leadership, skills and knowledge in order to build their resilience and make their voices heard. Realizing this, the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal—in partnership with International Union for Conservation of Nature—has initiated a Climate Change and Gender Strategy as an innovative means to promote the voice and leadership of women.”

Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal

Nepal is home to one of the most majestic and captivating natural wonders in the world— the Himalayas. With some of the highest, most impressive and insurmountable mountain peaks on earth, this huge asset comes at a price; combined with a low level of development, the complex topography renders it highly vulnerable to climate change. Nepal is the fourth most climate-vulnerable country in the world, due to its variable climatic condition and proneness to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood events. As the result of meltwater lakes at the base of glaciers, in recent decades Nepal has experienced fourteen catastrophic flood surges. The Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and other weather-related disasters have killed more than 27,000 people and affected 5 million people during 1971-2007. This means that more people are killed by disasters in Nepal than any other country in South Asia (UNDP & BCPR, 2004; ICIMOD, 2011; Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, 2011).

In July 2012, the IUCN Global Gender Office received an official request from the Ministry of Environment of the government of Nepal to be engaged in the preparation of a national action plan on gender and climate change. The government of Nepal requested that the action plan be positioned within the broader framework of Nepal's NAPA and the country's *Climate Change Policy*. At the time of this writing, Nepal's ccGAP is in draft form and currently under consultation for finalization; thus, the information contained here is limited to the results of the national workshop.

In Nepal, the ccGAP included the priority areas of agriculture and food security, forests and REDD, water, energy, health, and urbanization.

Overview of Nepal ccGAP

Overall Objective: To operationalize gender concerns in climate change efforts to enhance implementation and contribute to the promotion of gender equality in Nepal.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Agriculture and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transform the agricultural sector in Nepal to be more inclusive, equitable, and productive. • Increase women's access to productive resources (land, seed, fertilizer, credit, equipment). • Make available technologies that enable women farmers to cope effectively with the impacts of climate change. • Increase women's access to agricultural information. • Increase water-use efficiency through the introduction of alternative, environmentally friendly systems.
 Forests and REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable a policy environment for mainstreaming gender in forestry and climate change. • Ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated in the forest sector with specific attention to REDD+ and Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs). • Enhance participation of women at decision-making level through formal & informal education in forestry sector. • Strengthen institutional capacity on gender, forestry, and REDD+ issues of implementing partners (governmental and international non-governmental organizations), with a focus on women and women's organizations. • Avoid negative implications of REDD+ initiatives and disaster hazards on women's rights and social and environmental standards. • Promote equitable benefit and resource-sharing mechanism. • Increase women's access to economic opportunities through green enterprises. • Operationalize the gender and social inclusion strategy (2008) of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. • Develop negotiating capacity of women, women's organizations, and key government officials to advocate gender issues in international negotiation processes (UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties, International Forestry Conference, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, CBD).
 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop infrastructure for water supply in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas that recognizes and addresses the needs of women. • Ensure women's participation as decision makers in all stages of water-related development initiatives. • Ensure gender mainstreaming in existing water-related policies and legislation (umbrella policy). • Develop a disaggregated data bank and assess vulnerability for water related disaster (i.e. Glacial Lake Outburst Flood, drought, other flood, landslide). • Promote research relating to gender and climate change dimensions in the water sector. • Break stereotypes related to water-use by sex and caste. • Enhance gender-responsive budgeting in water resource management. • Protect, conserve, and manage water catchment and source areas involving and benefiting more women.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop gender-sensitive energy policies in Nepal. • Raise awareness about the importance of gender, climate, and energy, and implement effective coordination mechanisms among stakeholders. • Increase active participation of women in energy programs to make them more effective. • Mobilize women's groups to become agents of change for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. • Increase the availability of diversified energy technology options that are commercially viable. • Reduce dependency on biomass energy. • Increase investment in gender-sensitive energy solutions. • Have an effective energy strategy in place for urban settings. • Develop and implement a community adaptation/mitigation initiative to address climate change and reduce emissions at scale by leveraging the role of women at the household level. • Promote the participation of women and men in renewal energy efforts at household level through the introduction of efficient, innovative, and sustainable systems of energy use.
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of national and other professional, technical, and scientific institutions to conduct research in the area of climate change and health from a gender perspective. • Ensure increased availability and accessibility of environment friendly technology to women, particularly in rural areas, to reduce exposure to CO₂ emissions. • Mainstream gender/health/climate change in the national disaster risk reduction policy. • Design and implement policies to reduce health risks, particularly water and vector borne diseases, resulting from climate change. • Develop and roll out a public awareness campaign on the linkages between climate change, health, women, and children. • Build capacity of decision makers, health professionals, and community workers on the linkages between health, gender, and climate change.
 Urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise, review, and enforce relevant urban policies within the framework of gender and climate change. • Integrate climate change issues and gender participation in urban planning. • Develop adequate policies, frameworks, and technology systems for waste management. • Increase women's representation in management roles in the transportation sector. • Promote urban agriculture among women at the household, community, and professional level.

Drawing on Nepal's priority sectors, the following section focuses on forestry and agriculture to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change. Efforts in Nepal to instil greater equality in the forestry and agricultural sector have come up against the need for broader institutional reforms such as those included in the ccGAP. In parallel, women's successes and struggles in forestry and agriculture may provide lessons for how to best implement the ccGAP in Nepal.

Forestry

Nearly 80 per cent of Nepalese rural households derive some or all of their livelihoods from forest resources. Community forestry has enjoyed a high profile success, improving the resource rights of local people as well as the health of forest ecosystems in Nepal. Over 14,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) manage a sizeable portion of the country's forested land—1.2 million hectares—benefiting almost 1.7 million households. Importantly, the country's community forestry policy mandates that at least 33 per cent of the Executive Committee membership of these user groups should be women. This has led to tremendous steps forward for women's involvement in forestry decision making. Other women-only user groups are led by and made up entirely of women participants (ADB, DFID, and World Bank, 2012; National Planning Commission, 2010). During 2001-2010, several estimates indicated that women managed about 768 to 900 of the community forests, or about five to six per cent; however, the forests handed over to women are usually small in area and either are degraded or are plantation in nature (D Gurung 2012, pers. comm., 5 August).

Nevertheless, policy is still being translated into practice. Nepal's historical hierarchies endure despite formal laws guaranteeing equal treatment to women and men, and to various castes. CFUGs operate in this setting of gender inequality and social hierarchy, resulting in continued exclusion of women and other marginalized groups from decision-making and accessing resources and related financial benefits. Women who serve on Executive Committees are sometimes seen as "token" members, where their views are not valued and they rarely serve in officer positions. While women are the primary users of forest resources, including for fuel and fodder, one study found that only about 17 per cent of households sent women to CFUG meetings.

Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs)

Learning from the Community Forestry User Group process in Nepal, the country's unique LAPAs are part of Nepal's national climate change planning process. The goal of LAPA processes is to link national climate change decision making with bottom-up climate risk assessments undertaken by community members. Since LAPAs are intended to catalyse cross-sectoral coordination around climate resilience, they could potentially provide a platform for gender equality measures (Regmi & Karki, 2010). As the ccGAP is implemented, it will be critical to ensure that women participate equitably in decision making and that they derive concrete benefits from local natural resource governing bodies.

Why wouldn't women participate in CFUGs? Their limited ownership of land and other assets prevents access to credit and technologies, which gives them less bargaining power. Women are burdened with household and family care tasks that may prevent them from attending meetings. And societal norms mean that committees expect the male head of household to attend meetings. These common obstacles translate into women not attending or into them sitting quietly at the back of the meeting room (Ghimire-Bastakoti & Bastakoti, 2004).

The experiences of the Musahar tribe, a largely illiterate and marginalized group that has never been represented on the Baghmara Buffer Zone Community Forest, are enlightening. It is perceived by this group that the operation of the CFUG is one in which the affluent members make the decisions without much consultation, and where women's roles are relegated to keeping track of information and organizing meetings. The CFUG requires payment for collecting forest products that Musahar women sometimes cannot afford, and the CFUG rules put other restrictions on access to firewood and fishing. The Musahar people are simultaneously the most vulnerable in the community and the most dependent on natural resources, yet they have considered backing out of the CFUG, since they do not derive enough benefits (Murdiyarso & Skutsch, 2006).

Women’s role as major stakeholders in Nepal’s forestry sector is also relevant to the implementation of REDD+ in the country. Nepal’s REDD Readiness Preparedness Proposal (REDD-RPP) makes 57 references to women and includes the principle of “mainstreaming gender and equity concerns at all levels.” The RPP notes, “special attention will be paid to ensure the full and effective participation of women and other marginalized groups in the REDD readiness process and to make their voices heard. For this, women and representatives of different marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples, *Dalit*, *Sukumbasi* (landless), and poor forest-dependent communities will be invited to participate in all decision-making forums during the REDD readiness preparation process.”

However, a comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming in Nepal’s REDD+ process will require further attention, based on progress to date. Although a few women do participate in Nepal’s REDD governing mechanism, they do not represent women as a stakeholder group *per se*, reflecting the lack of recognition of women’s role as a major forestry stakeholder. This has extended to the almost 60 stakeholder consultations held at the district level, only three of which focused on women’s issues. A comprehensive gender analysis has so far been neglected in Nepal’s REDD initiative as well. Looking ahead, Nepal’s existing national policies that guarantee women’s participation—including the *Forest Master Plan* that promotes one-third participation of women in CFUGs, the *Three Year Interim Plan* (2010-2012) that recognizes women and socially excluded groups, and the *Community Forestry Development Guidelines* that call for gender balance in key executive positions—could be used as a minimum threshold for ensuring gender equality and women’s empowerment in REDD+ governance in Nepal (Gurung, 2012).

Building on the experiences above, Nepal’s ccGAP developed targeted actions, a sample of which is outlined below.

Sample Actions From Nepal ccGAP in the Forests and REDD+ Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS
Promote equitable benefit and resource-sharing mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create trust fund for women and climate change specific activities and initiatives. • Identify and share best practices of equitable benefit and resource sharing. • Increase investment in terms of budget, human resources and local resources for district level government officials, service providers and social mobilizers. • Lobby and advocate for increased equitable benefit sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust fund for women-specific activities and initiatives as part of the REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. • Gender-responsive incentive policies in place. • 30 per cent benefit from carbon trust fund supporting women development activities.
Ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated in forest sector with specific attention to REDD+ and the LAPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research, review, and assessment of gender, climate change, and forestry. • Institutionalize gender-sensitive benefit sharing mechanism in measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system. • Guarantee women’s participation in REDD+ ongoing and future demonstration pilot projects. • Organize “Training of Trainers” and create pool of resource persons. • Identify and replicate good practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District level knowledge and data management functional and linked with Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. • Gender and climate change knowledge management resource center within Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. • Functional gender-responsive climate change monitoring and evaluation mechanism within ministry, district development committee, and district forest office. • 50 per cent representation of women including Indigenous Peoples, <i>Dalit</i>, and youth in key positions of pilot project implementation structure at national and local level. • Representation of gender experts in the advisory group of the pilot projects.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepalese economy. The majority of the population—74 per cent, mostly small and marginal farmers—depends on agriculture for its subsistence (National Planning Commission, 2010). Due to this reliance on agriculture and traditional cultivation practices for their livelihoods, climate change puts Nepalese people at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition (Regmi & Adhikari, 2007). Economic status and social identity have a significant impact on who has access to and control of land, and land distribution remains highly unbalanced, with 7.5 per cent of farmers owning nearly a third of farmland (ADB, DFID, and World Bank, 2012). The challenges of agricultural productivity, soil degradation, fluctuating water and irrigation resources, uncertainty in monsoon rainfall, pressure on marginal lands, livestock epidemics, and soaring food prices are deepened by climate change (National Planning Commission, 2010).

Women play a central role in agriculture in Nepal, making up 65 per cent of the workforce in agriculture and related tasks (MAFC, 2007). However, the benefits of agricultural extension and training largely accrue to men. Extension agents are more likely to reach out to male farmers than women, and cultural norms prevent women farmers from seeking out male extension agents (UNFPA, 2007).

As of 2003, Nepalese women accounted for only 6 per cent of total landowners and held a combined share of only 4 per cent of arable land (CEDAW, 2003). Female-headed households average only 0.50 hectares of farmland, compared to the average 0.78 hectares for male-headed households (Wiley, et al., 2009). Women are restricted from making independent decisions about the use of their land, often requiring permission from a male relative before disposing of any immovable property.

Women in Nepal are legally able to access bank loans and other forms of financial credit, but in reality the rate of women securing institutional credit—1.7 per cent of women, as of 2004—remains marginal compared to men. A major stumbling block is that women and the rural poor often do not have property titles required for collateral and the granting of larger loans (OECD, 2012).

But as with forestry, there are important steps forward.

Through their participation in groups, cooperatives and income-generating initiatives, women farmers have increased skills, social status, and decision-making power (ADB, DFID, and World Bank, 2012). Women's participation in the government's agricultural training programmes increased from 20 per cent in the mid-1990s to 30-40 per cent of participants in 2007, partly due to efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to achieve gender balance and collect information on women farmers. Opportunities for women's employment, skill training, and access to credit are intended to come from rural infrastructure projects (UNFPA, 2007).

By amendment to the *Country Code*, unmarried daughters now have the right to ancestral property (other than land) irrespective of age, whereas previous conditions required that they be above the age of 35 (OECD, 2012). And the government's granting of a concession in registration fees when land is recorded in the name of a woman has increased the number of such transactions (ADB, DFID, and World Bank, 2012).



Nepal



Nepal



National strategy workshop in Nepal





Building on the experiences above, Nepal's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the agriculture sector.

Sample Actions From Nepal ccGAP in the Agriculture Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
Increase women's access to productive resources (land, seed, fertilizer, credit, and equipment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national campaign to incentivize and encourage the registration of land under both the names of husband and wife (joint land ownership). • Build community resilience on food security through the establishment of local climate-smart seed banks owned and managed by women. • Revise the existing strategies that enable the flow of credit from public/commercial banks and financial institutions to support and increase women's access to credit. • Institutionalize alternative provisions to accommodate women, women's groups, and cooperatives that are unable to provide the collateral needed for accessing agricultural credit. • Amend and monitor existing subsidy provisions by government on an ongoing basis to enable women to equitably benefit from them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in joint land registration across Nepal. • Number of women groups using and benefitting from seed banks. • Amount of credit extended to women farmers. • Rate of return on credit extended. • Number of new alternative collateral options made available to women, women's groups, and cooperatives by banks other than land/housing/salary. • Increase in food production based on access to productive resources.

A sample of actions in Nepal's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Nepal ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Water	Provision for water conservation tax to be channelled for protection of watershed area involving women's groups.
 Energy	Capacity building of women's groups to develop strategic actions to implement mitigation actions, such as use of energy efficient technologies.
 Health	Gender-responsive research to create a better understanding of the links between climate change and migration, particularly in relation to HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and psychosocial problems among migrants.
 Urbanization	Development of gender-smart programs that create "waste to wealth".

At present, the Government of Nepal is undertaking a regional and national consultation process to finalize the country's ccGAP.





Liberia

“Climate change is the most urgent and critical issue of our time. Ensuring equitable participation of women and men in developing solutions to this challenge is paramount to moving towards a sustainable future. Women’s participation at all levels is integral to achieving the goals of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, as women and children are the ones greatly affected by the impact of climate change. Development of a gender sensitive climate change strategy ... will lead to the women of Liberia taking ownership and deciding what they want as it relates to climate change.”

Julia Duncan Cassell, Minister of Gender and Development, Republic of Liberia




The Republic of Liberia, situated in the Upper Guinea Rainforest Region in West Africa, is characterized by a tropical climate of tremendous biodiversity and heavy rainfall. IUCN declared the region one of the world’s twenty-five “hotspots for biodiversity,” and Liberia’s annual rainfall of 170 inches makes it one of the rainiest countries in the world. While the climate in Liberia is not inherently hostile to the population’s subsistence farming, reliance on forest products, and fishing, the country is highly vulnerable to environmental instability due to extreme poverty. Following 14 years of civil war, during which government mismanagement destroyed much of the economy, Liberia is heavily reliant on foreign assistance for revenue. Still, faced with rebuilding state institutions, national infrastructure, service delivery, and economic growth, the country has made enormous strides since achieving peace in 2003. In October 2005, peaceful legislative and presidential elections lead to Africa’s first democratically elected female Head of State, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

In December 2011, the IUCN Global Gender Office received an official request from the Environmental Protection Agency of the government of Liberia to be engaged in the preparation of a national action plan on gender and climate change. The action plan falls within the broader framework of Liberia's NAPA, draft Initial National Communication, national gender policy, and national development agenda. Liberia's ccGAP is unique in its positioning as part of the deliverables promised in the first 90 days of the second term of the current President. The development of the ccGAP in Liberia prompted the country's Environmental Protection Agency to request IUCN's support in integrating gender in the Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC. The plan also reflects a ground-breaking collaboration between the Ministry of Gender and Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. At the time of writing, Liberia's ccGAP is in draft form and currently under consultation for finalization; thus, the information contained here is limited to the results of the national workshop.

In Liberia, the ccGAP included the priority areas of agriculture, coasts, forestry and REDD, health, water and sanitation, and energy.

Overview of Liberia ccGAP

Overall Objective: To ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into Liberia's climate change policies, programs, and interventions so that both men and women have equal opportunities to implement and benefit from mitigation and adaptation initiatives in combating climate change and positively impact on the outcome of "Liberia Rising 2030."

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen agricultural policies so that they become gender sensitive. • Promote women's rights and access to land (in statutory and customary laws). • Increase knowledge and awareness of women farmers on climate change. • Increase women farmers' access to improved varieties of farming seeds, tools, and other resources. • Increase the knowledge and skill of women farmers in pest control. • Improve agriculture related infrastructure to adapt to the effects of climate change. • Improve and increase the availability of technology to women farmers to respond to climate change and its effects. • Promote linkages between women farmers and existing markets, and improve their access to credit facilities.
 Coasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement gender-sensitive policies for aquaculture and integrated coastal management. • Conduct gender-sensitive vulnerability studies on coasts to be used in planning and made available in public domain. • Put in place a robust gender-balanced monitoring system in coastal zones. • Implement coastal forest regeneration program in the hands of women.
 Forestry and REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the linkages between gender and climate change are mainstreamed in the national forestry sector policy and regulations. • Increase the number of trained women in the forestry sector. • Increase women's participation in decision and policy making as it relates to climate change. • Identify and utilize entry points for gender mainstreaming in the national REDD strategy and its implementation. • Improve women's involvement in agro-forestry and conservation in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas for both adaptation and mitigation.






Liberia



National strategy workshop in Liberia



Women's workshop in Liberia

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream gender and climate change into health policy. • Build capacity of men and women health workers to respond to climate change related diseases in order to enhance intervention. • Promote gender-sensitive health care delivery services that relate to climate change. • Incorporate gender and climate change criteria in the Health Database Management System proposed by the Initial National Communication. • Carry out awareness campaign with community members, religious, and traditional leaders on gender and climate change. • Promote the use of voluntary testing for malaria and HIV/AIDS among women. • Build the capacity of women in prevention, simple diagnosis, and treatment of endemic diseases related to climate change. • Include issues of climate change and health from a gender perspective in the curricula of medical schools and universities.
 Water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that climate change and gender are mainstreamed in the WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) policy, plans, and strategies. • Increase the capacity of women as plumbers, water supply technicians, and water quality control experts to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change. • Increase access to safe drinking water for women and men both in rural and urban communities. • Establish gender-based programs for improved conservation and management of lakes and river basins. • Enhance women's role in community waste management initiatives.
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a gender-sensitive climate change database in the energy sector. • Ensure that gender and climate change linkages are integrated in the national energy plan, policies, and adaptation strategies. • Create awareness about the relationship between climate change, energy, and gender. • Promote technical and scientific capacity of women in the use and maintenance of renewable energy and energy efficient appliances.

Drawing on Liberia's priority sectors, the following section focuses on coastal erosion and health to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change.

Coastal erosion

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf observed that coastal erosion potentially affects the livelihoods of half the country's population. Rising sea levels in the low-lying cities of Monrovia and Buchanan and unregulated sand mining of coastal areas compounding the effects of climate change threaten the security of coastal populations and the country itself. It has been estimated that 230,000 people are at risk and 2,150 km² will be lost by a one meter sea level rise, including land and infrastructure and much of Monrovia, valued at US\$250,000,000.

Houses on the shores of the country are collapsing at the edge of the sea due to coastal erosion from climate-related sea level rise and other factors. A large proportion of these people live on low-lying land, often in unplanned and illegal settlements. In Buchanan, for example, about 250 people lost their homes in recent years, with the last several years seeing a loss of a full 10 meters from the area's coastal beaches. In other populated coastal areas, the Liberian Environment Agency measured between three and five meters of land being lost annually, with 50 meters of shore having disappeared since 2005 from one town alone. Some families, unable to afford new dwellings, are still living in the portion of their home that has not been taken over by the rising tides. Exacerbating this situation, the coastal population is poor, and access to health and education is limited. A large proportion of the coastal community lives in temporary and/or poorly constructed housing with little protection from sea or storm surges (UNDP, 2010).

Unregulated sand mining and unsustainable harvesting of mangroves, which act as natural barriers from storm surges, further accelerate beach erosion. Sand is being mined throughout Liberian coastal cities largely for the purpose of supplying construction sites—a profitable business (EPA, 2007). In addition to erosion, sand mining along beaches and streams can lead to inland salt-water intrusion, threaten infrastructure, and prevent the growth of any tourism development in the future (Daily Observer, 2012). The disturbance to coastal areas caused by sand mining also threatens marine species and fisheries, leading to loss of livelihoods for coastal communities (The Informer, 2012).

Women in Liberia play an important role in artisanal fisheries and dominate fish marketing, and their livelihoods will be impacted by these climate-induced impacts on the coasts. Artisan fishing involves small-scale fishing practices using traditional techniques. Over 33,000 people are involved in producing and processing fish in this artisanal manner—around 60 per cent are Liberians, and of those 60 per cent are women (World Bank, 2010). Despite their domination in this field, women lack access to credit, extension services, technology, and training opportunities, and thus face existing discrimination that exacerbates the impacts of climate change (Williams, n.d.).

To counteract the negative impacts of climate-related coastal erosion, the Liberian government has announced a short-term plan to protect infrastructure, but it lacks the financial resources for major projects. The government faces challenges in responding to climate change in coastal areas from the national level, particularly with the limited information and forecasting available in the country on sea levels and coastal erosion. The capacity of coastal counties to plan and respond to climate change also needs to be strengthened. Coastal protection methods such as groynes (a wall or jetty built out from a seashore), gabion baskets (containers filled with rocks, concrete, or sand and soil), and mangrove conservation could be very effective in preventing further erosion, and the local women and men living on the coast could be trained in these techniques.

Building on the experiences above, Liberia's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the coastal sector, a sample of which is outlined on the following page.

Sample Actions From Liberia ccGAP in the Coastal Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
<p>To put in place a robust gender-balanced monitoring system in coastal zones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with stakeholders in the selection of gender-balanced coastal monitors (women whistleblowers). • Development Terms of Reference to guide women's participation in coastal zone monitoring. The system will rely on the use of mobile phones for women. • Establish alliance with mobile companies to support/patronize this program. • Train and empower women coastal monitors. • Monitor coastal zones and assess measures put in place for women's participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women trained in coastal monitoring. • Number of incidences reported by women monitors. • Disaggregated information on anthropogenic activities and impacts in coastal zones available.



Health

The health and social welfare of Liberia's population is critically important to achieving its national vision, "Vision 2030"; of becoming a middle-income country (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2007). During the consultation process for developing the ccGAP, women representatives of the Ministry of Gender and Development from all of Liberia's fifteen counties, as well as the gender focal points in various ministries, identified the differentiated impact of climate change on women and men. Their perceptions, outlined below, indicate that health issues are a top priority for women.

Differentiated Impacts of Climate Change on Women and Men in Liberia

WOMEN	MEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased deaths rate caused by malaria • Increased stress due to overload of work • Increased malnutrition and anaemia • Miscarriage due to diseases or carrying water and firewood • Increased maternal mortality • Increase in social vulnerability • Increase in maternal and neonatal mortality • Reduced life span • Emotional trauma • Traditional practices will be affected in the <i>Sande</i> society (a traditional group) • Hunger • Destruction of homes • Long distance treks to fetch water • Poor livelihood • Unemployment • Increase domestic violence • Increase in early marriage • Reduction in independence • Reduced resilience to shock (illness) • Reduced income • Food insecurity • Migration • Increased exposure to health hazards • Increased domestic burden • Vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse • Financial constraints • Unsafe drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of family • Responsibility to find shelter • Increased stress • Vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections • Migration from rural to urban communities • Exhibition of aggression on the family • Reduction of life span of men • Destruction of homes • Low capacity to sustain family • Affect the Poro society (a traditional group) • Decrease in economic status • Homelessness • Unemployment • Low self-esteem • Frustration and emasculation • Insecurity • Reduction of resilience to shock (illness) • Food insecurity • Increased labour • Difficulties in farming • Separation from the family • Relocation of belongings • Poor health conditions • Unsafe drinking water • Single parenthood



Women's capacity building workshop in Liberia



National strategy workshop in Liberia

The World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that climate change is already affecting human health. This happens directly, through death and injury in floods, storms, and high temperatures, and indirectly, through changes in how diseases spread and the quality and availability of water, air, and food. Gender, along with age, socioeconomic class, and occupation, is one of the determining factors of the specific health impacts of climate change. The indirect health impacts of climate change in Liberia, as in other countries, are difficult to estimate; however, there are differences worldwide in how climate change hazards affect women's and men's health. Changes in rainfall can reduce the availability of water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation, which can increase the food insecurity and work burden of more vulnerable groups such as women and girls. On the other hand, emotional stress caused by sudden changes in water availability has contributed to a higher suicide rate among male farmers (WHO, 2011).

The existing women's health crisis in Liberia will be exacerbated by climate change. At the heart of this crisis is women's reproductive health. Liberia's maternal mortality rate is already one of the highest in the world—as of 2007 there were 994 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births—and has increased since the end of the conflict. Over 60 per cent of women in Liberia do not have access to family planning, resulting in the fact that about 48 per cent of Liberian women by the age of 18 have become pregnant. Thus, it is projected that Liberia's population will continue to grow for many years to come, implying a high child dependency ratio that will place a heavy burden on their caretakers, particularly women, and constrain the provision of basic social services (MOPEA and GC, 2011). Women in Liberia, and especially young girls, face high rates of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and HIV/AIDS (Government of Liberia and UNMIL, 2011). And in addition to living in a country with limited health care, women have limited means of employment, sustainable livelihoods, and high rates of malnutrition.

Climate change will particularly exacerbate Liberian women's and children's contraction of certain diseases. Climate change is expected to impact the prevalence and spread of water-borne pathogens, such as cholera, as well as vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, which are particularly tied to changes in rainfall. Other climate-sensitive diseases include respiratory diseases, such as tuberculosis, and diseases exacerbated by malnutrition, including HIV/AIDS (EPA, 2012). In Liberia, rainfall and temperature increases, combined with flooding due to sea-level rise, will result in the country's heightened vulnerability to epidemics of malaria, cholera, diarrheal disease, increased incidences of yellow fever and other diseases, and the potential for dengue fever to spread to Liberia. Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia, with 42 per cent of inpatient deaths attributable to malaria and taking its greatest toll on young children and pregnant women. According to the World Health Organization and the Liberian Ministry of Health, the entire country's population of over 3,950,000 people is at risk of malaria (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2009a).

Malnutrition, caused by inadequate dietary intake and disease and exacerbated by poverty and poor access to health care, is another major public health problem in Liberia (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2011). Climate change is having a detrimental effect on the agricultural sector in Liberia, affecting the production of the country's main staple crops, which is particularly disadvantageous for women. Women are more prone to nutritional deficiencies because of their unique nutritional needs, especially when they are pregnant or breastfeeding or when their household follows a food hierarchy that prioritizes some household members over others.

The civil crisis had a significant impact on food security and nutrition that is still being felt today. The *2010 Comprehensive Food Security and National Survey* identified that 42 per cent of children under five years of age were chronically malnourished. In fact, 41 per cent of Liberians are insufficiently fed (Ministry of Agriculture and WFP, 2010). While this is an improvement from the levels of acute malnutrition in 2006, when 27 per cent of children were underweight, the levels of chronic malnutrition remain amongst the highest in the world (UNICEF, 2012). According to the 2011 national *Liberia Micro-Nutrient Survey*, 44 per cent of the deaths of young children are associated directly or indirectly with malnutrition, and about 60 per cent of children and almost 40 per cent of pregnant women are suffering from anaemia (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2009b; Klemm, R., et al., 2011).





Building on these experiences, Liberia's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the health sector, a sample of which is outlined below:

Sample Actions From Liberia ccGAP in the Health Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
To incorporate gender and climate change criteria in the health database management system proposed by the Initial National Communication to UNFCCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archiving of data on health should be integrated with meteorological data to seek trends and initiate the beginnings of monitoring and forecasting systems. Data collected should be gender-disaggregated in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the differentiated impacts on women and men and enhance the usefulness for further projects. 	Database management system disaggregated by sex.
To build the capacity of women in prevention, simple diagnosis, and treatment of endemic diseases related to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct mapping to identify women groups in communities. Conduct focus group discussions. Conduct training. Conduct monitoring and evaluation. 	Climate change related disease outbreaks reduced.

A sample of actions in Liberia's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Liberia ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Agriculture	Update legislation, at constituency level, on women's rights issues with regards to land tenure and ownership.
 Forestry and REDD+	Mainstream gender considerations into the current Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) and its implementation.
 Water and sanitation	Train women in plumbing, water plant treatment, community-based quality monitoring systems and service provision at county level.
 Energy	Develop initiatives to encourage women and men to use renewable green energy.


Following the finalization of the Liberia ccGAP, the Ministry of Gender and Development, Environmental Protection Agency, and Forest Development Agency, with technical and scientific support provided by IUCN, will engage stakeholders at the national and county levels in a consultation and validation process. A validation workshop was held in August 2012. Upon completing the validation process, the ccGAP will be presented to the cabinet for its endorsement.

Liberia is vulnerable to climate change due to our high rate of poverty, poor infrastructure, and inadequate human resources. This is a serious and on-going threat to our Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is also a threat to national sustainable development, peace, security and stability.





Tanzania



“The document that will come out of this workshop is of utmost importance to our nation. It lays the foundation for agreeing on key actions and strategies to address climate change in the country and mainstream gender consideration to guarantee that women and men can participate in and benefit equally from climate change initiatives.”

Sazi B. Salula, Permanent Secretary, Vice President’s Office

Tanzania is host to the epic migration of the wildebeest from the Serengeti National Park to the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya—an annual phenomenon that is being affected by changing weather patterns and creating more dangers for the movement of animals. Within Eastern and Southern Africa, Tanzania has the greatest spread of forests, on which local communities depend for timber, non-timber forest products, as well as cash crops and employment (FAO, 2010).

Gender equality took a step forward with the forward-looking Tanzanian Constitution and Bill of Rights, the *Tanzania Vision 2025* that aims to do away with gender and race imbalances, and the *National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty-MKUKUTA* that points to gender bias in land ownership. But in practice, these goals have fallen short (Mascarenhas, 2007; United Republic of Tanzania, 1999; United Republic of Tanzania, 2005). In the area of land tenure, one of the major challenges is the disconnect between constitutional and customary laws—even when there is a legal basis for gender equality in ownership of and access to land, customary and traditional laws at the local level have been found to perpetuate gender inequalities in practice. Certain sectors in Tanzania under the climate change umbrella, including fisheries and land as outlined below, are particularly gender blind. (van Ingen, et al., 2002). And despite its foresight in recognizing the gender aspects of development policy, the country’s Initial National Communication and NAPA submitted to the UNFCCC did not incorporate gender considerations.




Tanzania’s *National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change* is the result of collaboration between the IUCN Global Gender Office, the IUCN Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) and its national country office in Tanzania, the Vice President’s Office in Tanzania, and other key national institutions in Tanzania. It was produced under the umbrella of the country’s




National Climate Strategy and Action Plan and linked to the development of the second National Communication to the UNFCCC. At the time of writing, Tanzania's ccGAP is in draft form and currently under consultation for finalization; thus, the information contained here is limited to the results of the national workshop.

In Tanzania, the ccGAP included the priority areas of agriculture, water, health, energy, forests/REDD+, and integrated coastal management.

Overview of Tanzania ccGAP

Overall Objective: To ensure that Tanzania mainstreams gender considerations into policies, programs, and strategies related to climate change so that both women and men can have access to, participate in, contribute to, and hence benefit from climate change initiatives and efforts, taking into account the diverse needs, roles, and contributions of both men and women in sustainable development endeavours.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and strengthen institutional understanding on gender, climate change, and agriculture. • Improve agriculture-related infrastructures to adapt to the effects of climate change. • Enhance local community participation of women and men in components of agricultural sector activities. • Incorporate women's access and title to land in the Land Tenure and Customary Law. • Strengthen early warning system in agriculture to facilitate weather forecasting. • Ensure gender-responsive budgeting. • Enhance participation of women and girls through formal and informal education in the agricultural sector.
 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a data bank on vulnerability for drought-prone areas. • Build capacity of men and women in local communities on water management related to climate change. • Enhance gender-responsive budgeting in water resource management. • Ensure that national indicators for integrated water resource management are gender responsive. • Assess water source catchment areas and improve water flow. • Promote best practices for the efficient use of water and management of water-producing ecosystems. • Establishment of gender-based programs for improved conservation and management of lakes and river basins. • Invest in ground water extraction and rain harvesting to supplement household and agricultural water needs. • Train more women experts in the water sector. • Invest in private sector and NGO expertise to develop tailor-made and innovative solutions to improve women's access to water.
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity on technical and scientific links of climate change, health, and gender. • Enhance the capacity of women in the community to prepare and cope with disasters. • Improve disease surveillance and control program.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of women experts on gender-sensitive energy technologies. • Increase budget allocation on gender-sensitive energy technologies. • Promote investment in gender-sensitive energy solutions. • Increase access and affordability of alternatives sources of energy to both men and women. • Reduce overdependence on biomass energy sources. • Promote the use of waste-based energy sources (e.g. crop residuals, wood ash).
 Forests/REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and strengthen institutional understanding on gender, climate change, and forestry. • Design and implement gender-based economic incentive policies to reduce the vulnerability of forests and biodiversity to climate change. • Enhance participation through formal and informal education for women and girls in forestry sector. • Develop a national road map for guiding REDD+ pilot projects and other stakeholders involved in REDD+ programs to mainstream gender fully and effectively. • Build and strengthen the capacity and participation of women and women's organisations on REDD+. • Develop gender-sensitive benefit-sharing schemes. • Support the mainstreaming of gender considerations in information, communication, and outreach programs. • Ensure opportunities for women and guarantee that they benefit from activities proposed by REDD+ efforts, paying special attention to agro-forestry systems (benefits include both direct benefits, e.g. gender equality in the use/ management/access to cash payments for carbon credits, and so-called co-benefits, e.g. improved ecosystem services). • Enhance capacity of women to engage in REDD+ MRV initiatives through appropriate methods.
 Integrated coastal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop gender-responsive programs/projects addressing climate change adaptation in coasts. • Encourage women to set up innovative enterprises or expand existing ones. • Improve women's capacity for addressing the climate change challenges in coastal areas.

Drawing on Tanzania's priority sectors, the following section focuses on fisherwomen and agriculture to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change. In Tanzania, the ccGAP could help women fishers and farmers secure protections by encouraging the implementation of policies that are not currently enforced.

Fisherwomen

The coastal areas of Tanzania provide one window into the disconnect between gender policy and practice.

Worldwide, over 500 million people depend on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods (World Bank, et al., 2009). Tanzania's sprawling coastline is a major contributor to the national economy, industry, and urban centres, and economic opportunity is closely entangled with the biodiversity of the coastal ecosystem (USAID, 2010a). Coral bleaching linked to the changing climate pattern of El Niño caused a 30 per cent loss of corals and financial losses of US\$ 12-18 million in Mombasa, Kenya and Zanzibar, Tanzania. Mangroves and coral reefs, which are the primary coastal ecosystems in Africa, are also impacted by changing weather patterns, with endangered species such as manatees, marine turtles, and migratory birds at risk. Sea level rise of 0.5 meters along Tanzania's coastline would inundate 247 square kilometres of the country (IPCC, 2007). Climate change impacts are expected to intensify and affect Tanzanian fishers, coastal residents, resource users, recreation, infrastructure, and tourism development (USAID, 2010a).

The impact of climate change on artisanal fishing communities is clearly divided along gender lines. While men in Tanzania catch fish offshore, women are predominantly involved in on-shore activities such as processing and marketing fish, making and mending nets, building boats, fishing with small implements, and gleaning the shores for shellfish. On the islands of Jibondo and Juani, 90 per cent of octopus fishing is in the hands of women. Many of the roles played by women are time consuming and labor intensive. For example, women in coastal villages dominate in seaweed farming, which involves multiple steps including production, weeding, harvesting, drying, and marketing seaweed products (Chando, 2002). Nevertheless, income from these activities has meant improved livelihoods for women and their families.

Despite women's central role in mariculture in Tanzania, inequalities persist that will have an impact on the industry's and ecosystem's resilience to climate change. Women's participation is limited in fishermen's organizations, and projects often value the production of large quantities of fish over the time-consuming task of collecting shellfish. Women's traditional role in collecting octopuses or lobsters has been intruded upon by men employing more efficient but destructive techniques (Bryceson, et al. (2007). And women in fish processing companies along Tanzania's coast, who sometimes make up the majority of the factory workforce, are less likely to share in the same permanent employment, leadership positions, or wage levels as men (Chando, 2002).

Through the ccGAP, Tanzania's leadership in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) could be expanded to incorporate a gender perspective. The Arusha Process established a regional strategy for coastal management, and the country's national communications to the UNFCCC include ICZM approaches (Michel & Pandaya, 2010; USAID, 2010a). Tanzania's national integrated coastal management strategy signals the need to provide meaningful opportunities for stakeholder involvement, and conserve critical areas of high biodiversity while ensuring that coastal people continue to benefit from the sustainable use of resources (Coastal Resources Center). But these principles, which were first enshrined in 1992 as part of Agenda 21, have not considered women's and men's different roles in practice. Coastal managers often do not understand the relationship between gender and coastal issues or how to design coastal programs accordingly (Diamond, 2001).

Building on the experiences above, Tanzania's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the coastal sector, a sample of which is outlined on the following page.



Sample Actions From Tanzania ccGAP in the Coastal Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
<p>Develop gender-responsive programs/projects addressing climate change adaptation in coasts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote preparation and implementation of gender-responsive action plans related to climate change in all districts along the coast. Implement projects/programs that address climate change adaptation in coastal zones (restoration of coastal forests and coral reefs, sand dune restoration, sea walls, revetments, headlands, and beach nourishment). Enhance and encourage women's participation in ICZM projects. Train and involve women so that they can participate in research studies (i.e. monitoring and data gathering methods; gathering of flora and fauna species; physical-chemical analysis; studies about the populations of birds, fish, sea grasses, mammals; and studies about the medicinal properties of coral). Establish a network of women's organizations engaged in protection, management, and development of coastal and marine areas. Support and develop women's organizations' capacity so that they can be in charge of monitoring coastal and coral erosion, sea level and tide, light detection, and ranging, amongst others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of action plans that are gender-responsive. Number of gender-related projects implemented. Number of women participating in climate change adaptation projects. Women and men trained on the sustainable use of coastal resources. Women and men who receive benefits from the project (productive benefits, training, or credit). Women and men participate actively in the conservation of marine-coastal resources.

Women farmers

Equal access to land is another area of policy-practice disconnect. About 80 per cent of the country's population depends on access to land for their livelihoods. Women are the majority of those that work the land, but only 13.2 per cent of female-headed households, versus 86.7 per cent of male-headed households, receive credit to buy land (TGNP, 2010). This lack of secure land tenure means that women do not always have access to important resources.

Women find themselves with one foot in a reformed Tanzania and another rooted in traditional law at the village level. Under traditional law, women could only use clan land, but not own it, in order to prevent land being lost to a woman's marriage outside the clan. The Tanzanian government partnered with NGOs to end these practices through new legislation.

The Village Land Act, which came into force in 2001, enshrines the equal rights of women and men in acquiring and using land and calls for women to participate in decision making about land through equitable representation in the village land council. The Land Act of 2002 further established land tribunals with at least 43 per cent representation by women and also stipulated that customs and practices that contradict gender equality are null and void.

However, these laws are not enforced, the view that women cannot inherit clan land persists, and women continue to come up against obstacles in accessing and owning land, particularly when inheriting from husbands (Mascarenhas, 2007). The Tanzanian government and its partners have worked to increase awareness, and local organizations have been providing legal services on land rights, but further efforts are needed to communicate broadly how women and communities at large will benefit from such reforms (Mascarenhas, 2007; Campese, 2011).





Building on the experiences above, Tanzania's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the agriculture sector, a sample of which is outlined on the following page.

Sample Actions From Tanzania ccGAP in Agriculture Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
Land tenure and customary law to incorporate women's access and title to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitize local community to be aware of land issue through traditional leaders that will support knowledge and implementation/enforcement of the statutory law. Promote women's awareness and exercising of their rights, allowing them to access and control land to which they are entitled. Mobilize local community to develop and incorporate gender in their traditional/customary guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of community sensitized. Development and implementation of local community guidelines. Number of men who are conscious of women's rights. Number of women who are conscious of their rights.

A sample of actions in Tanzania's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Tanzania ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Water	Empower women in urban and rural areas to harvest rainwater for domestic use where wells are contaminated, expensive, or inaccessible.
 Health	Establish and strengthen the link between women's groups and local authority health officers to share information on development of diseases and curative measures.
 Energy	Invest in research for new gender-sensitive energy technologies.
 Forests/REDD+	Identify existing benefit-sharing schemes in and outside Tanzania to establish best practice for women.

One of the key elements of the ccGAP in all countries is its positioning as an integral component of the broader framework of national climate change policies and plans, rather than as a stand-alone document that is delinked from existing efforts. The development of the ccGAP in Tanzania was a timely and complementary exercise for this reason. Tanzania's draft ccGAP provides a national policy framework on gender and climate change that is intended to inform the *National Climate Strategy and Action Plan*, and the second National Communication to the UNFCCC. The ccGAP has become part of Tanzania's comprehensive law reform program that requires sectors to review and integrate climate perspectives that have not yet been addressed.

Currently, Tanzania is taking the following next steps to implement the ccGAP:

- Governmental endorsement of the strategy is in the final stages.
- Elements included in the strategy are being mainstreamed in the second National Communication report.
- The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children has created a policy document that will serve as a guideline for mainstreaming gender in climate change initiatives based on the ccGAP.
- IUCN is working with the Vice President's office to disseminate the strategy.
- Training will be conducted for gender focal points of all ministries on gender and climate change.

The ccGAP has become part of Tanzania's comprehensive law reform program that requires sectors to review and integrate climate perspectives that have not yet been addressed.





Mozambique

“Most environmental phenomena—including climate change—happen in the physical realm, but are actually rooted in social issues. And once you start talking about social arrangements, there is always a gendered dimension. Mozambique is quite progressive in its thinking on this issue. Very few governments have developed policy vehicles on gender and environment, although more are likely to do so in the next few years.”

Joni Seager, Mozambique national strategy team, and Professor in the Global Studies Department, Bentley University

Mozambique is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, due to the overlapping forces of extreme poverty and climatic changes such as exposure to increased rainfall, shifting rain patterns, and escalation of flooding, cyclones, and droughts. Subsequently, women face particular hardships due to taking on more duties following male migration, reduced crop production, and the growing prevalence of epidemic diseases. The gender-specific nature of climate change impacts in Mozambique, combined with the leadership of the government, facilitated a space for exploring gender mainstreaming within national climate change planning.

In early 2010, the IUCN Global Gender Office was invited by UNIFEM to engage with Mozambique's Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs to pilot a methodology for developing national strategies on gender and climate change. IUCN had already spearheaded training methodologies worldwide and had developed gender mainstreaming methodologies with the environmental ministries of governments in Central America and Mexico. At a multi-stakeholder workshop in Maputo, IUCN partnered with a consultant to adapt its existing training and strategy development methodology to Mozambique's context and piloted a country assessment process that would be refined and applied to all of the countries that followed.

The action steps that emerged from the process have already put Mozambique on the map as the pilot country in envisioning the ways in which gender mainstreaming can be applied to national climate change planning. Some examples of Mozambique's proposed action steps are:

- Develop and disseminate low-cost technologies among women and communities on managing water resources and guaranteeing access to potable water;
- Promote actions for the treatment and destruction of habitats of disease vectors, such as stagnant waters;
- Promote the implementation of an early warning and weather information system;
- Create conditions for the participation of women in community consultations, risk management committees, natural resource management committees, natural disaster management committees, and interest groups;
- Provide training on gender and climate change issues for people in leadership positions;
- Disaggregate the data by gender in all planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes to facilitate gender-responsive climate change interventions; and
- Designate women to fill leadership positions.

The process of developing the strategy in Mozambique raised women's voices and concerns into an arena of high national priority and established the unprecedented expectation that all climate change related projects and activities conducted in the country by donors, NGOs, and external partners will incorporate gender considerations. Alongside this positive outcome, the Mozambique strategy process was convened separately from the country's national climate change planning and official communications to the UNFCCC. The result was a stand-alone document that now needs to be integrated into the country's climate change processes. This experience led IUCN to ensure that future national strategies in other countries would be as integrated with the government's other priorities.

The Mozambique strategy has undergone a national legalization process; it was submitted for comment at provincial level, followed by its presentation to the National Council for Sustainable Development, where it was assessed positively. It was later adopted and endorsed by the Council of Ministers, and was recognized as a catalyst for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the development of the country's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SCPR) under the Climate Investment Funds. The strategy, with its plan of action, sets out priorities that are in harmony with other major national environmental actions. In the rollout plan for implementing the strategy, the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs has the objective of reaching around 1.5 million communities in a five-year period (2010-2014) and covering the entire country by 2025.




National strategy workshop in Mozambique

The process of developing the strategy in Mozambique raised women's voices and concerns into an arena of high national priority and established the unprecedented expectation that all climate change related activities conducted in the county by donors, NGOs, and external partners will incorporate gender considerations.





Jordan



“The Jordanian Government has analysed the impact of climatic changes on women and men, and found that women play an active role based on their indigenous knowledge of adaptation and mitigation. We have worked to include gender mainstreaming as one of the adaptation priorities in the third National Communication on climate change, which will be submitted to the UNFCCC. This makes Jordan the first Arabic country to realize the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation activities—acknowledging women’s effective role and allowing women’s empowerment to provide a vital springboard for addressing climate resilience.”

His Excellency Ahmad Qatarneh, Secretary General,
Ministry of Environment, Jordan

The Kingdom of Jordan is an upper middle-income and developing country. Highly urbanized, over 70 per cent of Jordan’s population lives in towns and cities, making the local population highly dependent on energy. Jordan also ranks as the fourth most water-poor country in the world, with dire consequences to agriculture, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. Being both highly urbanized and extremely water scarce, the Kingdom also faces an additional challenge: waste management.

In June 2010, the Ministry of Environment requested IUCN's assistance in developing a program for mainstreaming gender in climate change efforts in Jordan. Following IUCN's piloting of ccGAP methodology in Mozambique, Jordan was the first country globally to develop a gender and climate change strategy.

The efforts in Jordan revealed the value of building the capacity of women on gender and climate change in advance of the development of the ccGAP. Women engaged more confidently, were able to offer their experience on an equal footing, and were prepared with concrete actions they could implement themselves. Due to this success, a training session for women and women's organizations and networks was integrated into the methodology for all the subsequent countries involved in the development of ccGAPs.

Leila Nafa'a Hamarneh, Projects Director, Arab Women Organization, Jordan

I have been involved in implementing programmes and projects related to women's issues and women's rights at the Arab Women Organization, a leading civil society organization in Jordan. A GGCA training workshop addressing gender and climate change held by IUCN in Amman in 2009, and the GGCA *Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change*, awoke me to the importance of linking gender and climate change. The workshop made me realize that women should address broad issues pertaining to development, sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication in addition to calling for anti-discrimination reforms and combating violence against women. The *Training Manual* wove the two topics into an elegant fabric and illustrated how international standards can serve to maintain gender equality and sustainable livelihoods.

Prior to the Copenhagen Conference, the GGCA, IUCN, the Arab Women Organization and civil society led an advocacy campaign to introduce gender into Jordan's third National Communication to the UNFCCC. The campaign's impact was so effective that Jordan was among the few to consider gender within its work plans. After the Copenhagen Conference, the Arab Women Organization was invited to get involved in the preparation of an *Action Plan for Gender and Climate Change*.

The training on gender and climate change and the experiences I gained while being involved in preparing a gender and climate change strategy have given civil society and the women's movement a rare opportunity to learn and leave footprints in Jordanian policies and strategies. The Arab Women Organization received reports from two women activists who were trained with the GGCA *Training Manual*, who insisted on introducing the gender and climate change perspective while discussing risk management at a Jordanian Red Crescent Conference and while discussing sustainable agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The multi-stakeholder workshop in Jordan is one of the best examples of how the theme of gender can bring together various government and non-government stakeholders on climate change around the same table for the first time. In its capacity as representative of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, Jordan was also one of the first countries to participate regularly in orientation sessions on gender and climate change for UNFCCC delegates organized by IUCN and GGCA.





In Jordan, the ccGAP included the priority areas of water, energy, agriculture and food security, and waste reduction and management, as outlined on the following page.



National workshop in Jordan

Overview of Jordan ccGAP

Overall Objective: To ensure that national climate change efforts in Jordan mainstream gender considerations so that women and men can have access to, participate in, contribute to, and hence optimally benefit from climate change initiatives, programs, policies, and funds.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the capacity of women and men from local communities to save water. • Build the capacity of local communities on water management. • Ensure gender-sensitive budgeting. • Ensure that climate change and gender are integrated in water policies and strategies & adaptation measures proposed.
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the participation of women and men in renewal energy efforts at the household level. • Involve women and men in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at household level. • Ensure women's and men's involvement in decision-making processes related to climate change at local government level. • Make available gender-disaggregated data on energy supply, consumption, and demand.
 Agriculture and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase women's participation in adaptation projects/programs related to agriculture. • Increase women's participation in decision making and implementation related to food security and agricultural programs or projects. • Increase participation of local communities in adaptation projects/programs related to agriculture. • Increase participation of local communities and women in mitigation projects/programs related to agriculture. • Enhance the capacity of local communities and women to contribute to natural resources conservation. • Contribute to education, training, and capacity building of local communities with special attention to women. • Improve the capacity of officials and technicians in the agricultural sector on gender.
 Waste reduction and management	<p>Rural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and build capacity in schools, community centres, and places of worship such as mosques and churches. • Enhance involvement and participation of women in raising awareness and capacity building. • Introduce suitable technologies for composting. • Provide small grants to women for small-scale reuse and recycling projects and enterprises (clothes, furniture, plastics, paper). • Introduce suitable technologies for wastewater treatment. <p>Big cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of women, men, and children on changing consumption behaviour and choosing environmentally friendly products. • Develop proper policies, frameworks, and technology systems for waste management.

Drawing on Jordan's priority sectors, the following section focuses on water to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change.

Water

The Arab States region is considered among the world's driest areas, a characteristic that makes Jordan highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The per capita share of 150 cubic meters of water resources per year is far below the internationally identified water poverty line of 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year (Government of Jordan, 2010a).

Jordan's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC indicates that over the next three decades, Jordan will witness a rise in temperature, drop in rainfall, a reduction in ground cover and water availability, an increase in the frequency of heat waves, and more frequent dust storms. The second National Communication to the UNFCCC therefore also identifies water as a key priority area. An increase in water scarcity leads to insufficient domestic water supplies, having serious implications for equity of access and the quality of potable water. Changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change have pushed usually rain-fed areas toward irrigated agriculture, mounting the demands for water. Limited water for agricultural activities has led to an increased usage of treated wastewater for food production, which puts consumers at risk for water-borne diseases. Rangeland and livestock are also vulnerable to water scarcity.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2008-2012 identified four key challenges related to water resources that could constrain progress toward the Millennium Development Goals within Jordan:

1. Water scarcity;
2. The supply, security and quality of drinking water;
3. Health, agriculture and food production vulnerability to climate change; and
4. Vulnerability of local biodiversity to climate change.

And in the shadow of water scarcity in the region, political instability persistently looms. The Jordan River supplies the country with 75 per cent of its water supply. The river is also a primary water source for Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestinians. Climate change and overuse is shrinking the river as well as the Dead Sea, and increasing the potential of conflicts in an already politically volatile region.

The gender implications of water scarcity in Jordan are acutely evident. Women are the primary custodians of water in households, whether in urban or rural areas. They perform a variety of key roles—for example, managing and rationing household water use, adapting to new water-saving techniques, and promoting sanitation. But women are often excluded from decision making and critical information that would empower their families and communities. During field visits ahead of the development of the ccGAP, women farmers who were experiencing hardship from drought indicated that they thought it would be temporary. If they had information about the impacts of climate change, women who are already playing a variety of roles from the household to farmers could take preventative action that would protect their own resources and also allay the country's water scarcity.




Building on the experiences above, Jordan's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the water sector, a sample of which is outlined below:

Sample Actions From Jordan ccGAP in the Water Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
Ensure that climate change and gender are integrated in water policies and strategies and that adaptation measures are proposed	Revision of national legislation related to water to ensure that gender and climate change considerations are fully integrated.	National policies include climate change and gender considerations.

A sample of actions in Jordan's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Jordan ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Energy	Encourage families to increase energy efficiency through enforcement of construction codes.
 Agriculture and food security	Promote women's participation in small-scale enterprises and food processing transformation industries.
 Waste reduction and management	Conduct "train the trainers" sessions for community centre representatives, teachers at schools, and imams and priests at mosques and churches.

Jordan's ccGAP is already making headway, and it is one of the most progressed ccGAPs to date. The Royal Household endorsed the ccGAP in 2011, giving it the appropriate weight in a country where the monarchy yields tremendous influence with the government and the Jordanian people. The Global Environment Facility has shown strong interest in the implementation of the ccGAP.

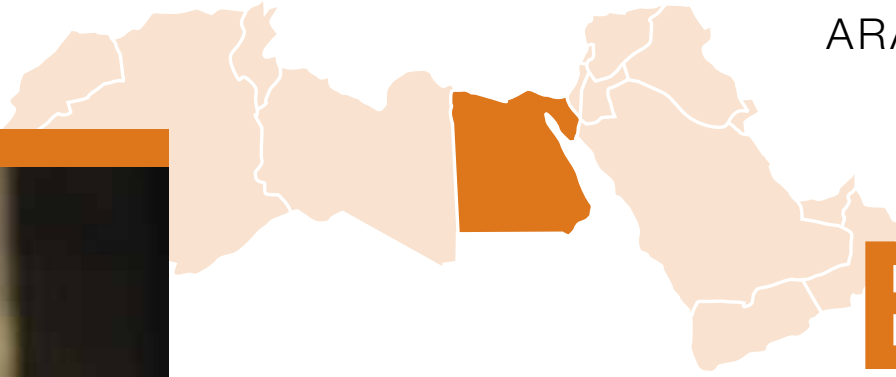
In 2012 as part of the enabling activities for the preparation of Jordan's third National Communication to the UNFCCC, gender was expressed as a national priority in the context of climate change. This National Communication outlines the need for a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic and health impacts of climate change and for mainstreaming gender in the targeted sensitive areas of the country.

In early 2011, the Jordanian National Commission for Women launched a national dialogue campaign on the status of women in the governorates of Aqaba, Karak, Ajloun and Irbid, and Madaba and Mafraq, which set priorities for rural and other women. Following the development of Jordan's ccGAP, the Commission also included environment and climate change in the *National Women's Strategy 2012-2015*, as part of the theme of human security and social protection.

Other milestones include the following:

- Excerpts of the ccGAP have been used as primary indicators for the United Nations joint project on adaptation and climate change in Jordan around the Zarqa basin.
- The Ministry of Planning is seeking to build the capacity of government staff and monitor gender mainstreaming, drawing on the content of the ccGAP.
- Various institutions, for example the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and the Amman Institute, are using the ccGAP as a tool for mainstreaming gender in their activities.
- The *National Women's Strategy*, launched in 2012, includes a section on women, environment, and climate change and a goal of Jordanian women being active and empowered to maintain and develop natural resources.





Egypt

“Women are most vulnerable to climate change, and are the key actors in spreading knowledge to younger generations and helping facilitate adaptation. Hence, empowering both men and women, especially women, to increase their resilience to climate change is imperative. The goal is to switch their status from being victims to becoming main players and ultimately becoming development activators by all means. Therefore, CEDARE has joined hands with Ministry of Environment in Egypt, with the support of IUCN’s Regional Office for West Asia in developing a strategy that mainstreams gender into climate change resilience measures in Egypt.”

Amr Abdel-Meguid, Senior Regional Water Resource Specialist, Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)




Egypt’s latest national communications to the UNFCCC note that the most vulnerable sectors in the country to climate change are the coastal zone, agriculture, and water resources. Climate change is a serious concern for the dense population, extensive infrastructure, and farmlands that make up the Nile Delta. The annual flooding that characterizes the Nile River is expected to fluctuate, and high temperatures will influence agricultural productivity, as will water stress and soil salinity (Handoussa, 2010). Alongside these environmental changes, urbanization is on the rise—at an annual rate of four per cent over the past 40 years. In the country’s largest city and capital, Cairo, the population more than tripled between 1947 and 1986, which gave rise to a larger informal sector economy. Nationwide, 60 per cent of Egypt’s economy is within the informal sector and more than a third of the population lives in slums, where shelter and access to water and sanitation are inadequate (CAPMAS, 2011).

The *National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change in Egypt*, under the umbrella of the country's third National Communication to the UNFCCC, is the result of collaboration between the IUCN Global Gender Office, the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), CEDARE, and other key national institutions in Egypt. The IUCN Global Gender Office originally planned to launch the national process at a time when a wave of protests, now called the *Arab Spring*, was emerging across Egypt and many countries in the Arab world. Following the rescheduling of the process, and now with the ccGAP in hand, the Egyptian revolution and the swearing in of the country's first democratically elected president present a remarkable context in which to mainstream gender in Egypt's climate change planning.

In Egypt, the ccGAP included the priority areas of integrated coastal management, agriculture, water, tourism, health, energy and transport, urbanization, and waste management, as outlined below.

Overview of Egypt ccGAP

Overall Objective: To mainstream gender considerations into national climate change initiatives and policies, so that both men and women have equal opportunity to understand, participate in, and decide effective measures to implement mitigation and adaptation activities and henceforth benefit from various climate change programs and funds, contributing to the national economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Integrated coastal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop economic and social valuations of natural resources and its impact on women. • Strengthen a gender perspective relating to coastal zone management (CZM) through establishing sustainable patterns of cooperation among women. • Establish a sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for CZM, taking into account women's participation in the decision-making process. • Develop a sustainable financial mechanism to fund gender projects in CZM. • Enhance the resilience in fishing communities in relation to the effects of climate change. • Enhance disaster risk reduction measures by mainstreaming gender considerations.
 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase women's participation in adaptation projects/programs related to agriculture. • Increase women's participation in decision making and implementation related to food security and agricultural programs or projects. • Increase participation of local communities in adaptation projects/programs related to agriculture. • Contribute to the empowerment of women and local communities, through access to agricultural technologies (machineries and harvesting, seeding), other activities for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and sustainable use of natural resources. • Ensure that plans, strategies, programs, and budgets of government bodies, funding agencies, and NGOs promote gender equality, access to natural resources, and advance mitigation and adaptation to climate change. • Improve the capacity of officials and technicians in the agricultural sector on gender.
 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that climate change and gender are integrated in the <i>National Water Resources Plan</i> and policies and strategies and adaptation measures proposed. • Assure that officials and technicians of all the components of the water sector understand the concept of climate change impact on gender and their role as agents of change. • Enhance the capacity of women and men in the local communities on water savings. • Build the capacity of local communities on water management.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness and develop adaptation strategies among women and women's organizations in the tourism sector about the effects of climate change. • Create an enabling environment that supports and encourages women to enter the formal tourism sector. • Create new models of tourism through which women can find alternative job opportunities, especially in ecotourism. • Open market for innovative touristic resources in unrecognized areas with different programs (health, religious, rural, and desert tours).
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the technical and scientific capacity of national and professional institutions in the area of climate change and health with gender perspective. • Build a general knowledge and vision on the gender issue related to both climate change and health. • Design policies to reduce the risk of vector-borne and climate-related diseases, incorporating a gender perspective. • Build the institutional capacity of Ministry of Health regarding medical entomology sector to increase the most vulnerable population's access to health. • Raise awareness on the linkages between health and climate change. • Build cooperation with NGOs and civil society working on the field of health.
 Energy and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make gender-disaggregated data on energy supply, consumption, and demand available. • Encourage women and men in their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at household level. • Promote the participation of women and men in renewal energy efforts at household level through the introduction of efficient, innovative, and sustainable systems of energy use. • Create awareness on the relation between climate change and transportation among women and women's groups. • Build awareness and influence decision makers on the relationship between transportation policies and programs and gender. • Integrate both gender and the principles of a green economy and renewable and efficient energy use in the development and implementation of this strategy.
 Urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate climate change issues and gender-equitable participation in urban planning. • Enhance capacity building and public awareness for successful implementation. • Analyse women's needs through a deliberation process with women in urban areas, in order to integrate them in the building code regulations and law.
 Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an integrated waste management system taking into consideration gender aspects. • Enhance women's role in community waste management initiatives. • Encourage and support projects and initiatives on waste reduction that protect the environment and have business appeal.

Drawing on Egypt's priority sectors, the following section focuses on energy and transport to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change.

Energy and transport

In Egypt, rapidly rising levels of energy consumption have accompanied economic growth. During 2008-2009, energy subsidies were higher than the country's entire fiscal allocation to education and health services. Petroleum products and natural gas are both the main reasons for greenhouse gas emissions in Egypt and the main sources of the country's energy supply. While natural gas is slowly replacing crude oil, due to the discovery of natural gas reserves, oil and gas make up over 90 per cent of Egypt's energy sources.

In recent years, the Egyptian government pledged to produce 20 per cent of generated electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and adopted specific targets for reducing energy consumption. Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, including hydropower, solar energy, and biomass, are expected to play a critical role in achieving energy security. However, the market has been slow to offer these options, partly due to the lack of information among households of the benefits. Indeed, energy consumption is tied to household economic status. The richest quintile of the country accounts for a disproportionately large share of the energy subsidy, while the poorest two quintiles account for only a tiny fraction. (EEAA, 2010; Handoussa, 2010).

The most urgent actions in relation to Egypt's energy sector, according to workshop participants, are:

- Promotion and implementation of energy efficiency programs in supply transmission, demanding and emphasizing women needs;
- Restructuring of the energy pricing to guard against abuse and inefficiencies;
- Rationing energy consumption in the demand sectors without reducing service levels or negatively impacting economic development targets;
- Diversifying the energy supply resources by increasing renewable resources such as wind, solar, and bioenergy; and
- Allocating the country's natural resources in a manner that maximizes the economic and social development mandates.

However, energy is not gender neutral. Women and men often have different experiences and needs in relation to energy delivery and generation systems. Women's reliance on energy ranges from household tasks to income-generating undertakings. Though they may play a central role in ensuring a household's energy security, assets that are out of reach—such as land and financing—can be crippling to women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, and the development of the energy sector in the long run. In addition, women are at higher risk of respiratory ailments and premature death due to cooking over indoor fires with poor ventilation.

While many countries have yet to incorporate a gender perspective in their energy planning, one way to do so is to address the kinds of energy needs where women predominate, for instance small-scale and informal agricultural activities. Mainstreaming gender into energy policies can include building women's capacities in technical and business skills that will allow them to operate and market energy equipment. Women's access to financing and credit is also critical to spurring entrepreneurial innovations (Cecelski & Dutta, 2011).

The gender dimension of energy was one of the themes analysed by the national workshop participants. Mainstreaming gender in the energy sector requires a new recognition of the roles that women play now and could play in the future. These roles include:

- Professionals and entrepreneurs in harnessing energy for economic empowerment and reduced emissions;
- Primary decision makers in household energy consumption;
- Energy savers, particularly with information and good practices about adjusting their daily routine;
- Educators and promoters of efficient energy use within households, within communities, and with their children;
- Influential actors in switching to renewable energy sources and technologies;
- Knowledgeable contributors to the design of household energy technology; and
- Potential users of expanded public transportation systems.

Transportation is also a key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Egypt. This is due to engines that are not efficient and use hydrocarbon fuels, as well as a heavy reliance on road transport throughout the country. In response the Ministry of Transport, following a decision by the Cabinet of Ministers, adopted a strategy for reducing emissions while improving national transport and urban traffic. The strategy includes improved public transportation, improved energy efficiency, fuel switching, the development and use of new propulsion technologies, the development of rail transport and new methods for freight transport, the development of power train technologies, a shift from diesel to electrified railways, and the development and use of fuel-cells technology (EEAA, 2010; Handoussa, 2010).

In the area of transportation, women’s and men’s needs and roles are also distinct in relation to private transportation, commuting patterns, and family responsibilities. Transport poverty is widespread in Egypt among low-income families, restricting access to employment, social networks, health and education services, and recreation. Traffic pollution and poor air quality are the side effects of vehicles that are not environmentally friendly or well maintained. This has a particular impact on maternal health and the health of elderly people. In the context of overcrowding on public transportation, passenger safety is an issue, particularly when women are vulnerable to harassment and sexual abuse (Hamilton, 2001).

Empowering women in the context of energy and transportation in Egypt could start with building technical capacity for their involvement in new economic activities, including how to sell energy services and energy technologies. Women are often in need of incentives and other financial supports to launch entrepreneurial efforts. On the national scale, gender-disaggregated data on energy needs, consumption patterns, and transport use would enhance the targeting of energy planning and expansion of sustainable transportation systems.

Building on the experiences above, Egypt’s ccGAP includes targeted actions in the energy and transport sectors, a sample of which are outlined below.









Sample Actions From Egypt ccGAP in the Energy and Transport Sectors

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
<p>Build awareness and influence decision makers on the relationship between transportation policies and programs and gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of transportation policies and programs to reflect women’s needs. • Assess the viability and put in place an innovative public transportation system through the Nile in hands of the women. • Identify possible women NGOs or unions. • Design the water taxi project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-sensitive transportation policies in place. • Innovative system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the hands of women. • Number of women as concessionaries of water taxis in Cairo. • Increase in income in household and a reduction in electricity bills.



A sample of actions in Egypt's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Egypt ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Integrated coastal management	Identify and make available financial mechanisms that fund and support women's projects and their participation in CZM.
 Agriculture	Raise awareness amongst women about the benefits of planting drought resistant and salt tolerant trees and crops.
 Water	Provide refresher courses on water and gender issues at top management level.
 Tourism	Train women on new models of job opportunities in ecotourism.
 Health	Identify the differentiated effects between men and women on climate-related diseases.
 Energy	Introduce a program for measuring carbon footprint within the household.
 Urbanization	Operationalize a higher council for green building with emphasis on women's participation in the council.
 Waste management	Support projects with direct benefit for women, both in urban and rural areas, such as biogas units, recycling products, and composting.

Egypt has already begun to shepherd actions from the ccGAP forward. CEDARE and the SEARCH project (Social, Ecological and Agricultural Resilience in the Face of Climate Change) are working in close collaboration with the gender focal point of the Ministry of Environment to establish a monitoring body and a project team and to develop case studies based on the strategy. Multilateral and bilateral donors have expressed interest in implementing ccGAP actions on women in food security in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. And following the development of the ccGAP, Egypt's Ministry of Environment announced that its Gender Department would ensure that the ccGAP is fully integrated into the country's third National Communication to the UNFCCC.



National strategy workshop in Egypt

Following the development of the ccGAP, Egypt's Ministry of Environment announced that its Gender Department would ensure that the ccGAP is fully integrated into the country's third National Communication to the UNFCCC.





Arab Region

“Women in the Arab region play a key role in adapting households and buffering the family against unexpected climatic shocks. Their knowledge of local people and ecosystems, their skills and abilities, social networks and community organizations help communities mitigate hazardous conditions and events, and respond effectively to disasters when they occur. These factors support giving women more opportunities to participate in the planning of adaptation projects and to take part in national and regional efforts to reduce the spread of poverty, support economic growth and achieve greater justice and wealth distribution.”

Balgis Osman-Elasha, IPCC author and Arab Human Development Report contributor

The region represented by the Arab League of States has been actively participating in orientation sessions on gender and climate change spearheaded by IUCN and partners at UNFCCC sessions since 2007. This capacity building for delegates has led to a strengthened relationship with the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia on gender mainstreaming within climate change decision making in the Arab States region. Recently, the regional governance body requested that a gender expert form part of the team working on a regional framework on climate change in order to include gender as a crosscutting issue.

Some of the gender inputs put forward to the regional framework include:

- Analyze the effects of climate change from women's and men's perspectives (such as desertification, flooding, drought, and desertification).
- Include both men and women in data collection in order to facilitate the development of guidance on integrating gender.
- Benefit from the expertise and traditional knowledge possessed by the local community, including men's and women's knowledge.
- Conduct research with the goal of reducing the negative effects of natural disasters on women, especially in relation to their important role in rural areas providing water, food, and energy, and achieving sustainable consumption.
- Support culturally appropriate means to document women's knowledge of biological diversity.
- Develop the capacity of all staff, policy advisors, and managers involved in the implementation of climate change field programs to integrate a gender approach.
- Support the participation of women in delegations to the UNFCCC Conferences of Parties, increasing their ability to participate in decision making.

In addition, a flagship report of the League of Arab States and the World Bank will include gender as a dedicated chapter, illustrating to decision makers how valuing gender and viewing women as agents of change builds the resilience of countries to climate change. Finally, gender is now included as a standing agenda item with preparation of technical material in meetings of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, which forms part of the League of Arab States.



Following the development of the ccGAP, gender is now included as a standing agenda item of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, which forms part of the League of Arab States.





Central America

“The SICA regional climate change strategy... is a propitious opportunity to recognize that no policy or strategy is neutral, that the impact of this phenomenon will affect women and men differently.”

Haydee Castillo, Regional Coordinator, Women’s Forum for Central American Integration (FMICA)

The Central American region’s vulnerability to climate change is evidenced by almost 250 climate and hydro-meteorological events occurring between 1930 and 2008, and disasters increasing at the rate of five per cent annually over the last three decades (SICA, 2010). In this region, the powerful stories of women confronting climate change inspired national leaders to put those women’s priorities on the table, from the regional level up to the global climate change negotiations.

In 2010, FMICA and Regional Unit for Technical Assistance (RUTA), with the facilitation of CoopeSolidaR, organized consultation processes in the four areas of Central America where women are acutely affected by climate change. The women and men who participated in the consultations are living the reality of climate change every day, but were not aware of how changing weather patterns are dealt with by government and other institutions beyond their community. By cataloguing the weather events and specific impacts on their community and family, they came up with specific ways that climate change policy and planning could support them.

Maureen Clarke, Executive President, National Institute of Women of Costa Rica

“We women have the right to information, knowledge and participation in issues that affect our quality of life, development and personal integrity. We must not be excluded from decision making about the environment, climate change, land use, and natural resource protection.”

Women from four communities gather

Afro-descendent, or Garífuna, women on the northern Atlantic coast of Honduras reported that they are experiencing significant changes in rainfall that pollute drinking water, cause flooding, destroy housing on the banks of rivers, and prevent planting of crops. Coconut is the basis for over 100 Garífuna dishes, in addition to being used for roofs, crafts, and confections. Thus the loss of coconut groves from extreme weather events has an impact on food security and the economy that is sustained by the work of Garífuna women. In the past, Garífuna women fed their children coconut milk, but now young people's nutrition has been affected and new diseases have emerged (RUTA, et al., 2010c). Natural barriers around human settlements and farming areas are not being protected when extreme weather hits the coastal areas.

Voices of Garífuna women

Rosa:

“Many times climate change has more psychological affects related to the economy, because I tell myself I'm not going to grow anything since I will lose everything. When we envision the future, it definitely will affect our children because we do not plant anything. People prefer to support the drug trade rather than farming and we want other types of food. What we learned is that communities are not prepared to react in the face of a natural disaster.”

Edith:

“We must be the agents of transmitting knowledge. In the communities, we women are the ones who prepare ourselves. Women and men Garífunas are beautiful. We women love our community.”

Neidy from Travesía/Bajamar, Honduras:

“Ever since Hurricane Mitch, our community has been vulnerable. When it rains, the lake floods the streets. The mangrove stands are being used to process sewage, even though there are settlements of people that rely on water from the well. In the Garífuna communities, it is women who travel into the hills. It is rare that women plant, because it is easier to go to the market to sell sliced coconut and crab. We're just waiting for the tide to come and swallow us.”

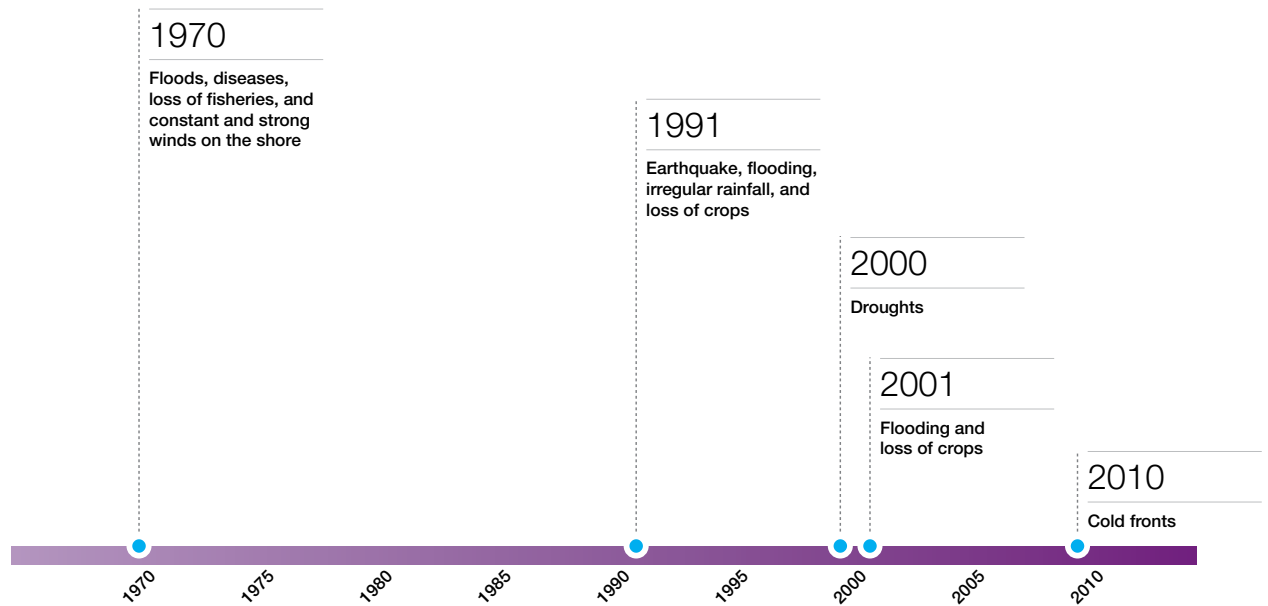
Ana from Tela, Honduras:

“When the ocean came up to the road, you had to ride a boat in the community. Following this it was difficult to harvest the crop... crops are lost, they cannot be planted, and the tamarinds and coconut are gone as well... When it rains the ground starts to slide and there are houses nearby that the river will take.”

Source: RUTA, et al. 2010c.

On the border between Costa Rica and Panama in the Changuinola-Sixaola region, women made timelines (see following page) showing how flooding and drought that has increased over the years impacts their lives.

Impact of disasters in Changuinola-Sixaola region: Flooding, Earthquakes, Droughts, and Cold Fronts



Source: RUTA, et al. 2010a

In the Segovias region on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras, women articulated the effects of fires, droughts, Hurricane Mitch, deforestation, and agriculture-related migration (see below).

Effects and Impacts of Climate Change Perceived by Women

1997 fires	1997 droughts	1998 Hurricane Mitch	1999 deforestation	2010 migratory agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity • Tree cuts • Soil degradation • Environmental pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop scarcity (basic grains) • Cattle dead • Coffee lost • Immigration of people • Loss of jobs • Hunger • Desertion of education • Malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of lives • Loss of fertile soils, houses, animals • Economic impacts • Environmental impacts • Health: stress, psychological problems • Family disintegration • Communication challenges via highways, infrastructures, telecommunications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water sources affected, dry streams • Scarcity of firewood • Climate change • Wind erosion • Water erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration of people • Family separation • Traditional crops affected • Impact on economy

Source: RUTA, et al. 2010b

In these consultations, it became clear that women are actively involved in responding to climate change impacts through evacuating people at risk, food collection brigades, health care campaigns, clearing roads, and communicating timely information to their families and communities. They are also mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through the use of clean and renewable energies. Having played a role at the heart of climate change adaptation and mitigation, these women are well positioned to propose solutions to climate change from a gender perspective in their communities. Among their recommendations are:

- Include representatives of national and regional women's organizations on delegations attending international climate change negotiations.
- Address the psychological effects of climate change impacts on women, such as mental health and disaster-related gender-based violence.
- Train women on new technologies and exchange information between women who are engaged in renewable technologies (biogas) and waste recycling (handicrafts and organic fertilizers).
- Create a regional fund to strengthen the capacity of women's organizations at community and municipal levels to take on climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
- Develop early warning programs for women and training on risk maps.
- Support environmentally friendly microenterprises owned by Afro-descendent, indigenous, and rural women.
- Collect gender-disaggregated information and ensure disaster reports include the experiences of Afro-descendent women.

From local to regional to global

With the stories and recommendations of these women in hand, regional gender experts and women from the communities formed a technical committee to approach SICA, the institution responsible for developing the regional climate change strategy, with a formal proposal. IUCN was invited into the regional process and provided capacity building to enhance the regional technical committee's impact at the regional and global levels. The preliminary review of the draft climate change strategy identified a tremendous gap in addressing women's concerns. However, this bottom-up collaboration through the political channels, along with the provision of gender technical expertise, led to a landmark climate change strategy that successfully responds to the needs of a key population in the region. As noted by Vivienne Solis Rivera, of CoopeSoliDar R.L. and IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy, "There was no possibility of failure once people heard the voices of these women, who were so clear and strong and real that the political process had no choice but to respond." (V Solis Rivera, pers. comm., 9 July).

Principles of Central American Regional Strategy on Climate Change

- Common but differentiated responsibility nationally and internationally.
- Environmental justice and compensation for ecological debt.
- Contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- A cross-cutting, intercultural, and cross-sectoral approach—one of the most important cross-cutting topics is gender equity and equality.
- Coherence among governmental policies, solidarity, equity, gender equality and social justice.
- Recognition of the region's most vulnerable populations, including indigenous communities, populations of African descent, rural and urban women, children, senior citizens, and families living in poverty.

Among the main principles of the final strategy are the crosscutting nature of gender equity and equality; coherence between governmental policies on gender equality; and recognition of the region's most vulnerable populations, such as rural and urban women (see above). The strategy incorporates numerous actions to raise the bar for women through all sectors, from analysing the gender dimension of food security, to valuing the ancestral practices of indigenous women, to reducing emissions through gender-sensitive forestry approaches. The strategy was upheld at a meeting with the Network of Women Ministers, approved and legalized by the Council of Ministers of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD). It created such political pressure that it led to the incorporation of gender as a mandate in the Heads of State declaration in relation to the climate change strategy for the region in July 2010.







Central American negotiators then carried this message of gender equality in climate change decision making to Cancun, where gender policies made significant strides in the outcome of the 2010 global climate change negotiations.

Impact of the strategy in Central America

The inclusion of gender in the regional strategy on climate change is a significant step forward, and legitimates any action taken on gender and climate change. As noted by Ana Lucia Moreno, RUTA’s Coordinator for Social Development, “With the Central American strategy we have a great support. We now have a flag to hold up and say, this gender approach is in the strategy and so must be done.” (A L Moreno 2012, pers. comm., 20 March).

SICA’s efforts to secure global recognition for the region’s vulnerability to climate change impacts may have opened a door for the acknowledgement of women’s particular vulnerability. The success of the strategy is also attributed to the fact that the Central American governments and women’s movement and other non-governmental institutions joined hands and collaborated on the drafting of the strategy. This may be a lesson for the national climate change strategies in individual Central American countries, where IUCN has provided support in the past for establishing gender units and processes in environment ministries (Aguilar, 2002).

Sample Actions From Central America Regional Strategy

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Extreme climate and risk management	Conduct studies on vulnerability and risk to climate disasters in urban and rural areas by sector while considering gender, indigenous peoples, and communities of African descent. Implement measures to prevent risk at the appropriate level.
 Agriculture and food security	Develop a regional fund for women so they can access productive economic resources and capital (land, capital, forests, technology, training and education).
 Forest ecosystems and biodiversity	Include a gender perspective in national standards and guidelines in order to assure that women have access to and control over benefits provided by economic and financial incentives.
 Public health	Review existing policies and adjust them to increase access of vulnerable populations to health services, with emphasis on indigenous communities, women, senior citizens, and people living in poverty.
 Coastal and marine resources	Strengthen early warning systems for fishing communities and populations living in coastal areas and offer specific training to women and young adults in the area.
 Mitigation	Design projects with a focus on gender to reduce emissions through savings in firewood in homes and small and medium enterprises where firewood is the main source of energy, and reduce risk for respiratory and ocular diseases in women and children.
 Institutional capacity building	Joint programs on innovation and technological development for adaptation, including best practices in ancestral knowledge applied with a focus on gender and diversity.

Besides giving voice to a population that is not usually at the forefront of decision making on climate change matters, women from affected communities were empowered to build their knowledge and had the opportunity to network with people facing the same challenges in other communities and countries. While the regional and global political processes are valuable, it is equally important to find ways to implement the strategy in specific locales and validate any actions with the communities that shared their experiences at the outset. At the community level, the linkages between gender and climate change are the most concrete, and specific actions to address gender equality more easily take shape.

Implementation of the strategy will depend heavily on deepening the Central American integration process, and the unity and commitment of the governments involved. As in many countries, climate change measures must transcend environment ministries and be embedded in multiple sectors in order to gain traction. Moreover, resources—for any actions to be implemented, and to strengthen the Central American women’s movement—are critical for the strategy to take hold.





Panama

“We believe it was very positive to include Panama’s national gender institution and grassroots women’s organizations along with the country’s environmental governing body in the consultation process to develop climate change policy. Mainstreaming gender into plans and programs is essential in environmental management. Climate change impacts affect women and men differently, particularly in natural disasters where women are more vulnerable. In this respect, we must ensure that the models and policies of development and integration prevent inequality, ensure respect for human rights, and recognize the contribution of women and men to the management of natural resources, environment and food production.”

Markelda M. de Herrera, Director,
National Women’s Institute of Panama




In April of 2007, Panama’s President and Minister of Economy and Finance signed the country’s *National Climate Change Policy*, which includes among its key principles the importance of the “promotion of the conscious participation of the citizenship, including gender equality.” Panama is in the process of reviewing its *National Environmental Policy*, which will initiate the development of the *National Climate Change Strategy*.


In 2011, the Climate Change Unit of Panama's National Environmental Authority requested the assistance of the IUCN Global Gender Office to engage in the integration of a gender perspective in the country's *National Climate Change Strategy*. A national workshop was organized along two streams: under the umbrella of mitigation (energy, land use, and land use change) and under the umbrella of adaptation (agriculture and water resources). The multi-stakeholder workshop produced innovative actions in these sectors to be considered for incorporation in the national strategy. The workshop and resulting action steps were organized in partnership with RUTA and CoopeSoliDar and followed a process similar to that at the regional level sponsored by the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA), as well as consultation workshops with women in various Central American countries.

In Panama, the ccGAP included the priority areas of land use and land use change, energy, water resource management, and agriculture and food security, as outlined below.

Overview of Panama ccGAP

Overall Objective: To incorporate a gender perspective in the National Climate Change Strategy of Panama, under the leadership of the Climate Change and Desertification Unit of the National Environment Authority, in order to facilitate its implementation under the principles of equity and justice.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Land use and land use change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in management and soil conservation and forest communities, with emphasis on the participation of women and indigenous women. • Planning pilot projects of demonstration farms in land use and land use change led by women. • Development of plans and programs with special attention to indigenous and black women in the restoration of soil communities. • Public policy advocacy on the issue of gender-sensitive land use and management.
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of alternative energy: solar, wind, biomass for use at the household level. • Increase in renewable and alternative energy coverage in rural and urban districts still lacking this resource. • Encouragement of families to increase energy efficiency at home. • Availability of disaggregated data on the supply, consumption, and energy demand for decision making and investment. • Review of the Energy Act to ensure the integration of gender considerations.
 Water resources management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the capacities of women in relation to climate-related events. • Improvement of infrastructure for the care of men and women before an event. • Development and implementation of activities, programs, management plans for conservation and restoration of watersheds, in consultation with the men and women in the communities and local governments to contribute to the conservation of water sources. • Development and implementation of plans and actions for integrated water resources management, including institutional approaches to gender and social issues. • Organization and formation of committees for integrated water resources management, considering the participation of government institutions; local governments; civil society (men's and women's groups, indigenous groups, and those of African descent, among others); NGOs; and academic institutions. • Revision of and amendment to the Water Law, adapting it to the differential effects of climate change.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Agriculture and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of gender in the context of sustainable agriculture and food security. • Empowerment of women food producers in techniques such as agroforestry and organic agriculture. • Training of women and their organizations on the phenomena of climate change, environmental protection, sustainable development, and gender. • Strengthening of organizations of women producers. • “Training of trainers” in the area of gender, agriculture, and food security. • Improvement of the capacity of public officials and extension workers in the field of agriculture, gender and climate change. • Gender review of laws, policies, programmes, and projects by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Drawing on Panama’s priority sectors, the following section focuses on land use change to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change.

Land use change

Panama’s first National Communication to the UNFCCC pointed to land use change and forestry as responsible for over 58 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions, with conversion of forests and soil emissions among the culprits. While deforestation rates vary across the various provinces of Panama, generally the highest rates of deforestation occur adjacent to the poorest communities, due to small-scale agriculture and livestock production. Panama’s deforestation rate has been recorded as 1.12 per cent during 1992-2000 and 0.4 per cent during 2000-2008, with losses of 41,325 hectares and 13,420 hectares respectively. A re-establishment of secondary forests occurred simultaneously during the first period, at a rate of 85 per cent, while employment in agriculture dropped by 31 per cent, suggesting that conversion of forests to agriculture may have not been the only cause of deforestation.

Some of the communities with simultaneously high poverty and deforestation rates are indigenous *comarcas* (local administrations), but in recent years the trends in forest loss have been slowing. In Panama, a high percentage of the population is made up of people of African descent and indigenous peoples, the latter representing about 10 per cent of the population. In response to this slowing of deforestation, several studies in Panama and elsewhere have revealed that the cultural practices of indigenous groups linked with ownership rights to land, rather than policy changes protecting land, are responsible for the transition to more forest cover (PRISMA & CABAL, 2010). That is, the ability to control the use and access of land is a central factor in avoiding deforestation.

This connection between land use change and community control of land is a revelation for the situation of women, due to the significant gender differences in people’s ability to control and use land in Panama. While 21 per cent of male farmers in Panama depend completely on farming for their livelihoods, this percentage drops to 4 for women. This is due to the limited land owned by women farmers and the lack of available conditions for improving their productivity, such as financing and technical assistance. By 2000, 38 per cent of women farmers in Panama worked on land that they owned, while 62 per cent of male farmers worked their own land. There are gender differences in the size of land plots as well—about 75 per cent of women have holdings smaller than 0.5 hectares and 64.5 per cent of men have properties over 0.5 hectares. Male farmers receive significantly more financial assistance or credit. In 2000-2001, male farmers received 93 per cent of the credit and financing and women farmers only received 7 per cent (MIDE, 2008).

This stark discrimination against women’s ownership of land and access to other key resources in Panama may prevent women’s pursuit of environmentally friendly land uses. It will also impact whether they can reap the financial and other benefits of any payments for environmental services schemes, such as REDD+. Thus, one of the vehicles for women’s empowerment pinpointed in the national workshop in Panama was soil conservation. A quarter of the country’s land is degraded from agriculture due to use of chemicals, unsustainable farming practices, overuse, and slash and burn methods. This is aggravated further by a lack of soil management and by urban encroachment (Panama Digest, 2010). Building the capacity of women farmers to manage soil fertility would simultaneously strengthen women’s technical leadership and visibility in the agricultural sector while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases—in effect, a win-win potential for both gender equality and climate change mitigation.




Building on the experiences above, Panama's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the land use sector, a sample of which is outlined below.

Sample Actions From Panama ccGAP in the Land Use Sector

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
Development of plans and programmes with special attention to indigenous and Afro-descendent women in land restoration in communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define priority locations where women perceive an imminent need for soil restoration initiatives. Conduct training workshops on soil restoration with a gender focus (organic fertilizer, nurseries and other conservation mechanisms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority zones defined. Number of workshops undertaken. Percentage of women trained.

A sample of actions in Panama's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample actions from Panama ccGAP in other sectors

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Energy	Study of the judicial-legal situation in the field of energy from a gender perspective.
 Water resources management	Awareness campaigns for women and men in areas of high vulnerability and risk.
 Agriculture and food security	Training for women and encouragement of their participation in decision making on agriculture, food security, and gender issues.

Backed by a gender-sensitive national climate change strategy, the National Environmental Authority plans to host provincial workshops along the same adaptation and mitigation themes throughout the country. The Panama National Institute of Women and the Panamanian Center for Women will engage actively in these workshops, as well as with the climate change planning process in general, in order to provide targeted inputs on gender mainstreaming, ensure that the voices of women of African descent and indigenous peoples are heard, and strengthen relationships between the public sector and civil society.

This stark discrimination against women's ownership of land and access to other key resources in Panama may prevent women's pursuit of environmentally friendly land uses. It will also impact whether they can reap the financial and other benefits of any payments for environmental services schemes, such as REDD+.





Costa Rica

“Within the Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunications, we are aware that climate change has a human face and responses must be inclusive. We believe that the mainstreaming of a gender lens could institutionalize the participation of a broader spectrum of actors, including women’s groups, and support women’s understanding of adaptation mechanisms. In addition, the development of gender-sensitive indicators will facilitate participatory processes, adaptation and mitigation programs, and technologies that respond to the needs of men and women.”

María Guzmán, Vice Minister of Environmental Management and Energy

Costa Rica is currently in the process of mainstreaming gender into the country’s action plan of the *National Strategy on Climate Change*, which is linked to the country’s national development planning process. A country of great environmental foresight, Costa Rica has envisioned a carbon neutral society through the development of a green economy as the main goal of its *2011-2014 National Development Plan*. It has also undertaken several studies on climate change to determine the vulnerability of key sectors such as agriculture and water.

In May 2011, the Director of the Climate Change Office in Costa Rica’s Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunications (MINAET) invited the IUCN Global Gender Office, along with RUTA and CoopSolIDar, to provide technical and financial support on integrating gender into the action plan. This emanated from the regional Central American process in 2010, when consultations were organized with women in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua, in order to provide inputs to the regional governmental platform (see Central America profile). IUCN and partners facilitated the collaboration of Costa Rica’s National Institute of Women, which communicated its intention to officially engage with the national climate change planning process and assigned staff to do so. In September 2011, a training workshop was provided to the technical team engaged in the gender mainstreaming process.

The specific objectives of the gender mainstreaming process include:

- Strengthen state institutions and technical negotiators representing Costa Rica at the UNFCCC in themes related to gender mainstreaming and climate change.
- Open a space of knowledge sharing among technicians, Ministry of Environment staff, local representatives from various zones within the country, and the negotiation team representing Costa Rica at the UNFCCC.
- Identify relevant actors and priority themes linked directly to gender equity and justice, which must be incorporated in the Action Plan of the National Climate Change Strategy.
- Define concrete proposals from women that can be added to the Action Plan and developed in the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy.
- In the context of the national strategy, advance the search for international financial resources toward the implementation of gender equity actions in climate change policy.

The strong support of Costa Rica's leadership—from the Ministry of the Environment to the National Institute of Women—bodes well for the finalization of the gender-sensitive climate change plan.

William Alpizar, Director, Climate Change Office, Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunications

“The incorporation of a vision of gender equality and equity is important because the way in which men and women address solutions is different, and there is great richness and possibility of success if both visions are taken into account. For this reason, gender equity and equality are considered to be an important part of the action plan of the National Climate Change Strategy.”

Lauren Palma, Public Policy Coordinator, National Women's Institute (INAMU)

“Efforts to incorporate a gender perspective in the action plan of the National Climate Change Strategy are critical in a reality where climate change impacts are different for men and women. The approach must be based in that reality.”

In advance of the multi-stakeholder consultative workshop in June 2012, IUCN, CoopSolIDar, and INAMU reviewed assessments of the four themes prioritized by the Costa Rican government: energy, transport, agriculture, and water. These partners, along with the Climate Change office of the Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunications; gender focal points from governmental institutions; RUTA; and women's representatives from academia, indigenous groups, and civil society, participated in the consultative workshop to develop recommended actions, results, and indicators on gender to be incorporated in the national action plan. At the time of writing, a streamlined set of inputs has been presented to the government's Climate Change Office for consideration.

Costa Rica's gender mainstreaming process intends to develop concrete proposals from women that can be implemented along with the National Climate Change Strategy.



Haiti

“Haiti will not build back better without the social, economic and political empowerment of women.”

Robert Maguire, Haiti Working Group Chair, United States Institute of Peace
(Maguire, 2012)

In Haiti, environmental degradation and poverty are closely intertwined. Already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the most devastated environments in the world, Haiti was recently deemed the most vulnerable country to climate change (Maplecroft, 2012). Every rainy season, tropical storms wreak havoc on the country—destroying crops and infrastructure, furthering erosion and droughts, and causing internal displacement and mortality. During one month in 2008, four hurricanes killed an estimated 800 people, with over 800,000 people affected (USAID, 2009). Climate change is expected to increase the severity of these storm cycles with heavier rain and flooding. The devastating earthquake that struck the country on January 12, 2010 magnified Haiti’s existing crisis of poverty, and the ripple effects are still being felt today.

The development of Haiti’s ccGAP followed a request by the country’s Climate Change Office, which collaborated with the IUCN Global Gender Office as lead institution, and WEDO and the Convention on Biological Diversity as strategic partners, to undertake consultations in ten departments in Haiti and provide technical support to develop the ccGAP. This national process was underway during one of the most difficult and also opportune times in the country’s history, given a challenging reconstruction process and the expectation of increased climate change impacts not too far down the road.

In Haiti, the ccGAP includes the priority areas of agriculture, water resources management, disaster risk management, health, and mitigation (including energy, forests, and technology transfer), as outlined on the following page.

Overview of Haiti ccGAP

Overall Objective: The purpose of the gender and climate change program in Haiti is to ensure the integration of gender considerations in all policies and initiatives in environmental matters, particularly issues related to climate change, management and conservation of biodiversity, and land degradation, with a view to achieving the goals associated with sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.

PRIORITY AREA	OBJECTIVE
 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the reform of the agricultural sector with a view to integrating adaptation to climate change by taking into account gender considerations. • Strengthen national capacity to adapt to the new framework for integration of climate change and gender in agriculture. • Support research toward an integrated approach to agriculture, climate change, and gender. • Develop and popularize new varieties and new adaptive techniques related to production and conservation of seeds and fodder.
 Water resources management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement new policies and build institutional support for integrating adaptation to climate change in the water sector. • Develop infrastructure and practices that leverage new water management measures.
 Disaster risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for gender mainstreaming in the development of strategic and operational documents. • Support for gender mainstreaming in actions to reduce disaster risk.
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health tools and informational materials specific to climate change. • Strengthen adaptation of the health sector to current and future impacts of climate change, and integrate climate adaptation into health policy.
 Mitigation (energy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength integration of a gender approach in alternative energy policies and programs. • Pilot demonstration project.
 Mitigation (forests)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect 2 per cent of existing forest cover. • Involve the most vulnerable groups, and ensure respect for their rights, in the creation of new forests.
 Mitigation (technology transfer)	<p>Habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote technology transfer to increase the resilience of infrastructure to climate change in particular habitats. • Promote research and development for technologies that protect and strengthen human settlements. <p>Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote research, development, and technology transfer to improve the performance of energy systems. • Promote the development of technical training in the field of energy systems and energy efficiency.

Drawing on Haiti's priority sectors, the following section focuses on disaster risk reduction and food security to illustrate some of the challenges and solutions within the context of gender and climate change.

Disaster risk reduction

Although not directly associated with climate change, the 2010 earthquake brought Haiti's social and environmental vulnerabilities into sharp focus. The earthquake affected approximately three million people, including 316,000 deaths; 300,000 injuries; and one million left homeless (CBS News, 2010; CBC News, 2011; AP/Washington Post, 2010). The country's infrastructure was dealt a terrible blow, with the buildings of 1,300 educational institutions and 50 health care facilities rendered unusable. The damage crippled the country's leadership and governance structure—as the Presidential Palace, the Parliament, and the majority of government buildings were destroyed—as well as those of the private sector, which accounted for the largest financial and infrastructure losses (UNEP, 2010).

Haiti's existing levels of poverty, alongside political instability, and rapid urbanization and population growth, exponentially increases the country's exposure to natural disasters. For women, there is a 1-in-16 chance of dying during childbirth during their lifetime (WHO, 2010). Prior to the earthquake, the majority of the population lacked access to electricity, water, and/or sanitation facilities, and the life expectancy and child nutrition rates were the lowest in the Western Hemisphere (UN-DESA, 2010). The earthquake deepened the existing health crisis—the main causes of morbidity in Haiti include measles, tetanus, diphtheria, and AIDS, and malnutrition has been among the top ten causes. In the aftermath of the earthquake, poor sanitary conditions exacerbated the spread of a new epidemic of cholera that has killed over 7,000 people and infected a half million people, or five per cent of the population (Sontag, 2012). For women, there is a 1-in-16 chance of dying during childbirth during their lifetime (WHO, 2010). And according to the *Post Disaster Needs Assessment*, the loss of income resulting from the earthquake was in the order of US\$ 53 million (Government of Haiti, 2010).

Haiti's particular exposure to extreme weather is partly due to a landscape devoid of vegetation. Estimates of forest cover are as low as two per cent, the result of clear-cutting that can be traced to the Duvalier dictatorship and prior eras (UNEP, 2010). Deforestation continues today because the wide majority of Haitians rely on firewood and charcoal for energy. Farmers faced with small land plots, steep terrain, and nutrient-deprived soil must rely on charcoal production from felled trees for their livelihoods (Dolisca, et al., 2007). Charcoal, firewood, and other biomass used for cooking makes up about 70 per cent of the country's domestic energy supply, and land-clearing to make up for food deficits is expected to increase in the wake of the earthquake (UNEP, et al., 2010). The result of this pattern of deforestation is erosion on a scale that makes Haiti highly vulnerable to flooding. In the past decade, the record levels of damage and mortality rates were due to severe flooding rather than high winds (SMTN & CHF International, 2010).

Even in this challenging context, the reconstruction process offers an opportunity to build new linkages between how the country tackles climate change and women's empowerment. Haiti is one of the rare countries where there is an institutional structure addressing gender mainstreaming. In the national stakeholder workshop to develop the *Program for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Haiti*, women's representatives from all ten Departments of Haiti participated. Women's rights are the subject of much activism in the political sphere, but there is more work to be done in bringing gender equality into other arenas such as climate change.

The reconstruction process has been painfully slow and plagued by political battles, which has allowed gender inequalities to fester (Oxfam International, 2012). Several prominent figures that were pillars of the Haitian women's movement died in the quake, including the head of the Women's Ministry (Charles & Régine, 2010). As of December 2011, one-third of the donor funds committed just after the quake to support women and children's needs had not yet been disbursed (Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti, 2012). Gender-based violence was widespread before the quake, and has been measured at four per cent of women in displaced persons camps. International humanitarian organizations have called for a new country-owned reconstruction process that consults with Haitian women and targets informal economy and small-scale agriculture enterprises to women (Oxfam International, 2012).

Haitian women are, on the one hand, disproportionately at risk in the face of natural disasters and other extreme events and, on the other hand, a "centre post" of the country's recovery and reconstruction (Maguire, 2012). What is missing is a disaster risk reduction approach that fully acknowledges their viewpoints and contributions and support systems to empower their leadership in the crisis. International and Haitian women's organizations have come together to call for women's active participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring of relief programs, as well as support and capacity building for women who are positioned to contribute their time and resources to relief and reconstruction efforts (Haiti Equality Collective, 2010).

Food security and women traders

Sustainable agriculture and food security are at the core of Haiti's recovery. The country's informal economy is at least 85 per cent of its total economy, and women's activities constitute the majority of the informal and agricultural sectors. Women in Haiti drive much of the agricultural trade and are central actors in food security, seed biodiversity, and economic growth.

The "Madam Saras" are traders and key intermediaries bringing rural produce and goods to urban Port-au-Prince markets. While some Madam Saras operate independently and travel by foot, others are backed by capital and are highly visible merchants. Madam Saras operating at a larger scale have significant control of the market, maintain a client base, and offer informal credit to both suppliers and buyers. Madame Saras face a number of risks in travel and personal security moving between rural and urban areas (IRC, et al., 2010). The 2010 earthquake destroyed some of the housing and storage depots, so that their market share and mobility are more limited (USAID, 2010a).

These women traders draw from their knowledge of local seed varieties and planting schedules, and sometimes are also farmers themselves. In general, women in Haiti are very active in seed selection at harvest, seed and food storage at the household level and through women's community groups, and marketing of agricultural products.

Due to the central role they play in the Haitian agricultural market, providing support to Madam Saras could mean simultaneous advances for women's empowerment and food security, particularly in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and other shocks. Community finance groups known as *mutuelles de solidarité* provide capital for post-disaster reconstruction or for stimulating agricultural activities. There are more than 3,000 *mutuelles de solidarité* in Haiti, and women traders and producers are well represented in these. Scaling up *mutuelles de solidarité*, as well as providing support and capital to agricultural women's groups and networks, would enhance locally owned food security and women's empowerment (USAID, 2010c).








Building on the experiences above, Haiti's ccGAP includes targeted actions in the disaster risk reduction and food security sectors, a sample of which is outlined below.

Sample Actions From Haiti ccGAP in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Food Security Sectors

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS
Support gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a mechanism for the operationalization of the gender integration process. Initiate pilot projects and share lessons learned. Establish a monitoring mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanism operationalized. Pilot actions implemented. Good practices and sharing of knowledge documented.
Integrate climate change adaptation into the agricultural sector, incorporating gender considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen national policies in agriculture to reduce climate risk and gender inequality. Strengthen the implementation at national level of international frameworks on climate change and gender applicable to agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies created. Enforcement mechanisms and incentives put in place. Number of institutions supporting the reforms initiated.

A sample of actions in Haiti's ccGAP from other priority sectors is included below.

Sample Actions From Haiti ccGAP in Other Sectors

PRIORITY AREA	ACTIONS
 Agriculture	Strengthen the implementation of international frameworks on climate change and gender applicable to agriculture at national level.
 Water resources management	Strengthen and implement a functional national platform to promote integrated approaches in water resources, climate change and gender.
 Disaster risk management	Establish a monitoring mechanism for the integration of gender in disaster risk reduction.
 Health	Develop and implement a communications strategy on health, climate change and gender.
 Mitigation (Energy)	Train women in repair and extension components of solar photovoltaic systems and the production of improved stoves.
 Mitigation (Forests)	Engage communities, including women's groups, to establish tree nurseries and to plant seedlings on public land and degraded forest areas.
 Mitigation (Technology transfer)	Develop the capacity of men and women actors in the design of green buildings.

The Haitian strategy document was officially sent to the Haitian authorities through the Climate Change Office, and the first round of feedback was received and included in the strategy, which will go through a national validation process before effective operationalization. The strategy is currently under revision by the Haitian Government.





Gender and REDD+ Roadmaps

The roadmaps are a unique effort to bring a gender perspective to REDD+ activities in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon.





Gender and REDD+

REDD is an international mechanism involving policy approaches and incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. REDD+ encompasses the additional potential of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks to reduce emissions. REDD+ initiatives have the potential to provide multiple benefits—in the realms of conservation, poverty reduction and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. If REDD+ projects were to be designed and implemented with a gender perspective, they would be more effective and efficient, would improve governance significantly, and could reduce the gender gap.

In September 2011, IUCN's Pro-Poor REDD+ Project embarked on a new initiative to develop roadmaps for gender-sensitive REDD+ efforts in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon. Headed by the IUCN Global Gender Office, funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and in collaboration with Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), these gender and REDD+ roadmaps were developed through multi-stakeholder workshops convening national policy makers, women's organizations, gender experts, and other actors. The workshops facilitated training on gender and REDD+, a dialogue about country-specific gender issues, and the proposal of actions leading to gender-sensitive national REDD+ processes.

Across the developing world, women are both the primary users of forest resources and the main producers of food through agricultural activities, while also performing important roles in the conservation of natural resources. Women are active in the collection of forest products for various household and entrepreneurial uses.

However, the central role of women as contributors to forest management and conservation has traditionally gone unrecognized. In many developing countries, women lack access to income-generating forest activities and land tenure rights, and benefit sharing schemes are largely gender blind. REDD+ initiatives could pose significant risks and bear harmful impacts on women and men at the community level. Women-specific risks include violation of women's rights, increased vulnerability of women, inequitable distribution of benefits, and invisibility of women's role as major stakeholders and agents of change. Unfortunately, global deliberations regarding the development of REDD+ have not fully considered the gender dimension, and only a few pilot projects have taken actions to incorporate gender perspectives.







Ghana

“With the fundamentally important role that women play in farming and the benefits that they derive from this sector to substantively contribute to the upkeep of their families, forest policies need to be more ‘gender-oriented.’ Although this is gradually on the rise in Ghana, more action needs to be taken by the government, NGOs and other actors.”

Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana

In Ghana, the majority of the population is dependent on rain-fed agriculture and forests for their livelihoods. This exposes them to climate variability. The country’s declining forest cover mostly occurred during the 1970s and over the past thirty years, with some reserves seeing forest cover shrink by 98 per cent during this period. Loss of forest resources has increased poverty, depleted arable land through soil erosion, and increased ethnic conflict over scarce agricultural land (Adeleke, 2011). Some of the immediate drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana include timber harvesting, agricultural expansion and pastoralism, commercialization of non-timber forest products, rubber plantations, extraction of firewood and charcoal for energy, mining, and bush fires (Agyarko, 2007; Adeleke, 2011). On top of this, population growth has expanded urban settlements; the policy landscape has not protected forests; and demand for Ghana’s timber, cocoa, and minerals has increased domestically and internationally (Bogetec, 2007; Blackett & Gardette, 2008).

In September 2011, IUCN along with partners WEDO and Participatory Development Associates organized a women’s workshop entitled *Mainstreaming Gender into REDD processes in Ghana*, which contributed to the development of Ghana’s gender and REDD+ roadmap. Participants found that men in Ghana were more likely to be involved in extracting timber for commercial purposes and *galamsey* (small-scale mining), while women typically gather forest products for fuel, food, fodder, and raw materials for natural medicines and charcoal burning (see Table 29). Women in Ghana usually have user rights, but traditional practices prevent them from inheriting land in the northern regions, despite constitutional law that guarantees equal rights to all. Women participate less in decision making because of lower levels of literacy, limited time due to household responsibilities, and economic dependency on their male counterparts.

Gender Differences in Forest Use and Benefits in Ghana

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN FOREST USE IN GHANA	
Men	Felling trees/timber, galamsey, hunting, sand winning, harvesting honey, performing rituals, fetching herbs, palm wine tapping, charcoal burning, and forest management activities (trees and planting).
Women	Collecting fuel wood, planting crops, collecting non-timber forest products (NTFPs; e.g. fuel-wood, snails, mushroom, cola nuts, spices), leaves for wrapping food, wild fruits, charcoal burning, fetching water, and farming.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN FOREST BENEFITS IN GHANA	
Men	Cash benefits (e.g. logging) to sell lumber.
Women	Mostly non-cash, but consumptive (e.g. water for household consumption).

Ghana submitted its REDD Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in 2007, and its REDD Readiness Plan (R-PP) was approved in March 2010, issuing in a grant of US\$ 3.4 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for its implementation through 2013. The activities covered by this grant include a review of land tenure arrangements, the improvement of forest law enforcement and trade, REDD+ friendly cocoa production, and improvement of the productivity of farmlands through sustainable agriculture, organic farming, and agro-forestry. This presents a variety of both opportunities and risks for women and for gender equality, which were outlined during the women's workshop in September 2011 (see below).

Risks and Opportunities for Gender and REDD+ in Ghana

Opportunities	Risk/Challenges
READINESS PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women networks and platforms created for knowledge sharing, advocacy, and lobbying on use of forest resources. • Breaking of myths about women's use of the forest. • Capacity building leading to women's involvement in decision making and participation in forestry projects. • Career opportunities for young women in forestry, surveying, information and communications technology, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender barriers due to sociocultural practices. • Economic dependency syndrome: Women depend more on their husbands for livelihoods hence are not able to raise their own financial resources. • High illiteracy rates among women: This affects women's participation in capacity programmes where English is the medium of communication. The use of technical jargons also hinders their understanding. • Poor targeting: Elite capture of benefits, to the detriment of local people who are the intended beneficiaries. • Lack of funding: Women lack savings and investment culture hence prevents them to pre-finance their initiatives. • Inappropriate gender advocacy approach, such as confrontations, will affect support for gender mainstreaming by men. • Strong patriarchal values and slow pace in adapting to new concepts, ideas, and attitudes. • The challenge to recognise the diversity of women.

Risks and Opportunities for Gender and REDD+ in Ghana (Continued)

Opportunities	Risk/Challenges
IMPLEMENTATION PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve women’s livelihood and poverty reduction: Women will obtain benefits such as income from the sale of NTFPs, such as mushroom, snails, etc. • Empowerment of women: As women come together to share knowledge through networks, they also build self-confidence, which enhances their participation in programmes. • Reduce domestic violence as women are able to contribute to household decision making. • Increase participation in forest management as women become aware of their rights in community-based forest management practices. • Women are equipped with good management skills as they come to learn more about forest management and the need to conserve the forest for the next generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tendency to ignore women’s views in decision making. • Women’s lack of capacity to do monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) due to low education levels. • Lack of land use policy and gender responsive land administration act. • Lack of knowledge of women on forest laws. • Gender disparities in land access due to sociocultural norms and practices. • Unequal rules of inheritance of resources between men and women. • Limited economic empowerment for women to seek justice on land issues in the court. • Lack of women’s capacity to be involved in forest management programmes. • Intimidation from men on land issues. • Small land holdings by women resulting in limited benefits.
CONSOLIDATION PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to resources especially NTFPs including mushroom, snails, wild fruits, etc. • Gender equity in benefit sharing. • Improved and diversified livelihood due to increased income. • Improved nutrition. • Opportunity to plant trees and get payment for services. • Increased opportunity for transparency and accountability; opportunity for women to demand accountability. • Improved health: reduced maternal and infant mortality due to increased income. • Ability to use land title documents as collateral. • Increased income leading to an increase in girl child education. • Ownership of information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to and control over land by women (land tenure). Land is largely owned by men in Ghana, and in certain areas where women inherit land their control over the land is often limited. • Low participation of women in forest management programmes. Since women’s access to land is low, their participation in forest management programmes would be very minimal. • Low level of education among women. • Illiteracy rate among women is high, thus they lack the capacity to be involved in forest management programmes. • Cultural practices and patriarchal values. • When it comes to sharing of benefits, the men take charge and the women are left out. • Multiple roles of women; Women may not have enough time to get involved in forest management programmes as men do, and thus may not benefit. • Loss of livelihood; If not properly managed, women will lose farmlands and become poorer. • Food insecurity; Because of the benefits that would be derived from REDD programmes, there may be the temptation to convert food crop lands into forestation projects and this may lead to food shortages.

The discussion of social impacts of REDD+ in Ghana’s R-PP report is weak in relation to the gender dimension, limited to inclusions of the following nature:

“...special consideration should be given to livelihoods, rights, cultural heritage, *gender*, vulnerable groups, governance, capacity building and biodiversity.”

“...one of the team members will be experienced in social impact assessment, including *gender* issues...”

Building on the women’s workshop as well as the national strategy session with policymakers, Ghana’s gender and REDD+ roadmap responds to this gap with concrete actions, examples of which are outlined on page 108.





Uganda

“There is a need to understand and to remedy the continued lack of involvement of women in forest management. Increasing global interconnectedness, international trade and climate change will likely add to the vulnerability of women’s rights to resources in rural settings in developing countries such as Uganda.”

CIFOR Working Paper on Gender, tenure and community forests in Uganda

About 2.7 million Ugandans representing 15 per cent of the population depend directly on forest resources, and over 90 per cent of the population uses forest resources for their major source of energy. Forest law has not prevented harvesting timber from private lands, which makes up 70 per cent of Uganda’s forest cover, and protected forests are being used by encroachers from other regions (Nsita, 2010; Republic of Uganda, 2011). The major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda consist of agricultural expansion in forested lands, charcoal production, firewood harvesting, livestock grazing, timber production and human settlement and urbanization (Government of Uganda, 2011). Other factors include policy deficiencies related to land tenure and access rights, market distortions and misinformation, and weak institutional oversight. Population growth and migration, livestock grazing, timber, and charcoal have increased the demand for agricultural land (Republic of Uganda 2001, 2011). The increased demand for industrial land in urban and peri-urban areas has led to the degazetting, or removal of official protection status, of nearly 1,000 hectares of forest reserves.

In October-November 2011, the Gender Mainstreaming and REDD+ Workshop was organized in Uganda to contribute to the country’s gender and REDD+ roadmap. Workshop participants indicated that Ugandan women have limited access to forest resources, and even then, women can only access the edges of the forest while men can harvest resources deeper in the forests. While women collect forest resources for household needs, such as firewood, herbal medicine, craft materials, and small-scale thatching materials, men collect timber, charcoal, and building poles. Women face constraints in their participation in forestry management committees due to cultural expectations and the burden of a heavy workload, and they also face land tenure challenges. When forests disappear, women are affected by the loss of traditional medicinal plants and food varieties, change of diet as indigenous foods disappear, increasing diseases among their family such as diarrhoea, loss of wind protection for houses, long distances travelled to collect firewood, and insecurity for women and girls (see following page).

Gender Differences in Forest Use in Uganda

	WOMEN	MEN
Activities carried out in the forest	Collecting wild vegetables and mushrooms; worshipping ancestors; gathering construction materials; collecting fruits, herbs, fuel wood, water, and handicraft materials; farming food; hunting.	Gathering timber, poles, and grass for building materials; honey harvesting; conducting scientific research; hunting birds and small animals; burning charcoal; gathering fruit; thatching grass; grazing animals; enjoying adventure and recreation; conducting rituals; cultivating; gathering fodder; worshipping ancestors; mining, fishing; meditating.
Part of the forest visited	Forest edges and water points (Note: Educated women can go anywhere).	Whole forest, men go into deep parts of the forest.
Resources obtain from the forest	Water, food, firewood, medicine, construction materials, fodder for animals, handicraft materials, weaving materials.	Medicine, construction materials, wild meat, fish, honey, timber, charcoal, poles, food, medicine, water, fodder for animals.
Non cash benefits obtain from the forest	Close connection with nature, good health, food security, rite of passage, nutrition, shelter.	Food security, spiritual healing, connection with ancestors, shelter, recreation and courtship, rite of passage.
Cash benefits obtain from the forest	Handicrafts, herbs, firewood.	Meat, minerals, animal skin.

Uganda submitted its R-PIN to the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund in June 2008, and its R-PP in April 2011. Before entering into a Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, Uganda is expected to strengthen some elements of its proposal, including the development of a strategy for participation and consultation. With these forthcoming changes to Uganda's REDD+ planning in mind, participants in IUCN's national workshop outlined the opportunities and risks for women and for gender equality (see below).

Opportunities and Risks for Gender and REDD+ in Uganda

Opportunities	Risk/Challenges
READINESS PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that women are in top leadership positions in institutions responsible for REDD+. Consulting women at community level. Bringing women's organizations on board to fully participate on policy and laws related to REDD+. Exploring the different types of tenure systems and forest types. Building capacity of NGO's, CBO's to address gender. Improving security of tenure for women by planting boundary trees. Identifying context issues on how women will benefit from REDD+. Targeting the education system to include a gender-sensitive ecosystem approach in the curricula. Reaching women's movement participants and Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association to explain climate issues in relation to REDD+ and get their support. Consulting with gender and forest task force on laws and policies that relate to women (by REDD+ focal point). Identifying the contextual issues in relation to women and harmonizing with REDD+ pilots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of an effective communication strategy. Limited information dissemination to women. Weak land policy reforms targeting women. Cultural barriers limiting women's participation and leadership roles. Limited time to participate due to already too much workload. Lack of alternative sources of energy and income-generating activities. Lack of comprehensive consultations at all levels. Few pilot demonstrations targeting women due to few resources. Limited support to women's initiatives since forestry is low among government priorities. Planning at the local level not linked to national level process especially for women. Emerging disasters that may affect women necessitating relocation. Women in NGO's have insufficient information about REDD+. Poor linkages from the local to planning authorities. No deliberate effort to involve women in consultation and participation. Correct information may not reach women during consultation.

Opportunities and Risks for Gender and REDD+ in Uganda (Continued)

Opportunities	Risk/Challenges
IMPLEMENTATION PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from forest dependency to alternative activities like bee keeping, ecotourism. • Women’s concerns of tree planting addressed. • Legislation reforms in the forestry and land sectors that benefit women. • Incorporation of new amendments in relevant laws such as the Domestic Relations Bill, Succession Act, etc. • Access to resources and information for example access to botanical information and benefits for women. • Increased participation of women in forest use and management. • Formation of women’s forest conservation groups. • Capacity building of women. • Formulation of safeguards to protect women’s land rights. • Involvement of women in REDD+ implementation activities. • Equal participation in decision-making process regarding land use. • Increasing entrepreneurship skill. • Involvement in decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women may not be employed in key REDD+ positions. • Women’s organizations may not get information in all phases of REDD+ Implementation. • REDD+ funds may not target women’s organizations. • Limited decision making at household level by women may limit their benefits. • Women may have limited time to participate in REDD+ activities. • Men may not allow women to participate in REDD+ activities. • Women lack skill to use monitoring and evaluation tools. • Poor implementation of land tenure laws. • Women do not own land (only 16 per cent nationally). • Women not informed about forest laws and reforms.
CONSOLIDATION PHASE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and knowledge sharing on forest management for communities. • Access to formal and informal education for girls. • Capacity building for the youth especially girls in technical aspects of REDD+. • Skills development in vocational skills preferred by women. • Elimination of stereotyped roles in the forestry sector. • Increased dialogues on forest use and management. • Increased access and control to forest resources. • Involvement of women in MRV. • Legal protection of rights of women including contracts. • Increased incomes from payments for environmental services. • Involvement in other forms of employment. • Non-cash benefits, food production, nutrition, etc. • Use of alternative and improved sources of energy. • Improved healthy and clean environment. • Forest conservation and women protection fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak capacity by women to negotiate. • Conflicts with regard to benefit sharing at household levels. • Likely frustration hence reverting to negative environmental practices. • Women may de-campaign REDD among the younger population. • Limited land ownership by women affecting equitable sharing of benefits. • Threat to women’s priority for food security at household level. • Limited understanding of the technical aspects of REDD+ hindering women’s meaningful participation. • Traditional viewpoint that “property cannot own property,” i.e. women do not own property.

Uganda is one of the few countries in which gender considerations are included in the REDD+ planning process, which highlights the impact of deforestation and firewood scarcity on the lives of women and children. Women have been included in regional consultations, and gender is listed alongside the crosscutting issues of HIV/AIDS, culture, and poverty. Uganda’s Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is named as a member of the national committees related to REDD+, and the Ministry has been given the mandate in the context of REDD+ implementation to usher policies on gender and community development and to provide data on culture and indigenous people. While these provisions are a good start, Uganda’s REDD+ planning could more clearly articulate a comprehensive gender mainstreaming process, perhaps linking to the country’s forest policy, which includes both gender and equity as guiding principles.





Cameroon

“REDD is an undeniable opportunity for the countries of Central Africa, home to the second largest forest in the world. This workshop in Cameroon is one of the first national processes in the world on the issue of gender in REDD. It’s therefore a very important journey, and will ensure that this new initiative called REDD+ is gender sensitive. The Cameroon roadmap will structure actions so that participants can be brave ambassadors of gender in REDD.”

Rémi Jiagho, IUCN Cameroon

The Congo Basin rainforest is the second largest in the world after the Amazon, as well as one of the most biologically diverse, with 10,000 plant species that provide a wealth of resources to the people of Cameroon and the adjacent countries of Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Cameroon’s forests have been diminished by fragmentation, landslides, volcanoes, fires, parasites, and changes in water level (Zongang, 2011). While agriculture is responsible for 80-95 per cent of deforestation in Cameroon, other human activities that affect these forests include legal and illegal logging, firewood use, mining, creation of roads, and movement of rural populations towards urban centres (Dkamela, 2011). In addition, large-scale banana, rubber, and palm oil (biofuels) plantations have been established, which is distinct from informal and industrial logging (Zongang, 2011).

In September 2011, similar to the process in Ghana and Uganda, women’s organizations and gender experts in Cameroon attended a workshop to receive training and develop priorities, followed by a national workshop to develop the country’s gender and REDD+ roadmap in which policy makers joined the participants. During the women’s workshop, it was found that women often dominate the collection and marketing of non-timber forest products but do not have secure access to these products or the land that contains them. Women mostly have access to the forest to facilitate collecting, harvesting and usage of mangroves, farming, and fishing, among other daily activities that are at the heart of household survival. Women do not have access to timber (see following page).

Gender Differences in Forest Uses in Cameroon

	WOMEN	MEN
Activities carried out in the forest	Picking, harvesting, collection of fuel wood, fishing, wood exploitation for home and traditional uses, collection of NTFP for food and medication, subsistence and cash crop farming, forestry, cosmetics, rituals, water harvesting, and crafts and weaving.	Prospecting, fishing, touristic guide, timber for building (homes) or for sale, logging, cash crop production, picking / harvesting, dressing, relaxation, rituals, medication, hunting.
Part of the forest visited	Privately owned nearby virgin forests, outskirts of the village, nearby demolished forests. streams, sacred areas.	Everywhere in the forest (inside and at the outskirts), core of the forest.
Resources obtain from the forest	NTFPs, wood, animals, raw materials for craft work, medicine, fuel wood, food, barks, aquatic products, and water.	Food, medicine, industrial wood, fuel wood, raw material for craftwork, fish, trophies, aquatic products, honey, mineral resources.
Benefits obtain from the forest	<p>NON CASH: Food, health, use of medicinal plants, cosmetic products, harmony with nature, cultural benefits.</p> <p>CASH: Local sales of products from harvest (e.g. NTFP), diversified and increased source of income.</p>	<p>NON CASH: Health; nutritional benefits; cultural enrichment; emotional, psychological, and spiritual satisfaction.</p> <p>CASH: Economic benefits and diversification of activities and sources of income.</p>

Cameroon submitted its R-PIN to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in July 2008 and received a grant for elaboration of its R-PP in November 2010. Cameroon has developed proposals in relation to strengthening its participatory process to formulate a national REDD strategy and creating institutional arrangements to manage the national process. If accepted, Cameroon will be eligible for US\$ 3.4 million for the implementation of its REDD plans (Dkamela, 2011). In anticipation of the launch of Cameroon's REDD initiative, participants in IUCN's national workshop outlined the opportunities, risks, and challenges for women and for gender equality (see below).

Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges for Gender and REDD+ in Cameroon

Opportunities	Risks	Challenges
READINESS PHASE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opening of the government to involve all stakeholders. Existence of supporters who promote the recognition of women as key players in REDD+. Existence of a few pilot projects that promote the effective participation of disadvantaged groups in the REDD process (e.g. IUCN's pro-poor REDD+ project). On-going reform of the forestry law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not taking into account the agendas of women and the use of a methodology that does not guarantee the participation of women. Women not being warned / informed for better participation. Low involvement of women and civil society in decision-making bodies. Persistence of customs and practices discriminatory to women's land and forest tenure. Failure to take account of gender in forestry and land laws. Not taking into consideration women's strategic needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain dialogue with senior government and stakeholders. Develop consultation strategies that ensure women's participation. Capacity building of women. Effective involvement of women in decision-making process.

Continued

Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges for Gender and REDD+ in Cameroon (Continued)

Opportunities	Risks	Challenges
IMPLEMENTATION PHASE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of women’s organizations and civil society organizations that are gender-sensitive. • Existence of the partners involved in REDD+. • Current and proposed reforms (land law and forest). • Environmental and social safeguards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of territories and rights of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities. • Social exclusion and profit capture by men. • No adhesion of women to the process. • Biodiversity loss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of women. • Transfer of appropriate technologies. • Equitable access to forest resources, including in relation to payments for environmental services. • Effective involvement of women in decision-making process.
CONSOLIDATION PHASE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of women in the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of REDD+. • Creation of MRV committees. • Financial benefits brought by REDD+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to take into account women on an equal basis with men. • Not taking into account the practical needs of women. • Not taking into account the conservation efforts of women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s priorities are taken into account. • Effective involvement of women in decision-making process. • Transfer of new technologies for forest management suitable to women. • Elimination of stereotypes on the role of women in the forestry sector. • Capitalizing on women’s practical experience in forest management.

Cameroon’s national REDD+ process has not addressed gender considerations to date. However, the R-PIN recognizes the African Women’s Network for Sustainable Development as one of the regional networks that works with forest dwelling indigenous people and other forest dwellers. The government has recently shown interest in addressing the gender dimension in their consultation process and is considering conducting training sessions with local women from different regions. Since Cameroon has not developed its national strategy, this represents a unique opportunity to incorporate gender considerations from the outset of the process.

The gender and REDD+ roadmap processes in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon produced innovative actions to empower women and promote gender equality in these countries’ REDD+ planning phases. The following page provides a sample of the proposed actions in these three countries.



Sample of Proposed Actions in the Gender and REDD+ Roadmaps of Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon

COUNTRY	ACTIONS
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify good practices and actions in other forest management/conservation initiatives that have fully and effectively integrate women. • Provide orientation sessions to the judicial system on women’s rights issues pertinent to the forest sector. • Build the capacities of the women and forest task force, women’s organizations, local women, and gender desk officers from the pilot communities to participate in MRV.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the safeguards selected for Uganda, and create new safeguards when necessary, to prevent violation and enhance women rights, with attention to land and natural resource use and control; full and effective consultation and participation; fair access to information and education to enable decision making and consent; and equitable access and distribution of benefits. • Inform local women of their rights and safeguards, and build their capacity to use conflict and grievance management systems. • Foster a dialogue with traditional authorities and local government institutions (i.e. local and women’s councils) on women’s rights issues pertinent to forest sector.
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop training materials on sustainable management of forests and REDD+ issues that are accessible to women. • Integrate gender considerations in the current reform of forestry law in accordance with international legislation on women’s rights. • Capacity building for local girls on technical issues to ensure their involvement in REDD+ (through the development of a school curricula, scholarships, vocational training, and internship programs).

An essential point of departure for the gender and REDD+ roadmaps—and a driving principle throughout—is to ensure that both women and men are fully recognized as important forest stakeholders: that they are afforded equal opportunity to build the required capacity on REDD+, meaningfully contribute to government-led REDD+ planning processes, and, in the long run, benefit from this and other forestry and climate change mechanisms.



National strategy workshop in Ghana



National strategy workshop in Uganda



REDD+ and gender workshop in Cameroon



An essential point of departure for the gender and REDD+ roadmaps—and a driving principle throughout—is to ensure that both women and men are fully recognized as important forest stakeholders.



The Way Forward

The ccGAPs and REDD+ roadmaps signal that countries value gender mainstreaming in a concrete manner—but these strategies are just the beginning. Governments, civil society, international institutions, and other stakeholders have a considerable road to travel in order to ensure gender equality in climate change decision making.

The ccGAPs inspire hope and action in a complex multilateral world of climate change far too often stuck in the inanimate universe of negotiating text. The national strategies create coherence and stimulate cooperation between different government departments and other stakeholders dealing with gender and climate change. Through the multi-stakeholder engagement process, the strategies increase public awareness of climate change and gender equality issues, to stimulate interest, participation, and consultations with different stakeholders in developing climate change policy, and to increase capacity of those national actors to continue their involvement.

In essence, the ccGAPs are building a momentum for positive change.

Governments and other institutions interested in pursuing or supporting national strategies in other countries should contact the IUCN Global Gender Office:

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The IUCN Global Gender Office

Established in 1948, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization. IUCN convenes more than 1,200 member organizations including over 200 governments and over 900 non-government organizations, as well as more than 10,000 voluntary scientists and experts around the world.

As a Centre of Excellence sought out by major organisations, conventions, and governments seeking scientific and technical advice, the IUCN Global Gender Office enjoys worldwide recognition for the extensive work it has carried out over the past two decades addressing gender issues within the environmental sector. IUCN's breadth of experience on the gender and environment nexus has marshalled in this new wave of national efforts on gender and climate change. The Global Gender Office's key achievements include:

- **Developed more than 70 sector-specific gender tools.** Expertise spans biodiversity, climate change, coastal and marine management, dry lands, energy, forestry (including REDD+), protected areas, sustainable use, and water. A training manual on gender and climate change is available in five languages and has been referenced on more than 14,000 websites.
- **Trained more than 15,000 people throughout the world.** Governments, civil society, universities, and development organizations have all built capacity through these trainings. Orientation sessions for government delegates from over 100 countries have become a driving force behind the use of a gender perspective in national policy and planning.
- **Guided the development of major institutional gender frameworks.** IUCN partnered with UNEP, CBD, and UNCCD to develop and operationalize their gender action plans and policies and collaborated with numerous governments to develop national gender and climate change strategies and national gender and REDD+ roadmaps.
- **Spearheaded strategic collaborations to take gender to a global stage.** IUCN co-founded the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), which convenes over 60 UN agencies and civil society organizations, and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment.

Annex 1: Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
ccGAP	Climate Change Gender Action Plan
CEDARE	Center for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe
CFUG	Community Forestry User Group
COP	Conference of the Parties
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
ESARO	IUCN's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
FMICA	Women's Forum for Central American Integration
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGCA	Global Gender and Climate Alliance
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
INAMU	National Women's Institute
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LAPA	Location Adaptation Plan for Action
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
R-PIN	REDD Readiness Plan Idea Notes
RPP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ROWA	IUCN's Regional Office for West Asia
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance
SICA	Central American Integration System
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

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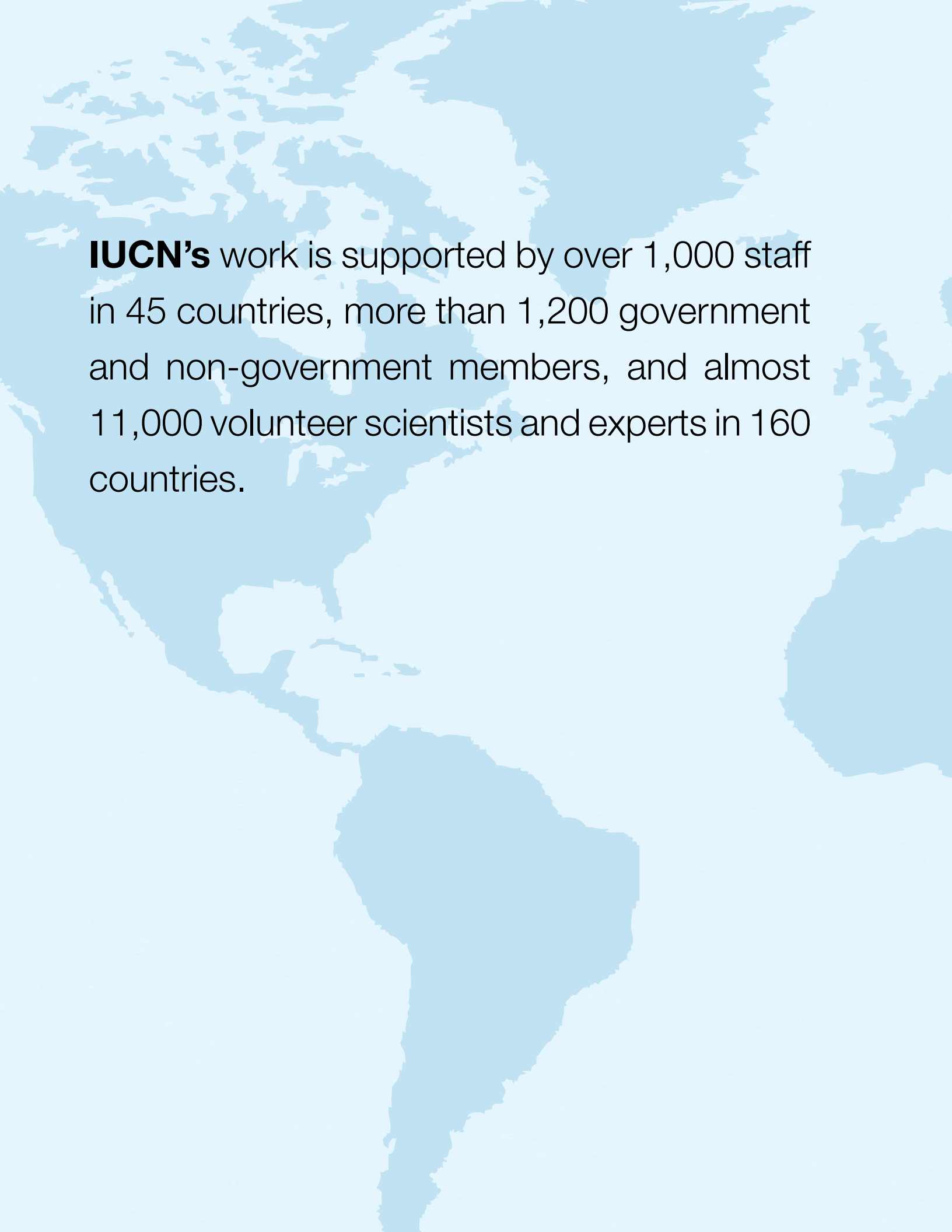
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