

# OVERVIEW OF THE BASIS FOR GENDER & CLIMATE

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# GENDER, GENDER EVERYWHERE

- Shifting paradigms
- Knowledge, education, information
- Impacts & adaptation
- Drivers & mitigation
- Policy-making & solutions

# WHAT GENDER ANALYSIS BRINGS TO THE TABLE

- Reveals the ways in which these things *are* gendered
- Maps the importance of understanding differential positions, roles, contributions of men and women -- leveraging gender-specific knowledge into successful policies, programmes, and mitigation/ adaptation strategies (“solutions”)

# SHIFTING PARADIGMS

Gender analysis both produces a new cc paradigm and introduces the necessity for it:

- analysis rooted in *social* sciences
- climate change is a biophysical problem that derives from, is manifested in, and will need solutions from the *social* realm – not a problem that is only the province of physical scientists
- social analysis is (or should be) an equal partner

# KNOWLEDGE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION

- *Observation of/ knowledge about cc effects: diverse knowledges & rapporteurs*
  - *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (2004)*
- *Transmission of knowledge* (people need to know about cc in order to participate in its mitigation and avoid/ adapt to its impacts)
- *Formal education sector imp role in supporting adaptation*

*Gender & educational equity/ parity... literacy...access to  
public-sphere information...media*

# SCALE

- “lived experience” scale important both for flows of information up and down: necessity of translating global cc research to where people live:
  - UNDP country climate profiles
  - national climate strategies
  - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (gender: Liberia, India, Senegal)

# IMPACTS & ADAPTATION

- impacts of cc on communities and individuals varies with class, status, resources, assets - and gender -- IPCC concurs (w/o gender)
- vulnerability is socially constructed
- ...as is ability to adapt

# IMPACTS & ADAPTATION

- Widely studied:
  - malaria deaths/ anemia in pregnant women
  - cc induced migration (often male or female specific) alters household livelihoods and resilience
  - changes in water supplies, forest health, ecosystem services has gender-differential effect

# IMPACTS & ADAPTATION

- attention to gender brings attention to scale: overall resilience and adaptive capacity of a society often masks important differences of adaptive and mitigative capacity of different strata – the socially-differentiated vulnerability that the IPCC and others identify lives at the local scale
- feedback loops: cc impacts reflect differential statuses; can also create them, reinforcing inequities or imposing new inequalities

# IMPACTS & ADAPTATION

Tools of gender analysis:

- robust literature in disaster impact & management
- CARE: Climate Vulnerability & Capacity Analysis
- gender impact environmental assessment: several models

# DRIVERS & MITIGATION

- Drivers of cc are socially constructed (and gendered):
  - macro scale: economic systems
  - micro scale: sex roles and ecological footprint analysis; consumption (esp in energy and transportation sectors)

# DRIVERS & MITIGATION

- IPCC (2001): mitigation: “An *anthropogenic intervention* to reduce the sources of greenhouse gases or enhance their sinks”
- In terms of such anthropogenic interventions:
  - Men and women play different roles as resource managers/ biodiversity conservators (hope for “natural services” solutions/ sinks)

# DRIVERS & MITIGATION

- climate financing schemes: need gender screens for greater effect
- technological interventions: technology is not gender neutral -- nor are such interventions available to/ supported equally by women and men
- reliance on market-based solutions: need gender screens -- and conceptual scrutiny (“masters tools” analysis, or Einstein if you prefer)

# POLICY & SOLUTIONS

- Gender equity in decision-making: women not at the table -- abt 25% of COP delegates
- Gender analysis sharpens understanding of efficacy and sustainability of:
  - climate financing
  - marketization schemes
  - sustainable development
  - technological interventions

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH IGNORING GENDER ANALYSIS?

- partial analysis
- World Bank studies (esp 2004, water): equal gender participation is the most reliable indicator of project success
- UN mandates for gender mainstreaming: MDGs; system-wide ECOSOC Resolution (2005)

# GENDER IN ENVIRONMENTALLY-RELATED MANDATES

- Agenda 21
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- Resolution 1325

# Climate Change?

- Gender conspicuously absent from
  - UNFCCC
  - IPCC
  - COP processes and meetings
  - WMO???

# THE MISSING METRIC

despite the UN mandate for gender analysis in all UN processes, the int'l climate change negotiation process has failed to adopt a gender-sensitive strategy – this not only leads to concerns about the respect for gender equity at the international level, but it cripples the climate change process: it is impossible to determine the full range of causes, effects and solutions to climate change without taking gender into account.