



Gender and Climate Change Research Workshop: What do we know? What do we need to find out?

Montreal, Dec 2, 2005

23 participants gathered to discuss gender and climate change related research and its role and use in women's / gender related advocacy in the UNFCCC process.

The meeting was hosted by LIFE e.V., genanet – focal point gender justice and sustainability & WECEF and facilitated by Minu Hemmati, Ulrike Roehr (LIFE / WECEF) and Gotelind Alber (Climate Alliance).

A. Why Gender & Climate Change?

Ulrike Roehr gave a brief presentation about the reasons to address gender aspects of climate change and why looking at related research was an important part of a strategy towards integrating gender aspects into climate change and climate protection related policy making. She also outlined the history of women's / gender related activities in the UNFCCC process.

B. What do we know? What do we need to find out?

Participants discussed three questions:

1. What do we need to know about gender and climate change to influence UNFCCC negotiations?

We need data and knowledge in various forms: statistics, in depth case studies, stories.... for example:

- gender differentiated data related to **causes** of climate change, such as energy consumption / contributions to GHG emissions, (gendered) emission patterns;
- gender differentiated data on the **impacts** of climate change, such as women's and men's health, risks and risk perception, etc. With regard to impacts, we need to examine if this question is indeed more important for the developing than for developed countries.

Such gender differentiated data are needed for developing as well as industrialised countries and countries in transition.

We need to look at **the role of policies regarding technologies and other factors**, such as consumption, behaviour, and infrastructure.

We need a **survey on relevant research** that has been done and/or is underway – including research that is being done under different headings and in fields not normally looked at when working on climate change. We need to use existing research on gender specific impacts in areas that are affected by climate change (eg lack of water, diseases, weather extremes), and assess women's perspectives and needs.

We need to assess **lessons learned** from gender & disaster literature and from specific (situational) experiences.

We need to **review existing research on emissions** and energy consumption.

We need to **analyse climate change mitigation instruments from a gender perspective**, and should ask questions about the psychological effects of economic instruments (e.g., what does it mean in terms of perceptions of the global commons if **rights for emissions/air pollution** are given/sold to industry).

We need to know more about **women's mitigation and adaptation strategies** (experience and knowledge base, social capital).

We need to develop an overall **analytical framework** on gender and climate change, including determining factors – criteria/indicators.

We need to **analyse the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures from a gender perspective**, in different regions/nations and build up a database with best practise/best case studies.

2. What do we know already?

(NB: the group was very aware that given their limited overview of all possibly relevant research, the answer to this question has to remain sketchy. We discussed how important it will be to draw in more researchers from various disciplines and continue to collect and survey what relevant knowledge there is already.)

- We have surveys on attitudes regarding environmental matters and climate change, eg from Sweden, Germany, and Europe-wide (less so from developing countries - ?)
- We have data from the transport sector from various countries regarding women's and men's transport use (hence, emissions).
- We have some data on responses to climate change in the area of energy saving (Sweden).
- We have some knowledge about the relation between income and energy use that is in most cases not gender specific but allows to draw some conclusions as women constitute the majority of the poor. However, breakdowns within households are hardly available. For the developed world, analysing single households could provide further indications.
- Some relevant studies on impacts of climate change (natural disasters) are available or underway – particularly on disaster management.
- We know about gender aspects from Community Based Disaster Management, e.g. gendered vulnerability assessments have been done, for example in Bangladesh, but results are not published yet.
- We have some information about the perception of and reaction to risks by women and men.
- We have some information about gender specific effects (short and long-term), for example, on physical and mental health, violence against women, basic needs, health, economic perspectives, food security - mainly from the South, some from the North.
- We have some information about gendered impacts and reactions on extreme weather situations.
- We know that women and men have different roles in managing the environment.
- Women are participating less in climate change related discussions and decisions. Increasing the numbers of women, however, will not necessarily increase gender sensitivity – rather, increasing the number of gender sensitive women and men in climate change is necessary.
- We know that women are and will be affected by climate change because of the linkages with poverty (climate change affecting the poor) and reproduction (caring / household work).

3. Which questions need to be addressed by future research?

- International bodies: How can gender issues be integrated into policy-making at the international level?
- Are we really sure that gender issues are relevant for climate change policy? In which areas is gender relevant, in which not?
- Given the different roles that women and men play in managing the environment, we need to learn more about how these roles change when environmental conditions change (through abrupt changes through disasters as well as gradual changes through changes in weather patterns). And how can we make sure that women, men and communities are appropriately considered and supported through such changes?
- We need to learn more about coping with disasters and rebuilding after disasters – from various disciplines. Connecting to the disaster research network is crucial.
- How can household consumption be attributed to individuals, i.e. be segregated by gender? This would not only include energy consumption but also food (e.g. food miles) and other consumption behaviours with a climate relevant footprint.
- What's the share of women in environmental decision-making? And what consequences does that have?
- Due to their different roles and capacities women and men have different kinds of knowledge and react differently to some information (e.g. impacts on male fertility, breast feeding). We need to learn more about how to address these differences, for example, when they become relevant in climate related decision-making (by male / female decision-makers).
- What's the impact of education on behaviour relevant to climate? What are the differentiated impacts of economic incentives, awareness raising, education, promotion of values? What are the gender aspects of these different behavioural change instruments?
- What knowledge from other environmental fields can we use in the area of climate change?
- What are the gender issues in CDM? Are "Gold Standard" CDM projects also best in terms of gender?
- 'Opening the black box of national communications': introduce gender disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators, e.g. starting with 'like-minded' countries.
- Introduce gender disaggregation into existing research programmes on climate change.

C. A Strategic Research Agenda

Developing a future research agenda of questions and projects that should be pursued, participants also discussed the criteria for such a list – i.e.: What do we need to keep in mind, considering what purpose we want to use such an agenda for?

Topics

In terms of impacts:	Poverty reduction / eradication Food (in)security Water (in)security Housing Disaster management Conflict
In terms of causes:	Mitigation policies (examined / developed from a gender perspective)

Criteria and tools to keep in mind:

NB: Possible strategies, which are not mutually exclusive but may shape the presentation / framing of a research agenda, include those directed at the climate change process itself and those that use other agendas & processes to highlight the gender aspects of climate change.

- Tailoring agenda & messages to respective target audiences: eg which UN process, which international body? Make connections to their respective current work (“hot topics”) and use topics that are close to that, e.g. framing advocacy with reference to MDGs; using a human rights based approach (incl reference to UN GA decision 1325). Making use of comparative advantages re institutions, voices, and audiences.
- Avoid portraying women as victims (i.e. referring exclusively to vulnerability) but point to women’s strengths and skills and leading roles, e.g. in environmental management, community building, conflict resolution.
- Framing topics and advocacy on the basis of “What Women Want” – i.e. based on *our vision* (possibly use existing tools for visioning / scenario building processes). The “translation” into the ‘language’ / presentation style that is relevant to respective target audiences comes afterwards.
- Making strong cases regarding climate change in other fora (eg food security / MDGs; conflict; CSR).
- In terms of mitigation, it is important to understand who causes emissions – and we have some data on that. However, participants discussed how strategically wise or unwise it is to present such data?

The group agreed that there are several steps of developing a Strategic Future Research Agenda:

1. working on a list of priority topics and questions for a research agenda: based on what we already know, what more is needed, and what is based on our own vision (in our own language)?
2. working on framing and presenting such topics: depending on target audience and specific objective, translating into “UN-ese”.

D. Next Steps

Participants agreed that further **networking**, and further growing the network of/with researchers was useful, and that such a network could only survive with a) network members continued active participation, and b) coordination / service to the network. Participants committed to participate actively in a growing network on gender & climate change research and welcomed LIFE / WECFs commitment to provide coordination.

As attention to gender & climate change related research needs to be part of the strategy towards integrating gender into climate related policy-making, LIFE / WECF is to prepare a draft **report** from the workshop, for circulation to all participants and those interested who could not attend but are committed to actively engaging in a gender & climate change research network. The part on a **Strategic Future Research Agenda** shall be particularly highlighted for comments and further input. It can then be used towards IPCC, UNFCCC Secretariat, other UN bodies, governments, NGOs, media, and others. As the document develops further, it will stay a “living document” and also serve as a repository of the network’s thinking on priority topics for gender & climate related research.

LIFE / WECF to circulate the **participants list** to all. This will also facilitate further exchange between individual network members.

LIFE / WECF to create an **email list serve** to exchange and discussion (done, to join the group, please contact Minu or Ulrike).

LIFE / WECF to explore **additional means for exchanging references** to gender & climate change related research – eg a web site.