

UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender Community of Practice Annual Learning Workshop



# Gender and Climate Change: Impact and Adaptation



Regional Gender Team  
Negombo, Sri Lanka, 24–26 September 2008

## Workshop Highlights

Updated Report as from November 2009

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<sup>1</sup> The institute for Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) is a fully autonomous research institute that aims to conduct research and policy analysis, train people and be a network hub among key stakeholders.



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# Foreword

This report is a product of the annual Gender Community of Practice (CoP) Learning Event for 2008 organized by the UNDP Regional Gender Team, that focused on the theme: *Gender and Climate Change: Impact and Adaptation*.

Climate change is emerging as a critical global issue with the potential to cause further devastation to developing countries already suffering social, political, environmental and economic hardships. The fact that women and the poor are being disproportionately affected magnifies the importance of climate change as a regional issue for UNDP, requiring urgent attention, cooperation, resources and action.

The vulnerability of women to the effects of climate change is largely due to their dependence on natural resources, their responsibility for water and food procurement and their increased risk exposure during times of disasters and severe weather crises. In response, UNDP has begun to set clear gender-specific goals and performance targets for integrating climate change impacts in its focus areas. UNDP is also actively promoting adaptation to climate change by supporting governments and stakeholders to analyze and identify gender-specific impacts and protection measures.

The annual Gender CoP meeting provided a timely opportunity to address these issues. Through its focus as a learning event, the CoP enabled an upgrading of skills in gender issues within the environment-sustainable development focus area of UNDP's work across Asia and the Pacific. It facilitated the sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in developing and implementing gender initiatives on climate change between UNDP country office (CO) staff. Additionally, it promoted greater regional cooperation on implementing gender programmes and assisted with the development of options and strategies for strengthening and expanding these activities within ongoing and pipeline initiatives on climate change.

The CoP provided one of the first points of dialogue between experts on climate change and gender specialists and focal points from 14 UNDP COs across the region. The value of the workshop lay in the sharing of experiences on the key dynamics that link gender and the environment, the existing challenges to mainstreaming gender within climate change projects, as well as the opportunities for future work. This report consolidates such experiences, and is a by-product of the discussions and inputs provided by participants during the workshop.





# I) Gender and climate change – Why it matters

## 1. Gendered impacts of climate change

Gender issues have been rarely addressed, particularly in relation to climate change impact in global climate change initiatives and policy meetings. Debates have focused primarily on mitigation efforts (reduction of carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases), and on the associated actions required by governments and institutions to mitigate climate change. Insufficient attention has been paid to climate change adaptation strategies – actions taken for and by people, to prepare and make changes to protect themselves against climate change. Adaptive actions are taken to reduce the threat to food supply, health and well-being, livelihoods and security. Women's roles are not adequately recognized or accounted for in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, in national and global climate change negotiation talks or in the context of natural disasters influenced or exacerbated by climate change.

Despite the guiding principles within the United Nations (UN) system to incorporate gender considerations, climate change policy-making (most visibly, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC) has failed to adopt

a gender-sensitive approach. This failure not only generates concerns in terms of respect for gender equity, it also leads to shortcomings in the efficiency and efficacy of climate-related adaptation and mitigation measures and instruments.

Vulnerability to climate change can exacerbate the impacts of non-climatic stressors such as increased migration, rapid urbanization, uncertain energy security, unsustainable management of natural resources and the loss of traditional coping mechanisms. Responding to climate change is not simply a matter of reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions into the earth's atmosphere, but is also about helping countries to build adaptive capacity and develop a sense of preparedness to reduce its negative impacts. In order to achieve this, it is important to understand the framework of analysis for gender and climate change that addresses vulnerabilities, adaptation, mitigation and the manner in which engagement can take place.

Compared to men, women are affected differently, and often more severely by climate change and associated natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storms. This is largely because men and women are bound by distinct socio-economic roles and responsibilities that give rise to differences



in vulnerability and ability to cope with these climate change consequences.

**Women, particularly in least-developed Countries (LDCs) are disproportionately vulnerable because of their:**

- dependence on bio-fuels and other natural resources;
- responsibility for water procurement and household care;
- role in securing food and fuel;
- predominant presence in low-technology agriculture; and
- greater exposure to risk in crisis and severe weather events that may have been influenced or impacted by climate change.

Consequently, vulnerable groups – especially poor women – are likely to be faced with problems such as food insecurity, loss of livelihood, hardships due to environmental degradation that lead to displacement and a host of other potentially devastating economic and social consequences. It is poor women who are most vulnerable and will bear the adaptation burden despite their comparatively insignificant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to these vulnerabilities women are still underrepresented in decision-making with respect to plans and actions to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.

The dependency on biomass as the main fuel source in the rural areas of most developing countries means that women and children, as primary end-users, are at the receiving end of energy shortages and energy use-related pollution impacts. Women also suffer more due to their restricted mobility and lack of exposure to training and information. This is particularly evident in relation to warnings about, dangers of, and courses of actions to take in response to, natural calamities that

may have been influenced or impacted by climate change. Furthermore, disasters, irrespective of their causes, generally accentuate discrimination, and women may not receive equal aid benefits that predominantly target male household heads.

In addition, conflict situations such as Afghanistan amplify the impacts of natural disasters such as severe winters and earthquakes, because the damage caused remains after the conflict is resolved. In these situations, resource-based conflicts are more pronounced due to lawlessness and rebel control of territories with natural resources such as water and grazing lands. These situations impact differently on men and women, often causing shifts in gender roles. In order to respond to climate crises in situations of conflict it is important to establish humanitarian gender responses from the context of climate change, have clear protocols on responding to environmental disasters in conflict settings and, most importantly, on how to prevent conflict under recurring effects of climate change.

And finally, gender perspectives on climate change, in terms of agriculture and food and water security in different ecosystems, should be considered while developing recommendations and strategies for the long-, medium- and short-term. Since the climate is changing rapidly, the policy approach should be flexible enough to adapt as new climate change-related information and knowledge becomes available. Women need to be meaningfully involved, not only as beneficiaries but also in the decision-making process especially in the areas of adaptation and mitigation. Understanding how the different social roles and economic status of men and women affect, and are affected differently by climate change will improve actions taken to reduce vulnerability and combat climate change, particularly in the developing world.



## 2. Climate change and gender linkages in mitigation

*Climate change mitigation is: “an anthropogenic intervention to reduce the sources of greenhouse gases or enhance their sinks.” It concentrates on either controlling the emissions of greenhouse gases or capturing and sequestering those emissions.<sup>2</sup>*

Mitigation actions have largely focused on reduction of industrial greenhouse gas emissions, but also include the practice of energy efficiency and the application of renewable energy in commercial and residential sectors. The role of women in such climate change mitigation strategies has received little attention, as actions have been perceived to be either technical or scientific in nature and where including a gender perspective has not been a priority. However, as climate change is partly the result of human behaviour and affects all people, mitigation strategies must consider the gendered patterns of energy use in order to be effective.

### **Women can play an important role in promoting mitigation measures such as:**

- the practice of energy efficiency in households and community-based industries;
- renewable energy (including hydro-electric power) applications in rural households and communities;
- afforestation and reforestation activities; and
- waste minimization and recycling.

### 2.1 The role of women in mitigation actions

In many communities in developing countries gathering, transporting and purchasing household fuels is the responsibility of women. This becomes increasingly difficult with dwindling availability of food and biomass energy resources. Women without access to modern forms of energy are exposed to indoor air pollution and related health problems such as bronchitis, asthma and miscarriage. Access to non-polluting fuels that do not damage peoples' health should be an important element of mitigation programmes. But it is essential that such considerations be integrated in an effective manner and with proper consultation regarding their effect on women. The policies, technological changes and instruments being proposed to mitigate carbon emissions must use and develop both gender-sensitive criteria and indicators to ensure their impacts do not bypass or negatively affect women.

However, there are concerns that as women switch to modern fuels, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions will increase and expose women to the price fluctuation and scarcity associated with resources such as oil. These alterations could further harm rural women who have little influence on foreign exchange imbalances, fossil fuel scarcity or excessive greenhouse gas emissions. This highlights why wealth is an important variable in consideration of the impact of gender on climate change. For example, a rural poor person in India emits only 100–300 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, as compared to 2,000 kg emitted by an urban rich person in India, or 15,000 kg as the average emitted per capita per year in the United States of America.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2001)



## 2.2 Potential gender entry points in mitigation activities

Gender can be integrated into climate-change mitigation activities through clean development mechanisms (CDM). These enable entities in developing countries to implement carbon emission-reducing projects that earn certified emission reduction credits. They then can be traded, sold to, and used by industrialized countries to meet a portion of the latter's emission reduction commitments. CDM projects are not a panacea for solving climate-related problems but they potentially offer alternative approaches to integrating gender issues into climate change mitigation activities. There are a number of viable CDM development projects on waste management, afforestation, reforestation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, such as biofuels that could potentially benefit women to a larger degree, but these need to be promoted, scaled up and replicated for greater impact.

The role of, and benefits to, women in CDM projects can be highlighted in the project design documents of CDM projects. They should be recommended to designated national authorities as among the criteria for gauging the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed CDM projects when being reviewed and approved. CDM projects that are community-based offer indirect financial opportunities to women, but support has to be provided so that such opportunities are more accessible. CDM projects are largely developed by private companies where gender issues are usually neglected due to considerations of a financial, technical or logistical nature that result from lack of gender awareness. Therefore, it is important to integrate a gender perspective into climate change processes, instruments, mechanisms and developments so that it is included by all parties in all sectors.

## 2.3 Gender and climate change policy development

Gender mainstreaming is also needed in the ongoing policy dialogue processes, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Conference of Parties (COP) and various discussions relating to vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation. Climate change bodies like the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and especially the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) should ensure that gender equality receives adequate attention. Countries involved in future COP meetings should conduct gender-specific discussions with balanced gender participation. UNFCCC should also ensure consideration of gender equality issues in the design of CDM projects, as well as UNFCCC-sponsored projects on technology transfer and capacity building and other related initiatives.

Gender considerations need to be incorporated into the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) activities of LDCs. Stakeholders in advocating and implementing actions to address vulnerability and adaptation to climate change issues need to be consulted on integrating gender equality issues. Furthermore the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and specialized UN agencies should begin to ensure gender mainstreaming into climate change mitigation. Governments and the private sector should be made responsible for integrating gender concerns into such climate change programmes, as they are major participants in the development process.

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<sup>3</sup> Information on UNDP-GEF programmes can be found at: <http://www.undp.org/gef/about/gefsec.html>



### Global Environment Facility (GEF)<sup>3</sup>

The UNDP GEF helps developing countries fund projects and programmes that bring about global environmental benefits in several focus areas such as climate change.

## 3. Climate change and gender linkages in adaptation

*The IPCC defines climate change adaptation as “adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. This term refers to changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages to or benefit from opportunities associated with climate change”<sup>4</sup>*

Climate change impacts – such as rising sea levels, increases in ambient temperatures and increased variability in rainfall – can exacerbate the incidence of forest fires and loss of natural diversity. The effects of these changes filter down to men and women and ultimately impact more profoundly on rural women who depend on their environment for their livelihood. Land clearance for agriculture, forestry and commercial purposes is causing deforestation of natural ecosystems, restricting access to traditional forestry products and placing women increasingly under strain as a large amount of their time is spent trekking in search of diminishing fuel wood resources. Women’s dependency on agriculture, forests and biofuels increase their exposure to climate change and illustrates the large role women

play in the management of resources and how their contribution to and participation will affect the ultimate success of resource management initiatives.

### 3.1 Adaptation to the environmental impacts of climate change

If climate change also means that there is less agricultural land available, and the productive capacity of available land is decreased, then the need to increase agricultural productivity to stimulate growth becomes all the more pressing. Climate change is predicted to reduce crop yields and food production in regions throughout the world, particularly the tropics. Women, as subsistence farmers in the developing countries in these areas are responsible for 70–80 percent of household food production. Traditional food supply sources, both agricultural and forest products may become more unpredictable and scarce due to climate change thus disproportionately affecting women.

Climate change may also exacerbate existing shortages of water. Sea-level rise (SLR) will impact on whole communities, including the fishermen and fisherwomen in terms of fish-catch where the main impact is on breeding grounds of fish. SLR also causes salt-water intrusion into fresh water reservoirs, salinity in agriculture and forestry areas, coastal erosion, flooding and increases the impacts of storm surges. Women will be disproportionately affected by such impacts largely due to their responsibility for water collection and their exposure to the climatic conditions that affect water quantity and accessibility.

The severe impact of climate change on the environment is becoming more evident. Droughts, floods and cyclones are much more frequent and intense than previously recorded. It is important to be

4 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2001)



prepared with safety nets and contingency options, such as drought resistant crop varieties and soil conservation measures. Environmental protection as a part of sustainable development is imperative for reducing climate change impacts.

### **3.2 The social and economic considerations of adaptation**

Female-headed households left behind as men migrate as a result of extreme events and disasters are often the poorest; as wives of seasonal migrants may not receive remittances or have alternative sources of income. The workloads of these women, their children and the elderly, increase significantly as a result of male out-migration, which is likely to expand as climate change related impacts escalate. In the coastal areas, when lands are inundated and infrastructure is damaged due to SLR, large-scale migration takes place, leading to extra hardships for women. There are many other negative impacts associated with such movement of people including the increased risk of HIV infection among women from husbands who migrated in search of employment.

Additionally, where there is increased male out-migration due to resource shortages and unreliable job markets caused by climate change, women are left behind with additional agricultural and household duties. Poor women's lack of access to and control over natural resources, technologies and credit mean that they have fewer resources to cope with seasonal, episodic weather and natural disasters. Consequently, traditional roles are reinforced, girls' education suffers, and women's ability to diversify their livelihoods (and therefore their capacity to access income-generating jobs) is diminished.

More women than men work in the informal sector and in small enterprises, which are often the worst hit, and the

least likely to recover from the effects of disasters because of their low levels of capital accumulation, lower assets, and weaker access to credit and information. Furthermore women are further constrained by discriminatory land and inheritance rights, and limited access to credit and other agricultural extension services.

Climate change may affect health in a variety of ways. Increases in the number and intensity of storm events may test existing water management systems and additionally high rainfall increases the risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases and may also reduce availability of drinking water. Reductions or changes in agricultural production and food availability results in malnutrition and disturbance of traditional balanced diets. The impacts of flooding are particularly severe in areas of environmental degradation, and where basic public health infrastructure, including sanitation and hygiene, is lacking.

Finally, climate change causes resource shortages and market instability, which impacts highly on women. A distinction between increases in income and women's empowerment should be made, measuring important indicators such as income, time and decision-making power. The collection and use of gender-disaggregated data is imperative in promoting the gendered dimensions in developing both climate change adaptation and mitigation policies/models. Reduction in women's drudgery for fuel supply needs to be addressed. Women need to diversify the energy resources they use, and actions to facilitate the introduction of alternative fuels for household energy consumption could well constitute an essential part of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.



### 3.3 Adaptation and disasters

Women and girls are more vulnerable to disaster situations due to a lack of skills and training required for survival. For example, women accounted for 55–70 percent of tsunami deaths in Banda Aceh, Indonesia; in the worst affected village in North Aceh district, Kuala Cangkoey 80 percent of the deaths were women. During the 2003 European heat wave, 70 percent of deaths were women. Also, floods frequently claim far more female victims because their mobility is restricted and they have not been taught to swim. When Bangladesh was hit by a devastating cyclone and flood in 1991, the death rate was reportedly five times higher among women.

While all of the above examples cannot be attributed to climate change, it is important to recognize the vulnerability differences that exist between men and women in disaster situations. This applies not only to the events themselves but how they are then addressed, as evidence shows the increased threats to the security and dignity of women and girls, particularly in emergency shelters used after a disaster. Such differences in vulnerability, and in adaptive opportunities, should be acknowledged in the disaster adaptation process to address gender inequality and to ensure successful climate change adaptation policies and measures.

## 4. Climate change and gender linkages in the UNDP Framework for Poverty Reduction and MDG Achievement

Both gender inequality and climate change impact negatively on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets. UNDP is helping develop national capacities to secure the MDGs by strengthening existing or adopting new policies and practices in the context of climate change and its associated impacts.

UNDP has been an active player in the field of climate change since the early 1990s. Recognizing the need to lower the risks that climate change poses to hard-won development gains made by developing countries, the goal of UNDP is to align human development and climate change responses with a particular focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable communities and countries. Some of its strategies include pursuing policy- and agenda-setting; experience-sharing and training activities; establishing a system of experts to assist countries to access, integrate and sequence different sources of financing; and evaluating alternative mitigation and adaptation options.

UNDP climate change strategy priorities integrate climate change into UN and UNDP development assistance at the global, regional and national levels. These include: supporting design of policies and action plans, promoting early adaptation as well as long-term strategies, and directing investment towards low carbon technologies and practices. UNDP assistance to developing countries can help them choose energy paths that would provide low carbon sources of power.



UNDP has repeatedly called for the integration of gender perspectives in all initiatives to address environmental issues at the national, sub-national and global levels, and this call has been explicitly extended to the issue of climate change. UNDP's work on governance, gender, corporate social responsibility and capacity development strengthens the capacity of national and local institutions in building resilience to climate change. Moreover, the poverty reduction work of UNDP also strengthens linkages between climate risk management and poverty reduction by mainstreaming climate change into national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

### **Gender Equality Strategy (GES) 2008–2011**

UNDP aims to deepen its work on gender in its focal areas of poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and sustainable development. The GES promotes adaptation to climate change through identification and analysis of gender specific impact and measures, through women's knowledge and participation in mitigation and adaptation policies at all levels and through establishing a stronger evidence base on the gendered impact of climate change.

The basic strategy of UNDP is to scale-up adaptation and mitigation actions of countries to assist them in successfully addressing the climate change challenge and achieve the MDGs. UNDP aims to provide support to governments for policy and financing that reflect both men and women's priorities and needs, and through analyzing and identifying gender-specific impacts and protection measures for environmental changes and disasters. It will focus on policy change and institutional strengthening through activities such as

training for policy-makers, on national assessments of policy options, and on market development/transformation for lower carbon technologies and sustainable land management.

At the sub-national level it will focus on activities such as establishing Climate Change Action Plans to address mitigation and adaptation at the provincial level. At the community level, UNDP will focus on gender-related activities such as increasing access to sustainable sources of energy in rural areas, and developing the capacities of communities to make their livelihoods more resilient in the face of climate change. UNDP also aims to provide guidance on gender-specific concerns to intergovernmental bodies as they further develop policies and programmes in climate change. In all these efforts, the key partners are GEF, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Women and Environment Development (WEDO).

## **4.1 Addressing gender concerns in climate change projects**

UNDP has been increasingly active in supporting innovative climate change adaptation projects across a range of sectors and countries. GEF climate change mitigation projects mainly address the removal of barriers to energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport in order to facilitate greenhouse gas emission reduction. Though such projects aim to ensure compliance with UNDP goals and values and harness the local experience/knowledge of both men and women, gender issues have previously been inadvertently neglected. One reason for this is that men from the energy and finance sectors have traditionally dominated decision-making positions



and have not prioritized gender. The fact that stakeholders and project proponents are not gender-sensitive or simply do not understand the gender equity aspects of Climate Change and energy projects has also contributed to this situation. However this is slowly changing. UNDP has committed to safeguarding gender goals and values in its MDG Carbon Facility projects.

### Examples of UNDP gender and energy projects<sup>5</sup>

- Bangladesh: A project was designed to train women to become solar household systems entrepreneurs, responsible for both assembling and selling the systems through a cooperative-run energy centre.
- Nepal: A community-based micro-hydro project was developed alongside the provision of solar home systems, bio-gas and improved cooking stoves that generate a variety of energy services such as lighting, communications and clean water.
- Cambodia: The first member-owned rural community energy cooperatives were established in 2005 that operates electrification and distribution systems.

As one of the ten GEF Implementing Agencies, UNDP has been providing assistance to over 100 countries in preparing national climate change vulnerability assessments and in the National Communications (NATCOMs) to the UNFCCC. Based on the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), UNDP expects to be in a position to help over 30 LDCs in accessing resources from the

UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), managed by GEF, to implement priority adaptation initiatives. UNDP has also gained experience in working with poor communities to increase their resilience to weather-related shocks, particularly through work on drought risk reduction, led jointly by the Drylands Development Centre (DDC) and the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

There are new initiatives on gender and climate change at various levels such as the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) that was formed in partnership by UNDP, UNEP, IUCN and WEDO with the aim of ensuring inclusion of women's voices in decision-making, policy development and building capacity at global, regional and local levels. It focuses on ensuring that UN financing mechanisms on mitigation and adaptation address the needs of poor women and men equitably. The GGCA partners worked with the UNFCCC Secretariat to develop gender road maps, and develop and utilize gender guidelines for climate change financing mechanisms. It also developed a Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change.<sup>6</sup>

The ongoing UNDP climate change portfolio supports both mitigation and adaptation policy responses. For example, greater energy access through improved energy efficiency and decentralized renewable energy technologies enables communities to diversify sources of livelihood and income, and better adapt to adverse impacts of climate change. Reduced emissions through sustainable land management practices help increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change, in turn improving the resilience and adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities. In many cases, women's knowledge and participation has been

<sup>5</sup> Project details located at: [http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/energy\\_env/rep-por/documents/Compendium\\_Booklet.pdf](http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/energy_env/rep-por/documents/Compendium_Booklet.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Guide available at: <http://www.gender-climate.org>



critical to the survival of entire communities in disaster situations. UNDP will therefore support governments to take advantage of women's specialized skills in various aspects of their livelihood and natural resource management strategies that lend themselves to mitigation and adaptation. UNDP will support the development of national capacity to consult with women, draw on their expertise in this area and ensure that national and local mitigation and adaptation policies and actions reflect their concerns and experiences.

### **UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender Community of Practice (CoP)**

In May 2007, UNDP launched a Regional CoP that allows members to share and communicate through email, and functions as a repository of information. It has 200 members presently and has carried out two e-clinics on strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts. The platform helps in sharing information and materials for gender equality interventions within all areas of UNDP work, including for climate change advocacy strategies among the gender advocates and other development practitioners. It benefits members and stakeholders through facilitating access to relevant information and knowledge, improving effectiveness by connecting peers, transferring lessons, and increasing the potential for innovation. It also contributes to development effectiveness by connecting sectors, professions, countries, regions and cultures; paving the way for more coordination, coherence and innovation. This leads towards more balanced policy decisions and increased attention on gender equality issues in the policy agenda.





## II) Where we stand: UNDP country office experiences

### 5) Country office presentations on critical climate change-related gender issues

In preparation for the CoP workshop, participants produced multimedia presentations on recent and ongoing initiatives on gender and climate change in their respective country offices. The discussions after each country presentation reinforced the need to address gender dimensions of climate change, leading to qualitative improvements in policy and measures. This also prompted a discussion of what steps are to be taken in order to integrate gender into all climate change mechanisms, measures and policies at the country level.

The country office presentations highlighted various entry points to integrate a gender perspective. The presentations are organized the matically as follows:

- i. Climate change adaptation – Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Fiji;
- ii. Gender mainstreaming of climate change initiatives – Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, Bhutan, Papua New Guinea;

- iii. Preparation of the National Communication (NATCOM) to UNFCCC and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) – Timor Leste, Cambodia, Malaysia;
- iv. Energy efficiency and renewable energy – India, Pakistan.

### 5.1 Climate change adaptation



#### *Sri Lanka*

As an island country, Sri Lanka is more focused on adaptation than mitigation of climate change. Many climate change-related events, such as urban flooding, landslides, droughts, soil erosion and high evaporation occur regularly in Sri Lanka. Many adaptation measures such as soil conservation, flood mitigation, and disaster preparedness, are being carried out through environment-related projects. Gender aspects have been incorporated in energy projects, such as a community biogas project and a project on energy-efficient stoves, which are being carried out through microfinancing. Participation of women in community work is very high, with a woman to man ratio of 80:20, but not many women take part in the decision-making process. Achieving representation



for women is a challenge, as lesser value is attached to women's contributions in community development work. More women should be involved in development initiatives so that gender issues are integrated in the future planning process, and to determine development directions.



## **Indonesia**

Key issues of climate change impact in Indonesia are highlighted through the UNDP Climate Change Programme Framework. UNDP Indonesia was in the process of preparing a draft on a human-development approach to climate change with the aim of ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation directly contribute to the national and local development process, strengthening efforts towards achieving the MDGs. It was emphasized that due to more frequent and more severe climate impacts, human development is being blocked or slowed down. The effects of climate change on women were highlighted in a project proposal 'Reverse Negative Development Trends on East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Caused by Climate Change Impacts'. This is one opportunity for gender mainstreaming where interventions specifically benefiting women could be expected.



## **Afghanistan**

Climate change-related work is yet to start in Afghanistan, even though the region is particularly prone to climate hazards such as droughts and floods. As the country is recovering from conflict, most investments are in security. Conflict-related displacement and malnutrition are more pronounced in the face of climate changes and it has become clear that heavy rainfall in winter,

water scarcity in summer, and lack of fuel wood disproportionately affect women and children. Studies of such events will identify where actions are required and the government can be informed accordingly. There is an urgent need to identify climate change-related impacts and address these in the overall development of the region. However, in all these processes gender concerns should be addressed as Afghan society is traditionally male dominated and men do the decision-making. Although Afghanistan is experiencing many climate change-related impacts, these are rarely included in post-conflict interventions. Climate change issues are even absent from the *UN National Human Development Report (2007–2008)* that focuses on security issues.



## **Fiji**

The Fiji Multi-Country Office, which covers 10 small island developing states, has completed the formulation of the NAPAs of the four LDCs in its region. Gender mainstreaming has been used in the design of these programmes and gender experts are a part of the core team of the Gender Country Programme (2008–2012). Climate change-related activities, particularly adaptation measures, are included in the community development projects and programmes. Adaptation measures are integrated in projects supported by the Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme such as coconut-based biofuels, a biogas digester for community development, and sustainable environment for community development. Such measures include increasing resilience of coastal settlements, promoting salt tolerant species for agriculture, initiating water storage and conservation strategies,



controlling vector-borne diseases, providing access to potable water, protecting fishing communities in coastal ecosystems, protecting coral reef ecosystems, facilitating disaster risk reduction (DRR) through strengthening of community preparedness and response.

Though the community development initiatives contribute to adaptation measures, they lack baseline data on gender. NAPA follow-up projects provide an opportunity for integrating gender components and there are indications of some steps forward, such as development of adaptation training kits for women, scoping exercises with gender dimensions, and gender mainstreaming checklists, etc. It was highlighted that gender dimensions should be included from the project formulation stage and gender-differentiated impacts should be identified in the local appraisal committees, as the government is more likely to take notice if data are made available on the effects of climate change on gender.

## 5.2 Gender mainstreaming in climate change initiatives



### Philippines

Two ongoing climate change projects were being conducted, one on strengthening institutional capacity to adapt to climate change and another on equitable integrated ecosystem/climate change adaptation, both of which focus on barrier removal. It was stressed that although GEF projects aim to reduce carbon emissions, they do not look at the role of the women in the decision-making process. Moreover, women in these projects are at a disadvantage due to cultural restrictions. The presentation

highlighted the need for log-frame analysis in the design of projects; that stakeholders were often not systematically analyzed; and that the inclusion of gender issues in the project is often dependent on the consultants involved. The most effective way to convey the message to the government is to do a cost benefit analysis on integrating gender, i.e. to talk in monetary terms, as the government has often failed to take notice of social issues like gender.



### Thailand

UNDP Thailand is working to enhance the empowerment of women in the disaster management planning process, particularly at the community level. In traditional Thai society, women play a very important role in the household as well as in commercial areas, but when it comes to planning, it is the men who make decisions. In UNDP community-level projects, particularly those on DRR, work has been targeting women and has involved women in self-help groups and microfinance. There should be room for change in discussing gender equality or empowerment, as gender roles have shifted in many cases, particularly in relation to disasters. What is important is how to address this transformation of gender roles. It can be addressed through regional examples of good practice. There is much emphasis placed on development at the grass roots level to identify *who participates* and *who benefits*. It was stressed that different cultural and political contexts in each country require different approaches, as is recognized in the work of UNDP.





## Mongolia

In Mongolia, 86.7 percent of rural income is derived from livestock. This is problematic as intensive livestock grazing can be detrimental to the environment on which it is so dependent. The Mongolia Country Office presentation discussed the project 'Strengthening the Disaster Mitigation and Management System in Mongolia – Phase III', which has resulted in the strengthening of the national capacity for climate resilience and adaptation to climate change to reduce disaster risks. It identified gender mainstreaming components of DRR and climate risk projects, such as assessment of vulnerability to disaster in terms of sex, age, location, disability; development of a gender mainstreaming strategy for DRR and climate-related hazards; and creation of a training package and public awareness materials on concepts of gender and gender equality.



## Bhutan

The Bhutan Country Office presentation focused on three projects, namely: (i) Gender Mainstreaming in Reducing Climate Change Induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in two valleys in Bhutan; (ii) Enhancing Global Environmental Management in Bhutan Local Governance System; and (iii) Enabling Activities for the Preparation of Bhutan's Second NATCOM to UNFCCC. It was explained that gender mainstreaming is being carried out in the three projects through advocacy and awareness-building exercises, training and capacity building on first aid, drill, early warning systems for women and children, and identification of evacuation sites. Also, sex-disaggregated data are part of the project's reports, and the terms of reference of consultants integrate gender concerns. The representation of women at

the local level is very good but more effort is required to achieve this at the national level.



## Papua New Guinea (PNG)

In PNG, entry points for mainstreaming gender into climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives at the country level have been identified in the United Nations Country Programme (UNCP) for 2008–2012, particularly in the areas of gender and sustainable livelihoods. Possible areas for action include increasing and enhancing women's leadership skills in government work on climate change and in formulating climate change policy. PNG was in the process of preparing its Second NATCOM report where it was felt that there was an opportunity for gender assessment in mitigation and adaptation strategies. Gender components can be integrated in to the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). Challenges such as the lack of institutional coordination, lack of data and capacity to follow-up remain. However, the Gender Strategic Plan 2008–2012, the Annual Work Plan 2009 shows that there is a way forward for gender inclusion in awareness and advocacy activities.



## 5.3 Preparation of NATCOM to UNFCCC and NAPAs



### **Timor Leste**

Timor Leste was in the process of preparing the Initial NATCOM on Climate Change after its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in March 2008. The work on climate change in Timor Leste was mostly focused on weather-related natural disasters integrated into disaster risk management and climate risk management. Timor Leste had completed its NAPA, prepared under the support from the LDCF. Two ongoing projects related to climate change include 'Rural Electrification' and 'Sustainable Land Management'. However, in all the above interventions gender considerations were not identified and integrated. NAPA is a good entry point for integrating gender considerations. A stakeholder consultation helps in putting the right information together and prioritizing action plans.



### **Cambodia**

It was reported that the Second NATCOM to UNFCCC was in the process of being approved without gender components. In contrast, there was a proposal in the National Strategic Development Plan to mainstream gender in the various line ministries. The Ministry of Environment had requested the Women's Affairs Ministry to develop an Action Plan for Gender. To facilitate gender sensitization, it was felt that the Gender Focal Points should be more proactive in identifying policy gaps and opportunities for capacity building on gender and more importantly should identify whom gender training should be provided to.



### **Malaysia**

Malaysia was preparing its Second NATCOM to the UNFCCC and there were some ongoing projects on energy efficiency. There was also a new initiative on 'Building Sector Energy Efficiency to Improve Energy Efficiency in Commercial and Government Sector Buildings'. This was to be achieved by promoting energy conserving design and by improving energy efficiency in the operation of existing buildings.

## 5.4 Energy efficiency and renewable energy



### **India**

Addressing climate change from the perspective of energy efficiency was the focus of the India Country Office presentation. India is addressing energy efficiency through various policies including: the Integrated Energy Policy 2006, the National Environment Policy 2006, and the National Action Plan for Climate Change 2008. Gender components are an integral part of implementation strategies in projects such as 'Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods', where local women are trained as solar engineers, in provision of small hydro-power for rural enterprises and in using biomass gasifiers for grain milling, etc. Another project was 'Access to Clean Energy', which aims to provide clean energy for domestic cooking, energy for rural enterprise and improved electricity distribution management. Identifying government guidelines on gender and climate change, and making videos showing gender concerns in their energy projects are other forward-looking initiatives. All logical framework analysis of



future projects will include explicit gender components and options will be explored to invite other energy experts and gender specialists to partner meetings.



## ***Pakistan***

Pakistan is a signatory to all conventions on environment and gender and all joint programmes have gender and environment as a cross cutting theme. The Ministry of Environment undertakes gender analysis of all environment projects. However, gender and climate change is a new strategy for the country and projects on energy efficiency or renewable energy have yet to identify gender components, though there are many entry points.





## III) Conclusion and ways forward

Climate change issues have traditionally been thought as being scientific in nature with technical solutions. However, as social considerations (and the realization that social issues are intricately linked with climate change) infiltrate this narrow conception, such beliefs are slowly being altered to reflect a more complete and realistic reflection of the climate change paradigm. Economically depressed women living in rural areas in LDC's are disproportionately affected by climate change, as they are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. But women are not given adequate roles, and their contribution to climate change policies remain unrecognized.

Carbon finance generated from reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the CDM represents a total of about \$5.3 billion to date, of which only 2 percent goes towards the UNFCCC administered Adaptation Fund. Since the money that goes to adaptation is clearly insufficient, there should be more leverage and lobbying undertaken along with the promotion of women's participation in climate change decisions-making at all levels. There are opportunities to ensure women's participation in climate negotiations through partnerships, such as GGCA, or GEF and COP. UNDP should ensure that women participate in all dialogues on the generation of solutions for disaster risk management and conflict

prevention. UNDP should strengthen national capacities in crisis-related gender analysis, including the incorporation of gender statistics into assessments of disaster risks, impacts and needs.

Each UN country office has developed different climate change strategies. However, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Country Programme Document (CPD) and the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) offer the greatest opportunity for integrating gender and climate change. At the country level, the Gender Focal Points should be part of any climate change initiative, and along with the Environmental Focal Points, should be involved in all national and regional actions on climate change issues. This includes adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance for various sectors such as energy, water, health, agriculture, DRR, and public awareness. Gender perspectives on climate change are to be considered when developing recommendations and strategies for the long-, medium- and short-term, at the country level.

UNDP has begun to set clear gender-specific goals and gender equality performance targets to integrate climate change impacts in its focus areas. In achieving this, country offices, Gender Focal Points and Environment Focal Points are explicitly called upon to commit to



mandates directed at climate change impacts and adaptation in their work areas. Members of the UNDP community have an interest in raising their capacity to address gender-responsive climate change impact in their focal areas, to find ways to understand and implement these mandates in practice, and to continue to

translate ideas into a compelling reality, which has been the hallmark of the Gender CoP. With multifaceted activities in the area of development, UNDP is in a key position to contribute to global, regional and national climate change policies to embody greater responsiveness to gendered realities.





# Annexure

## 1) Participant list

<b>Afghanistan</b>	Razia Fazal Lourdes Sajor Mirwais Sarah
<b>Bhutan</b>	Sonam Rabgye Sudarshana Perera
<b>Cambodia</b>	Thavrith Chhuon
<b>Fiji</b>	Asenaca Ravuvu
<b>Malaysia</b>	Hariramalu Ragavan
<b>Mongolia</b>	Tungalag Ulambayar
<b>Myanmar</b>	Dillip Kumar Bhanja
<b>India</b>	Jyoti Parikh Sangeeta Konsam S.N. Srinivasan
<b>Indonesia</b>	Alex Heikens Dewayani Savitri Yanti Lacsana
<b>PNG</b>	Gwen Maru Margaret Lokoloko
<b>Pakistan</b>	Sajid Baloch
<b>Philippines</b>	Imee Manal
<b>RCB</b>	Manuel Soriano

<b>RCC</b>	Anabay Sullivan Charmalee Jayasinghe Dinuka Amarasinghe Koh Miyaoi Lakshman Lionel Siriwardena Manisha Mishra Omar Noman Patricia Alexander Rohinie Kularathne Sunil Jayasiri
<b>RCC/BKK</b>	Roohi Metcalfe Radhika Behuria
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	Hyun-shin Lee
<b>Thailand</b>	Tongta Khiewpaisal
<b>Timor Leste</b>	Alissar Chaker
<b>UNDP-Sri Lanka</b>	Shyamala Gomez Tharuka Dissanayake Kay Kaoru Kamagiwa Dinali Jayawardena
<b>USA</b>	Mariko Saito



## 2) Abbreviated terms

BCPR_____Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery	UNCP_____United Nations Country Programme
CDM_____Clean Development Mechanism	UNDAF____United Nations Development Assistance Framework
CO_____country office	UNDP_____United Nations Development Programme
CO <sub>2</sub> _____carbon dioxide	UNEP_____United Nations Environment Programme
COP_____Conference of Parties	UNFCCC_United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CoP_____Community of Practice	UN-REDD_United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
CPAP_____Country Programme Action Plan	WEDO_____Women and Environment Development
CPD_____Country Programme Document	
DDC_____Drylands Development Centre	
DRR_____disaster risk reduction	
GEF_____Global Environment Facility	
GES_____Gender Equality Strategy	
GGCA_____Global Gender and Climate Alliance	
GLOF_____glacial lake outburst flood	
IPCC_____Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	
IUCN_____International Union for Conservation of Nature	
LDC_____least-developed countries	
LDCF_____Least Developed Countries Fund	
NTT_____East Nusa Tenggara	
MDG_____Millennium Development Goals	
NAPA_____National Adaptation Programmes of Action	
NATCOM_ National Communication	
SBI_____Subsidiary Body for Implementation	
SBSTA_____Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	
SLR_____sea level rise	
UN_____United Nations	



# 3) UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender CoP Annual Learning Workshop agenda

## Regional Gender Team

24–26 September 2008 Negombo, Sri Lanka

### Wednesday, 24 September

09.00–10.00	Opening session
10.00–11.30	“UNDP’s global and regional vision on climate change and gender”, Manuel Soriano, Regional Technical Advisor for Climate Change Global Environment Facility/UNDP “How UNDP is integrating gender in climate change response”, Mariko Saito, Gender Team/BDP/UNDP Keynote presentation: “Climate change and its gender-differentiated impacts”, Dr Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe, New Delhi
11.45–12.00	Country office initiatives
12.00–13.00	“Gender in mitigation efforts in Asia and the Pacific”, Dr Jyoti Parikh
14.00–15.00	“Gender perspectives in climate change impact”, Dr Jyoti Parikh and Dr Konsam Sangeeta
15.00–15.45	“UNDP’s climate change good practices”, Mariko Saito and Manuel Soriano
16.15–16.30	Country office initiatives
16.30–17.30	Gender analysis of climate change initiatives by ecosystems

### Thursday, 25 September

09.00–10.00	“Gender in UNDP’s strategic response to global climate change policies and policy negotiations”, Dr Jyoti Parikh
10.00–11.00	“UNDP’s strategies to promote gender-responsive country interventions”, Dr Jyoti Parikh and Dr K Sangeeta
11.15–11.45	Country office initiatives
11.45–12.30	“Human perspectives of climate change”, Indai Sajor, UNDP Afghanistan
14.00–14.30	Country office initiatives
14.30–15.00	Asia-Pacific Communities of Practice – Gender and Environment nexus
15.15–17.30	Gender analysis of climate change project documents , working groups led by the Regional Gender Team

### Friday, 26 September

09.00–10.00	Designing initiatives in Asia and the Pacific in climate change policy debates
10.00–13.00	Developing skills, Regional Gender Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Negotiating gender in climate change with governments</li><li>• Advocating gender in climate change in country offices</li><li>• Gender mainstreaming check-list</li></ul>
14.00–14.30	Wrap-up: Way forward, Patricia Alexander, Team Leader, Regional Gender Team
14.30–15.00	Closing session





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