

CONCEPT NOTE



Moving the needle on climate change and environmental action: the role of gender data

Joint High-Level Event on the International Women's Day 2022

Theme: Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow

March 8, 2022, 14:00–16:00 EAT

BACKGROUND AND FOCUS

Advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. The issues of climate change and sustainability have had and will continue to have severe and lasting impacts on the world's environmental, economic, and social development with the most vulnerable and marginalized experiencing the most profound impacts. Since women constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens the most, they are increasingly recognized as more vulnerable to the impact of climate change than men. While women play a critical role in sustaining communities and managing and restoring natural resources, their contributions are often undervalued and neglected.

Evidence also shows that advancements in gender equality could have a profoundly positive impact on social and environmental well-being. Conversely, when gender inequality is high, forest depletion, air pollution and other measures of environmental degradation are also high¹. Furthermore, without careful planning, environmental projects have the potential to perpetuate gender inequality. All

these factors thus make quality gender data and statistics a critical element of effective environment-related efforts.

The [2022 International Women's Day](#) theme, "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow", recognizes the interdependency of gender and the environment in building a more sustainable future for all. The IWD 2022 theme aligns with the [66th Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW66) theme on "Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls in the context of Climate Change, Environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies and Programmes".

GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to "achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" and establishes gender equality both as a stand-alone goal (SDG 5) and a foundation to achieving the SDGs. Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. All 17 SDGs contain 169 targets, of

¹ World Resources Institute commentary <https://www.wri.org/insights/if-you-care-about-environment-you-should-care-about-gender>

which 71 are environment-related targets, with UNEP responsible for measuring and reporting on 25 of the associated 92 environmental indicators².

With the publication of its Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment 2014-2017, UNEP entered a new phase in the promotion of gender mainstreaming and commitment towards achieving gender-sensitive results in its programme performance all part of the agency's contributions to increased environmental sustainability.

² Annex A of Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs (UNEP, 2021). <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/measuring-progress-environment-and-sdgs>

Given the limited inclusion of issues around gender and the environment in the 2030 Agenda and more particularly its measurement, UNEP published Gender and Environment Statistics: Unlocking Information for Action and Measuring the SDGs. This was aimed at supporting the development of gender-sensitive indicators for monitoring environment-related SDGs and showing the relationship between women and men's access to land, natural resources, and biodiversity and the implications of these linkages for achieving the SDGs.

Despite all these initiatives, the inclusion and measurement of gender-related targets and indicators in Africa, especially as it pertains to the environment, is still very limited.

ABOUT THE EVENT

The high-level event is aimed at providing a forum for National Statistics Offices (NSOs) policymakers and government partners of UN Women, UNEP, and UNECA to learn about how data on gender and the environment is being used in Africa to inform planning, resource allocation, monitoring and evaluation. Various initiatives aimed at bridging data gaps and spearheaded by UN Women, UNEP, SEI and UNECA will also be discussed.

The joint forum is also aimed at discussing data gaps in the area and sharing experiences on how these are being bridged in the region with the aim of facilitating south-south learning.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The joint event will bring together sector actors, thought leaders and decision-makers who are currently influencing or can potentially impact the gender and environment agenda particularly from a gender data and statistics perspective. These will include:

- NSO leaders and representatives
- Policymakers
- State actors namely gender and environment stakeholders
- Members of the mainstream media including gender journalists, and broadcast journalists
- Non-state actors including representatives from gender CSOs, CBOs, representatives from academia and research organizations, private sector as applicable

EVENT SET UP



Proposed date:

March 8, 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 (EAT)



Format:

Virtual high-level panel discussions followed by Q&A



Duration:

Two hours



Technology:

Zoom



Number of participants:

120 pax

WHY ATTEND?

The UN Women–UNEP joint forum will bring together representatives from NSOs, non-government organizations (NGOs), academia, UN-Women, UNEP, SEI and UNECA to showcase instances of how gender data has informed environmental programming in Africa as well as the latest global initiatives on the measurement of gender and environment indicators.

Gender and the environment and the role of gender data and statistics in driving this agenda is an emerging issue in Africa. This forum will provide a valuable opportunity to engage with sector stakeholders and thought leaders on emerging trends in the region on this important topic to inform country and other programming and decision-making for sustainability.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The power of gender data to impact on climate change and environmental action

Facilitators: UN Women & UNEP

14:00 **Welcome remarks and framing of the webinar**
Michelle Serousi, *Regional Gender Statistics Advisor, UN Women, West and Central Africa*
Maxime Houinato, *Regional Director UN Women, East and Southern Africa*

14:10 **Welcome remarks**
William Muwava, *Chief of Demographic and Social Statistics Section at Africa Centre of Statistics, UNECA.*
Inger Andersen, *Executive Director, UNEP*, (video) followed by Janet Macharia, *Head of the Gender and Safeguards Unit, UNEP*
Hon. Esther Passaris, *Member of Parliament (TBC)*

Session I. The use of gender data to inform and track changes in environmental programmes in Africa

Moderator: Brandes Raymond, Programme Management Officer - Gender, UNEP

14:25 **Panel discussion on showcasing how gender data is used at the country level to inform environmental programme and policy development and implementation in Africa**
1) Jane Gichuru, *Acting Deputy Director, Education & Social Services Sector, Nairobi County Government.*
2) AFDB Shea butter project participant, South Sudan
3) Amarbal Avrimed, *Director Social Statistics, Statistics Office of Mongolia (TBC)*
4) EASTECO

14:55 **Q and A panel participant interaction**

Session II. Gender and the environment data gaps – examples of how it is being bridged

Moderator: Isabella Schmidt, Regional Statistics Specialist, UN Women East and Southern Africa

15:10 **Panel discussion on current data gaps and showcasing various measurement initiatives and best practices**
1) Ludgarde Coppens, *Head of the SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, UNEP*
2) Marc Koffi Kouakou, *Statistician-Economist, AfDB*
3) Rocio Diaz-Chavez, *Imperial College London*
4) Sara Duerto Valero, *Gender statistics regional advisor, UN Women, Asia Pacific Regional Office*

15:40 **Q and A panel participant interaction**

16:00 **Closing remarks**
Papa Seck, *Chief Research and Data, UN Women, HQ.*