

Gender and Climate Change

Adaptation Strategies, Opportunities and Policies for Mountains

ICIMOD



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Photos: L.Hislop (UNEP Grid Arendal) and R.Verma (ICIMOD)

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

The Problem of Climate Change

- **Not a clean slate, but complex and unequal world**
- **Exacerbating ongoing forces/drivers of change**
(financial crisis, gross inequalities, poverty and development failures, men's out-migration, urbanization, land use, neo-liberal/gender blind economics policies, patriarchal discourses, political deadlock/inaction, etc.)
- **Together acutely impact environments and people**
- **'Solutions' tend to bio-physical/technical**
(although important, will not crack the nut)
- **Women and men disproportionately feel the impact**
(because of skewed gender power relations and socially constructed difference, but women voices, rights, experiences are not part of discussion nor key actors in proposed policy solutions or institutions)



- **Temperature rise**
(too much too little water, floods, droughts, GLOFs, etc.)
- **Changes in ecosystems, vegetation, biodiversity, water/ice, but also policies**
- **Enormous impacts to people in the HKH, including 1.3 billion women and men downstream**



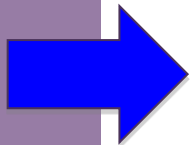
- **Increase in women's workloads**
(walk further, men out-migrate, gender insensitive policies that shut women out from accessing important ecosystem resources, etc.)
- **Inequitable access to resources and sharing of benefits/opportunities**
(i.e. REDD++, climate financing, funds, policy formulation, etc.)
- **Marginal and token representation in decision-making**
- **Laid upon practices, norms and laws that are not equitable to women**
- **Women's voices, knowledge, and agency are not equitably represented**



Initiatives that Support Mountain Women and Men (HICAP)

Components of HICAP

| Component | Output(s) |
|--|---|
| 1. Climate change scenarios | Downscaled and customised climate scenarios at the basin and sub-basin level |
| 2. Water availability and demand scenarios | Water availability and demand scenarios at the sub-basin level |
| 3. Ecosystem services | The risks and opportunities of climate and other regional drivers of change for natural and managed ecosystems analysed, and the implications for sustained ecosystem services and their values assessed at the sub-basin level |
| 4. Food security | Food security situation analysed at household and community levels; scenarios of future food security developed at regional and selected sub-basin levels and their relation to downstream situation analysed to develop policy and institutional response |
| 5. Vulnerability and adaptation | Autonomous adaptation patterns and strategies at the community level (relating to the improvement of livelihoods, management of natural resources, and reduction of risk) analysed, documented, and validated; interlinkages between autonomous adaptation and the current policy setup for planned adaptation analysed, and evidence collected and disseminated for establishing conducive policy frameworks |
| 6. Women in adaptation | Differences in impacts and adaptive capacities between and among women and men understood and addressed, and appropriate and sustainable adaptation strategies identified to ensure equitable access to resources and rights and opportunities of marginalised, minority, and indigenous people, especially women |
| 7. Communications and outreach | Awareness raising and capacity building programmes implemented at all levels; the findings disseminated through innovative approaches; and recommendations made to contribute to informed decision making at local, regional, and international levels |



HICAP: Credible Research

- **Strong conceptual foundation**
 - Gender integration and anti-evaporation strategy
 - Conceptual and methodological framework
 - State-of-the-art literature review for HKH
- **Knowledge generation**
 - Photographic assessments (launch at HICAP side event Tuesday)
 - Scoping studies
 - Qualitative, ethnographic case studies
- **Integration of gender analysis**
 - across project components



- **Capacity strengthening**
 - Gender analysis and awareness related to climate change
 - Strengthen women's leadership and negotiation skills
- **Collective action/knowledge sharing**
 - Knowledge sharing and building critical mass
 - Bhutan+10: Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a changing world (stock-taking, state-of-the-art, agenda setting) (www.icimod.org/bhutan+10)





- **Indigenous knowledge**
- **Adapting agricultural and NRM practices**
 - Soil protection, anti-erosion, etc.
- **Reducing risks**
 - Preparedness, awareness raising, etc.
- **Culturally appropriate gender sensitive and labour saving technologies**
- **Conserving natural resources and ecosystems**
 - Forests, water springs, landslide affected areas and biodiversity
- **Collective action**
 - Self-help groups, cooperatives, CBOs, NGOs, networks, alliances, etc.
- **Equitable and meaningful participation of women in decision-making**

- **Moving/migrating to marginal lands and to crowded urban centres**
- **Women walk even greater distances**
 - To access water, fodder, fuel wood, medicinal plants/herbs and food
 - Increased workloads and health problems, less time for income generation
- **Women and girls have limited or no access to development and natural resources and social services**
- **Vulnerabilities to trafficking and gender-based violence in aftermath of disasters**
 - When social norms, practices and protections break down
- **Women are excluded from decision-making and planning**



On the Ground: Unintended/Hidden Negative Consequences

- **Elite and male capture of benefits**
 - Who is speaking on behalf of the 'community' and women?
- **Well intended interventions dis-adopted, not adopted, resisted**
 - Do not consider women's and men's divisions of labour, roles, responsibilities, decision-making and gender relations
- **Carbon sinks and bio-fuel production**
 - Mono-cropping and land grabbing disenfranchise and dislocate subsistence farmers of their land rights



- **Rigorous gender analysis, commitment and resources/budgeting**
 - Awareness raising (not same as analysis)
 - Ensure gender issues don't 'evaporate'
 - Not a "box" to tick off
- **Key role of social and biophysical sciences**
 - Trans-disciplinary teams and integrated research
- **“Translate” research for 3 groups:**
 - researchers/scientists/academics
 - policy and decision-makers (development, statutory and customary)
 - communities (women and men)
 - Linking and making connections between three groups
- **Keep women's voices and needs at the centre**
- **Women are the frontline of climate change. They are key for adaptation to work.**



- Panel of experts consider key questions on adaptation
- Launch of book: Women at the Frontline of Climate Change: Gender Risks and Hopes
- Blyde River, ICC, COP17
- December 6, 2011
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Thank you

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