



PAVING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

**IUCN Global Gender Office overview
of achievements and key deliverables**

July 2017

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Gender Office (GGO) has long believed and invested in the transformative potential of equality—empowering women and men alike as change agents to overcome the most pressing of interlinked environmental and sustainable development challenges.

Long before the global community forged the Millennium Development Goals or agreed gender-sensitive mandates for environmental action via the Rio Conventions, IUCN began proactively addressing gender equality in its programme as early as 1984; in 1998, the IUCN Council adopted a Gender Policy Statement and Action Plan. The gender policy states that “IUCN’s commitment to gender equality and equity is Union wide [and] should be an integral part of all policies, programs and projects.”

Today, IUCN Global Gender Office is situated under IUCN’s Global Programme on Governance and Rights to help ensure an inclusive and rights-based approach across the Union. Our work includes technical support to members and partners in every region of the world and across IUCN offices and programmes and is recognised as the largest and most technically diverse gender team of any international environmentally focused organisation. IUCN GGO enjoys worldwide recognition for its accomplishments and credits countless partners, from donor institutions to government policymaking and implementing agencies, to civil society organisations and networks from across the globe, for forging the path together toward a more sustainable and just world.

The following pages capture some of our achievements from over the last 20+ years.

Supporting the Parties, stakeholders and Secretariats of the Rio Conventions to agree and implement gender equality mandates—and harmonising an approach among them

IUCN GGO has been a trusted partner of the three Rio Conventions—the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—since their inception, supporting the Secretariats and gender focal points in particular to identify gender considerations and to implement mandates agreed by the Parties. IUCN GGO has played a convening role among the Secretariats, as well as with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and has coordinated efforts among them to strengthen the synergies across environmental policy-making and programming efforts. Strong relationships with the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions, as well as with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, position IUCN GGO as the primary partner for technical support across the multilateral environmental agreement arena.

Advancing knowledge, analysis and practical tools for gender-responsive action across the environmental sphere

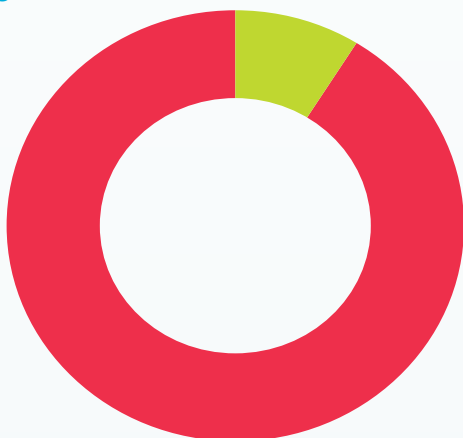
Over the past two decades, IUCN has developed more than 70 sector-specific gender tools. For example, the GGO developed in 2008 the world's first [training manual](#) on gender and climate change —translated into all UN languages and downloaded thousands of times from dozens of countries around the globe. Embracing and completely updating this first manual, in 2015 it developed the most expansive [scoping of gender and climate concerns across sectors](#), including a full chapter of case studies. Cutting-edge knowledge platforms on [gender and renewable energy](#) and on [gender and REDD+](#), not to mention practical, [step-by-step tools](#) for conducting gender analyses and developing gender-responsive policies, programme and projects, are but a few examples from over the years of the innovative, forward-looking research and knowledge products created by IUCN GGO. The office has also been sought out as a technical expert on a range of interlinked issues, taking part in the drafting of numerous standard-setting publications, for example most recently the [UNEP Global Gender and Environment Outlook](#).



Building the understanding and capacity of tens of thousands of women and men—from government negotiators to the grassroots in every region—on the linkages between gender equality and environmental sustainability

At global level, trainings of trainers and delegate orientation sessions have contributed to a tide-shift in climate change negotiations; at regional level, unique webinar series have connected leaders and practitioners on advancing a gender-responsive renewable energy sector; and at country level, government policymakers and women and women’s organisations have come together, building a common understanding of the legal framework for protecting and promoting women’s rights in environmental action and integrating gender equality considerations in policies, initiatives and programmes. In 2015 alone, more than 1,500 women and men from dozens of countries engaged in GGO capacity building workshops and trainings. IUCN GGO exceeded that number in 2016. IUCN GGO has, for example, embarked on a collaboration with IUCN-Netherlands to train national project partners in sixteen countries to ensure gender equality is well integrated in the strategies, actions and outputs of the “Shared Resources, Joint Solutions” initiative—one that aims to promote climate resilience and food and water security across regions.

Budget allocated for women/gender-focused activities in the most recent NBSAPs



Enhancing institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming—from UN agencies, to multilateral partnerships, donor agencies and international NGOs

In addition to targeted thematic and sector-specific capacity building efforts, IUCN GGO has vast experience supporting institutions and organisations of all sizes, at all levels, and across all regions in developing the various competencies and putting into place enabling arrangements for establishing gender equality mandates and mapping steps to their full realisation. Having facilitated Gender Action Plans for UNEP, UNCCD and CBD, as well as finance mechanisms as noted below, IUCN GGO is uniquely placed to support the implementation of these activities; opportunities to engage representatives across ministries (e.g. Environment, Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries), sectors, and departments of multiple donor governments, including recently Sweden and Switzerland, as well as women’s institutions—such as women’s donor networks and national women’s mechanisms and ministries—has further forged spaces for deep understanding of, commitments to and strategies for gender-responsive action across the environmental arena. Implementing concrete actions defined in Gender Action Plans (for example CBD’s) has also been a unique extension of IUCN GGO’s expertise: in 2016, for example, thanks to support from the Japanese Biodiversity Fund, a pilot initiative in Mexico, Uganda and Brazil integrated gender and women’s priority issues into those countries draft National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

9%

Include a budget for gender-focused activities

91%

Do not include a budget for gender-focused activities

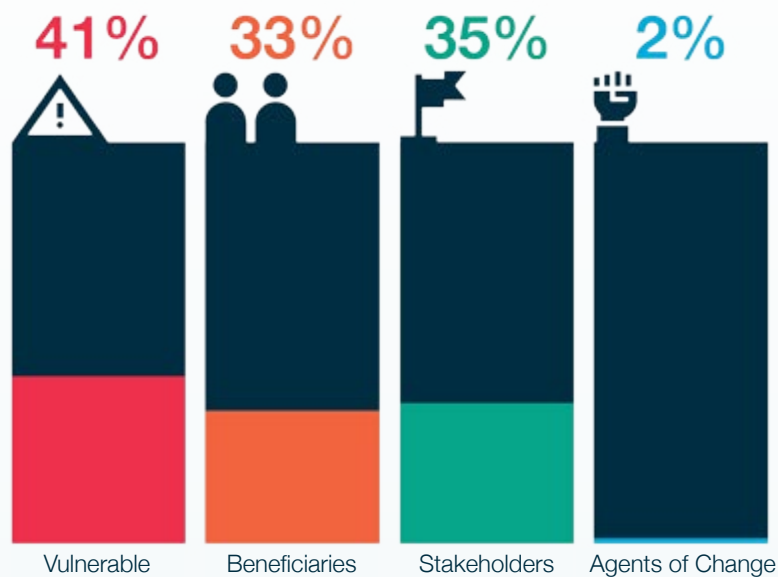
Providing knowledge to guide actions: the Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform

The EGI platform aims—through data and analysis—to convey the value of gender-responsive environmental conservation and sustainable development. By providing new evidence-based information and knowledge products, the EGI platform guides action toward a more just world. The EGI is a resource to influence, encourage and assist governments and civil society, policymakers and practitioners, donors, academia, and the media to propel gender-responsive environmental policy, practice and communication.

Since its inception in 2013, the EGI has evolved into a source for new knowledge creation and dissemination—and for revealing progress and challenges in meeting commitments to women’s empowerment and gender equality in environmental spheres. With major global agreements made in recent years to propel sustainable development—from the Sendai Framework to the Paris Agreement to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030—the EGI platform is a hub of information that governments and stakeholders can use to help inform planning that moves toward meeting their commitments and inspiring action. EGI datasets uncover and explore the drivers of inequality and unsustainability, and can serve as tools across frameworks and sectors, bridging gaps between knowledge, commitments and accountability. EGI knowledge products anchor data in policy and decision-making contexts, in particular.

Since 2014, the EGI platform has created new [global datasets](#) on women in environmental decision-making positions, for example; the inclusion of women and gender considerations in protected areas via reports to the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions; the inclusion of women and gender-responsive strategies in countries’ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Diverse partnerships, including with UN Women, international NGOs like Conservation International, and Secretariats of the CBD and BRS Conventions, have endeavored to create data to help countries and stakeholders track progress toward, among other things, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Characterization of women in 150 initial national implementation plans (NIPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



Creating and launching unique multi-stakeholder networks to advance gender-responsive environmental action

By establishing the Network for Women Ministers and Leaders of the Environment (NWMLE) in 2002, IUCN GGO forged new alliances across regions at the highest level of decision making to ensure environmental and sustainable development policies and programmes. In 2005, IUCN GGO conceived of the need for a united front to ensure that gender equality issues were taken into account in global climate negotiations: in 2007, UNEP, UNDP and the women's advocacy organisation WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organization) joined with IUCN to formally launch the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA)—a network of now more than 100 United Nations, Inter-governmental and non-governmental organisation members, working toward a common vision of gender-responsive climate change policies and initiatives at all levels. The implementation of the 2009-2016 joint programme of the GGCA (see more below) revealed the power of these multi-stakeholder alliances.

Opening the global climate change negotiations to the idea that gender equality is at the core of climate change solutions

In 2005, the UNFCCC negotiations were devoid of concrete policy recommendations on women's leadership and gender equality. Over a decade under the GGCA initiative, IUCN trained hundreds of government delegates on the importance of gender-responsive climate change policies, which had immediate impact on government interventions and draft negotiating texts. Thanks significantly to the merging of capacities under the auspices of the GGCA's joint programme supported primarily by the Government of Finland, more than 50 decisions call for gender-responsive action on adaptation, mitigation, capacity building, technology and finance. IUCN GGO was pivotal in supporting negotiations to create the Lima Work Programme on Gender (2014) and continues to provide technical support toward the new decision, expected in Marrakech in 2016.

Implementing gender-responsive adaptation, mitigation and resilience building through Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs)

As the global mandates for gender-responsive action on climate change increased, so too did requests from governments and their stakeholders to understand how to “do” gender mainstreaming in planning and programming. Responding to this call for support, IUCN GGO pioneered the ccGAP methodology, a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, participatory process bringing together Government and civil society to identify gender and climate change issues in the local context and develop innovative activities to enhance the national strategy/plan on climate change. Eighteen regional and national ccGAPs were conducted between 2011-2014—inspiring a first-of-its-kind investment by USAID to join forces and support ccGAPs in Zambia, Peru and the Dominican Republic (ongoing). With [23 ccGAPs](#) at the ready, a profound opportunity for gender-responsive implementation exists in developing countries. Jordan, having just secured USD \$10 million from the Adaptation Fund for ccGAP implementation, is one example of how ccGAPs inspire transformation.

Ensuring gender-responsive forest-focused mechanisms

In Cancun in 2010, IUCN GGO joined with Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (WOCAN) and WEDO to launch the “Global Initiative on REDD+ and Gender Equality”, an initiative to promote gender-responsive global and national REDD+ efforts and leverage women’s leadership to mitigate the effects of climate change. IUCN GGO continued working on REDD+ including under the auspices of its Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO) initiative, a USD \$5 million USAID funded partnership that has since expanded into a 10-year programme on Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT), for which it organised a [gender and REDD+ learning exchange workshop](#) that brought together representatives from two dozen REDD+ countries. Following many other IUCN GGO publications on forest themes, a new book on gender and REDD+ is forthcoming in 2016, as well.

With a strong institutional focus on forests, including through REDD+ mechanisms and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), IUCN has worked to mainstream gender into sub-national, national and global mitigation and adaptation agendas since the early stage of the climate change negotiation process. With support from Danida, IUCN, in collaboration with WEDO, facilitated participatory, multi-stakeholder processes in Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda to establish roadmaps for dynamic gender mainstreaming in national REDD+ agendas in 2011; in following years, technical support to Gender Task Forces ensured that the actions identified in the countries’ Gender and REDD+ Roadmaps were implemented. A similar process was facilitated in Mexico, with [MREDD](#).

FLR efforts are in full swing in dozens of countries around the world, and IUCN continues to ensure that restoration opportunity assessments are gender-responsive, participatory, and promote women’s engagement as change agents and as equal beneficiaries. IUCN has piloted gender-responsive FLR in Brazil, Rwanda and Malawi and is investigating opportunities to develop initiatives in Mozambique, Congo, the Caucuses and eastern European countries, as well.



Pushing the envelope: spotlighting women's expertise and innovations, not merely vulnerability and disadvantage

While the differentiated impacts of environmental degradation and a changing climate are undeniable and, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has asserted, gender will be one factor determining acute vulnerability, women are more than victims. IUCN GGO's methodologies, such as that for facilitating ccGAPs, Roadmaps, and other plans, promote understanding that gender equality is a global good and a transformative lever for change; women themselves hold knowledge and expertise, experiences and ideas that must be considered in tandem with men's. Among IUCN GGO's proudest accomplishments is the long list of "out-of-the-box" activities conceived by women in ccGAP and related workshops—such as a women's water taxi network on the Nile to reduce emissions and improve transport safety in Egypt, and a women's early warning network on the coast of Liberia, sending weather information by SMS to the government and keeping watch for illegal fishing activity. These, along with crucial policy reform and other actions, set ccGAP countries up for transformation and resilience—including by promoting women's empowerment and agency for change.

Building the knowledge base on—and access to—resources that can make a difference

IUCN GGO has been keenly aware that gender-responsive policy is an important first step—but unless it translates into implementation, it is but words on paper. Action requires resources, and so IUCN GGO has been meticulously tracking the developments of the climate finance mechanisms, as well as supporting the Boards and Secretariats of key funds to ensure women's and gender issues are taken into account. The recommendations of IUCN GGO's 2011 ["Gender Review of the Climate Investment Funds"](#), a study conducted at the request of the CIF itself, influenced, among other things, the creation of the CIF's Gender Action Plan and the recruitment of a gender specialist. IUCN GGO was also instrumental in helping to ensure that the Adaptation Fund's policies and guidelines reference gender considerations, including in project proposals and review criteria; the GEF (of which IUCN is a new implementing partner) created a Gender Plan of Action, developed in an open and participatory manner including with guidance from the GGO; and the mandates of the Green Climate Fund (of which IUCN is an Accredited Entity) establish that it is the first major finance mechanisms to have integrated gender considerations from the start. A new research and capacity building initiative to help women's organisations better understand and access climate finance is underway, starting in 2016. With its status as an accredited organisation for both the GEF and GCF, IUCN will be in a unique position to promote the findings not only of this research—but to moreover ensure that gender features strongly in the programmes and projects channeled through the institution.



Providing wide, systemic support to international donors who can help make a difference

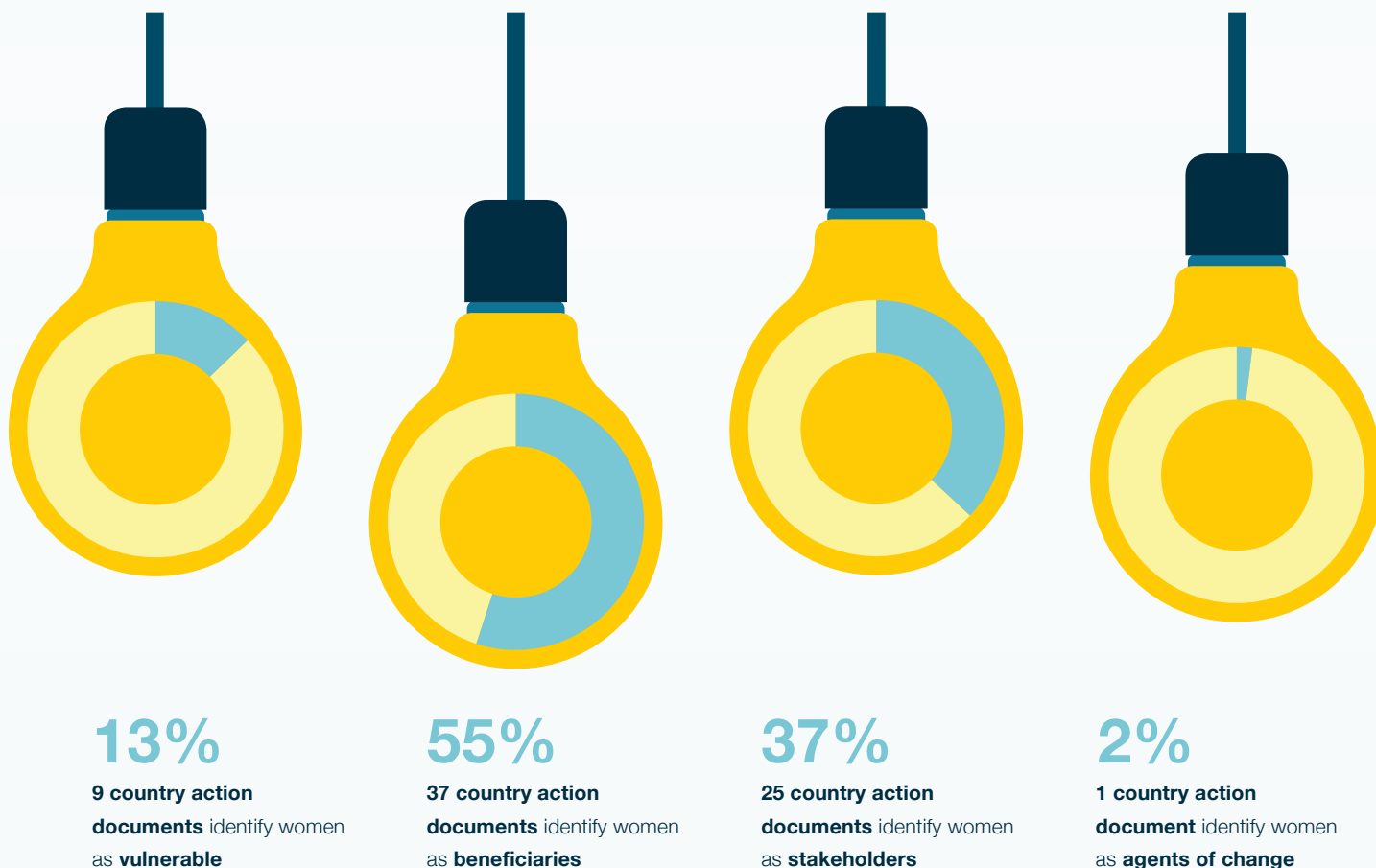
Under our partnership with USAID, Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT), IUCN GGO supports the United States in enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality through environmental action. A ten-year partnership, running until 2023, IUCN GGO provides technical assistance to USAID across its Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3) on how gender-responsive policies and approaches can sustainably promote equality, security and prosperity for all by recognising women as agents of change and the value of the diverse knowledge, experiences and capacities of women and men alike. Delivering tailor-made technical assistance across Forestry and Biodiversity, Energy, Land and Infrastructure, Global Climate Change, and Gender and Development Offices, under this Scope of Work, IUCN GGO will lead pioneering work in reviewing and analysing the state of knowledge on the linkages between gender-based violence (GBV) issues and the environment, providing recommendations to strengthen USAID programming. IUCN GGO will also assess USAID energy projects to identify gender entry-points as well as accompanying knowledge products and tools that enhance the capacity of USAID's Energy Team in delivering gender-responsive activities.



Thinking outside the box: advancing understanding of what a gender-responsive clean energy sector could be

Under our AGENT partnership with USAID, IUCN GGO is again forging into new territory, pushing partners to think past the “women and cookstoves” gender and energy connections to exploring needs and opportunities on a global scale. Producing first a white paper, “[Women at the Forefront of a Clean Energy Future](#)”, and convening a subsequent experts exchange workshop, IUCN GGO has elaborated a multi-part Scope of Work under AGENT, including the creation and launch of the G-REEN platform. The Platform, launched in October 2015, is recognised as the “go to” for the best, most comprehensive information on gender and climate change mitigation, with [Forbes ranking IUCN GGO first](#) in its list of resources on Gender Equality in Renewable Energy. Additional efforts have centered around the development of cutting-edge webinar series, and numerous knowledge products, including to guide Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). From 2017, IUCN GGO has taken on the facilitation of WiAP—the Women in African Power network—an initiative under the US Governmental partnership, Power Africa.

Characterization of women in SEforAll country action documents





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