



Gender Equality Challenges and good practices from SEE

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OVERVIEW

- Why gender is important in sustainable management of natural resources?
- What did we do?
- What did we learn?
- What needs to be done next?



Why gender is important?

- Women and men use natural resources in a different way due their gender roles, rights, and responsibilities at the household and community.
- Environmental changes, including biodiversity loss, climate change, natural disasters, water services/resource management and energy development have different impact on women and men. This understanding is essential if we're to promote sustainable development and effective conservation and appropriate management of natural resources.
- Effective policies and programming requires understanding and addressing of the gender-specific relationships to natural resources use and management and specific linkages between natural resources, cultural values, and local knowledge.







Why gender is important?

- Women have a more limited access to assets, which translates into an inferior economic position. This gap encompasses salaries, property ownership, pensions, inheritance, and land;
- More women are employed in the informal sector or at lower-paying jobs; They are underrepresented among owners of important companies in technical sectors such as energy and transport;
- They usually do not own land, even though they constitute the majority of the agricultural workforce;
- Their representation in parliament or municipal level is generally low, which affects their participation in decision-making processes.



What did we do?

1. Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan

Key Gender Documents						
CEDAW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Optional protocol CEDAW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The national legislation on GE transposes EU directives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gender Equality Law	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gender Equality Strategy & Action Plan	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND









16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

						
Reference to nexus dimensions (water, environment, agriculture, energy) in gender action plan or strategy	Referred to agriculture and rural development and IMWW	Yes, in the 2 nd GAP but no mention to energy related issues. The more recent GAP is only in Bosnian and could not be analysed.	No	Only in relation to rural development and access to services in rural areas	No	No access to info
Reference to Gender in the legislation/strategies for water and other nexus sectors (environment, energy, agriculture/rural development)	TBD, IWRM strategy draft has gender perspective. Gender perspective also considered in the measures related to extreme events and disaster management (floods) and rural development	Yes, in relation to: 1- extreme events and disaster management (floods) 2- rural development and agriculture	The NWS commits to address gender equality, but it does not refer to how this will be achieved.	Only in relation to rural development.	Only in the National Strategy on Sustainable Development by 2030 but it is not clear how.	In the framework of the IPARD programme support to agriculture and in relation to disaster risk reduction linked with extreme weather events.
River Basin Management Plan refers to gender	TBD	No	TBD	No	TBD	No

What did we do?

- **Action Plan**

- ✓ Regional workshops, surveys, national workshop, webinars and staff training
 - Balanced stakeholder's engagement: women composed *no less* than 35% as participants,
 - But we had from 0% to 80% women speakers/panelists
 - Check list for gender sensitive meetings, events and communication.

What did we do?

- ✓ Gender Chapter on Nexus strategies and policies
"Addressing challenges and utilizing opportunities emerging because of transition to a green economy, digital transformation, climate change and the environment "
- ✓ Revision of main assessment documents through gender lenses
- ✓ Online social media and articles

What did we learn? - Challenges

- Lack of sex-disaggregated data
- Lack of gender mainstreaming in nexus policies and strategies
- Lack of adequate human and financial resources
- Lack of combined knowledge in water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus and gender
- Lack of balanced women and men participation

What did we learn? - Challenges

- The sustainable development discourse often neglects to address equal access to natural resources of various marginalised groups, including women.
- Women do not enjoy the same rights to land, one of the crucial natural resources.
- Traditional gender roles, stereotypes and patriarchal traditional norms are recognised as the principal obstacle to achieving gender equality.

What did we learn? - Challenges

- Energy, water, and food are interlinked. However, water management and the nexus water-food-energy-ecosystems largely remains a masculine domain. To change this, gender mainstreaming remains the principal tool for achieving gender equality and for redistributing power and influence.
- Closing the gender gaps depends on enlightened government policies that take gender dimension into account and use innovative tools such as gender responsive budgeting.
- We need to transform gender norms and go from gender-blind, to gender-neutral, gender-aware, gender mainstreaming, to gender transformative approaches.

What did we learn? - Challenges

- The environment is under threat by uncontrolled investment projects and inappropriate waste management and an increasing number of women from different spheres are becoming active in efforts to protect the environment.
- In accessing forest resources, women and men face different challenges. Male gender roles are associated with tasks that deal with control of assets, mobility, and decision-making. Female roles typically involve manual labour for the collection of firewood.
- The key question to achieving sustainable development is - how to find a balance between economic development on one hand, and its environmental impact and social implications including gender, on the other. The links between these phenomena are often invisible or neglected, and gender equality is key to reconciling competing priorities.

What did we learn? – Opportunities

- Strong GE legislative framework
- Well established Gender Machinery and women organizations with relevant gender knowledge that needs to be included more in future activities and events
- It is important to mainstream gender sooner rather than latter in nexus sector strategies, policies and actions
- Positive examples and projects in the country, but also in the region
- There is a need to establish, strengthen networks that can ensure sustainability of gender discussions and mainstreaming in nexus sectors

What did we learn? – Opportunities

- Women in position of power can help convince the population to behave responsibly when it comes to sustainable management of natural resources
- Education among women can help them engage in sustainable management of natural resources
- In creating water policies, the government must consult both women and men, because they use water and natural resources differently.
- When women are empowered, men behave less individualistically. This, in fact, increases household efficiency.



What is needed in the future?

- **Addressing the gender gap in priority identified areas**

Take away...

- **Understand** - Women and men have different access, use (abuse) and benefit from NR
- **Collect and analyze** - Sex-disaggregated data is key to gender sensitive strategies, policies and interventions
- **Encourage** - balanced participation at all levels



Thank you

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