

## Gender and environment Indicator

Women represent more than half the world's population. They stand in the front line in terms of poverty, yet provide <sup>Key</sup> invaluable contributions to sustaining communities around the world and managing the earth's biodiversity <sup>Diversity of plant & animal.</sup> and natural resources. Despite their role and know-how, women's contribution is regularly undervalued and ignored. Furthermore, women are uniquely vulnerable to environmental degradation. For example, it is well established that environmental hazards are among the major causes of global death and disease and that the burden falls disproportionately on women and young children, especially in less developed countries.

Emerging realities point to three sets of gender and environment issues that are closely linked with the goals of any environment strategy, (a) gender equitable access to resources, (b) inclusive <sup>society determine to act on goals & priorities</sup> environmental governance, and (c) <sup>flexible</sup> resilience strategies that can contribute to more sustainable and equitable natural resource-based growth; <sup>to manage the natural resources / Rule & Behaviours / decision making.</sup> manage environmental risks and transform the growth path by promoting inclusive governance. In the area of access to resources, there is a need to spell out how to improve poor men and women's access to, use and ownership of the resources needed for household livelihood, health, and well-being. <sup>a)</sup> Inclusive environmental governance will be an important area, as the environment strategy provides many linkages to expand women's access to opportunities which influence environmental governance at local, national and global levels through inclusive institutions and decision-making processes. <sup>b)</sup> The third set of gender issues is the resilience strategies that recognize the growing importance of climate change and large-scale natural disasters and the gender based impacts; and addresses how to enhance the success of household and community strategies for coping with environmental changes. <sup>c)</sup>

For the environment Strategy, together with global and national level programs, a targeted focus should be retained on local-level poverty reduction because it provides an important entry point for addressing key gender inequalities at the household level through <sup>(Solutions:-</sup> enhancing livelihoods, preventing and reducing environmental health risks related to air, water and sanitation, improving access to governance, and reducing people's vulnerability to environmental hazards including natural disasters and climate change. It would be important develop programs that enable both women and men benefit socially and economically from transformative economic growth and new green development approaches, participate in environment/ natural resource decision-making at all levels and have the capacity and resources to cope with environmental risks and hazards. <sup>a)</sup>

A portfolio review of projects coded as Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) found uneven gender integration over the years. However, the trend is increasing and 36 percent

ENRM projects were found gender responsive in 2009. Impact evaluations indicate that gender responsive programs not only enhanced social and economic opportunities for poor women, but also contributed to improved outcomes and development effectiveness. Various gender-responsive activities were undertaken by ENRM portfolio, for example, within the forestry, land and water management, the focus is on women's participation in the design, implementation and decision-making, and in environmental governance projects include activities to assist women build social capital and enhancing opportunities for women's representation in implementing and decision making bodies.

### Thematic Recommendations:

#### Gender Equitable Resource Access

1. Expand women's opportunities to own land, together <sup>piece of property</sup> with improved access to productive inputs and environmentally-friendly (green) enterprises and clean technology solutions.
2. Formalize sustainable <sup>legal right of using something belonging to other</sup> usufruct rights for other natural resources on common property and publicly-owned lands for both women and men.
3. Expand men's and women's knowledge and participation in reducing exposure to environmental hazards.

*Incorporating*

#### Inclusive Environmental Governance

- Strengthen gender mainstreaming efforts at the national policy level through support to linkage and capacity development activities among environment and women's ministries and specialized bodies such as those working on climate change processes,
- Improve women's participation at national, regional and local levels by including representatives from a range of women's organizations to environmental governance bodies and processes. Build capacity to help individual women, women leaders, <sup>planning/control</sup> women's organization and gender-focused NGOs become more effective participants. Reduce logistical barriers to women's participation by convenient meeting locations, schedules and transport overcoming language barriers; and awareness and support of men in these activities.
- Expand women's involvement in demand-side accountability mechanisms for environmental governance (e.g. gender audits; citizen report cards).
- Quotas for women's representation are relevant in some situations but need to be coupled with gender training to ensure men's support.



## Poverty, Gender and Environment Links,

- Poverty drives dependence on natural resources for survival. Yet increasingly wealthier groups, sometimes facilitated by state policies, are gaining control over and degrading resources for profit, leaving the poor with diminishing options.
- Natural resource collection tasks have an opportunity cost and reduce girls' and women's available time for education, skill development, social, economic and governance activities; and they are caught in the vicious cycle of poverty. In developing countries, women spend between two to nine hours per day on fuel wood and fodder collection and cooking activities. Asian and African women typically walk six kilometers per day to collect water.
- Natural resource collection tasks often have a negative impact on women's health and their economic productivity. To transport firewood, fodder or water, Asian and African women often carry 20 kilogram loads on their heads. Water shortages often lead to an abandonment of hygienic practices due to other pressing water needs. This results in increased incidence of diarrheal diseases and more demands on women and girls for family health caretaking duties. As of 2000, indoor air pollution, which disproportionately affects women and children, accounted for up to two million excess deaths per year in developing countries, from cancer, respiratory infections and lung diseases.
- Loss of biodiversity <sup>make worse</sup> exacerbates poverty for women and their families. Many rural women and their families depend upon non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for income, traditional medicines, nutrition and seed sources.

## Strengthening and Expanding Resilience Strategies

1. Expand women's opportunities to participate in disaster planning and recovery governance activities; and climate-related capacity building.
2. Ensure gender-equitable access to community-based initiatives and carbon markets incentives and benefits.
3. Expand the availability and affordability of pro-poor, accessible insurance products.

## Thematic Gender Indicator

Gender Issue	Indicator
Outcome indicator for access to resources	Changes in resource ownership or user access for project clients, disaggregated by sex or sex of head of client households (e.g av. no. of hectares of land owned; water source ownership; livestock ownership),
Outcome indicator for access to resources & resilience strategies	Changes in access to services and facilities, disaggregated by male-headed and female-headed households (e.g irrigation, electrification, water supply, public and private sanitation, transportation) or men and women clients /beneficiaries.
Outcome indicator for access to resources	Changes in income from imported resource management practices (e.g fishing aquaculture, forest-related products), disaggregated by male-headed and female-headed households or men and women clients/beneficiaries.
Outcome indicator for access to environmental governance	Percentage of women and men who are active members of on-going environmental decision-making bodies at the national, regional and local levels; and for project or program activities.

### Operational Recommendations:

1. Establish gender targets, management oversight and expertise in the environment department, and provide regular gender and environment training to staff.
2. Increase budget allocations for gender mainstreaming in the design and implementation of projects.
3. Develop a guidance note on mainstreaming gender equality in environmental programming.
4. Utilize gender analysis to develop gender-responsive design; use of gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation, supervision and reporting to ensure that proposed actions are implemented and monitored.
5. Monitor sex-disaggregated indicators environmental programming on the three key changes in women's status (i.e. women's access to resources, access to environmental governance and adoption of resilience strategies).