

Gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change: overview, available tools, good practices and lessons learned

BACKGROUND

This synopsis presents an overview of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change, their opportunities and challenges, and highlights recommendations to enhance their application and integration. The synopsis is drawn from the findings of the following documents prepared under the Nairobi work programme (NWP):

Documents

“Report on the meeting on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation” ([FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11-2014](#))

Technical paper on “Best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change” ([FCCC/TP/2013/11-2013](#))

Information source

The meeting was attended by over 60 representatives from Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention, and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as representatives of indigenous communities.

Literature review.

What are gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation?

- Gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change refer to methodologies and practices applied to ensure that both men’s and women’s concerns, aspirations, opportunities and capacities are taken into account:
 - * They include gender analyses, vulnerability assessment and gender-disaggregated information systems, and comprehensive gender guidelines and toolkits to promote gender sensitivity in climate change adaptation;
- Gender-sensitive approaches and tools need to be applied in all climate change adaptation activities: planning and designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, creation of an enabling environment and leadership, as well as project and programme management.

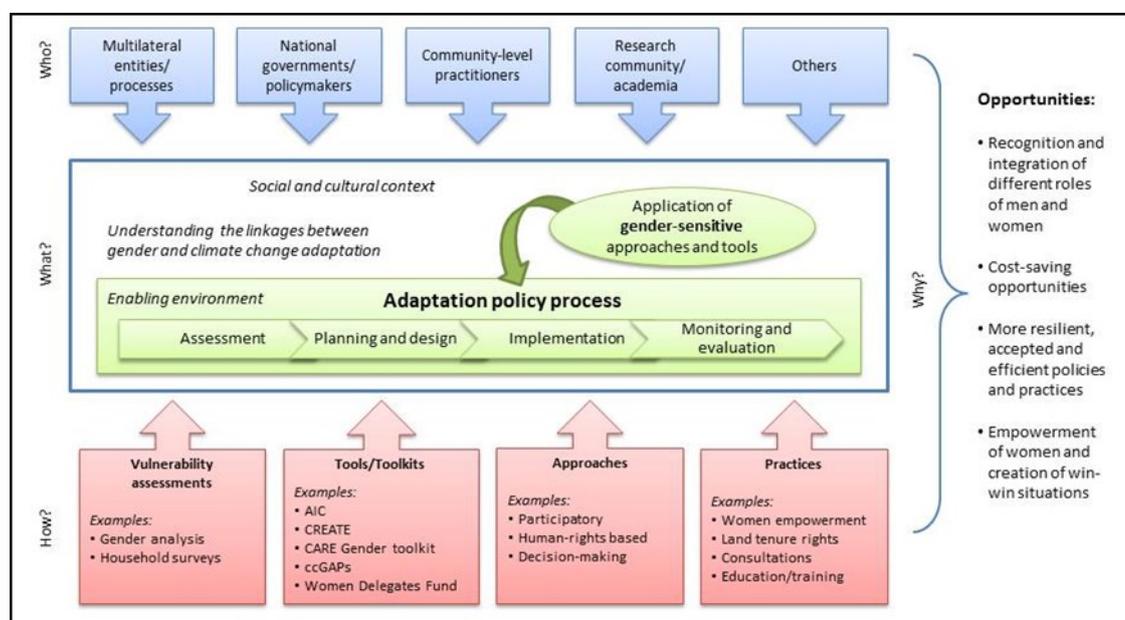
Why use gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation?

- Women are disproportionately affected by climate change, owing in particular to gender inequality in access to resources and decision-making;
- The application of gender-sensitive approaches for adaptation can contribute to:
 - * Catalysing actions that recognize and integrate the different vulnerabilities, knowledge and roles of men and women;
 - * Empowering women as agents of change and innovation (rather than considering women as mere victims of climate change), and creating a win-win situation;
 - * Ensuring the acceptance of new adaptation technologies in communities;
 - * Cost-saving opportunities for adaptation projects and programmes;
 - * More resilient, effective and efficient policies and practices.

KEY FINDINGS

The table below presents trends and gaps with regard to the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation, as well as examples of tools and good practices that could contribute to scaling up the application of these approaches and tools for adaptation planning and action (See Figure 1).

Figure 1 - An overview of key issues discussed in relation to the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation



Abbreviations: AIC > appreciate influence control, CREATE > Climate Resilience Evaluation for Adaptation through Empowerment, CARE = Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, ccGAPs = climate change gender action plans.

Building an 'actionable' knowledge base

Key principle

- Leadership on gender-sensitive climate adaptation as well as an enabling environment is essential for gender-sensitive tools and approaches to be applied beyond the design phase of the adaptation planning process.

What does it take?

- Anchor global agreements on gender within the national context;
- Create an enabling environment for gender-sensitive adaptation initiatives through:
 - * Advocacy for policy interventions;
 - * The translation of guiding principles from international agreements and national policies into operation actions;
 - * The development of national and regional gender strategies (with adequate financial and technical support) for climate change adaptation initiatives;
- At the national level:
 - * Make gender-sensitive adaptation policies and plans a priority;
 - * Acknowledge national and international laws and policies in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women, in national adaptation policies and planning processes, including national adaptation plans (NAPs);
 - * Build national-level partnerships for:
 - ⇒ Learning and exchanging good practices, including in the context of formulating and implementing NAPs;
 - ⇒ Facilitating subnational dialogues that engage women's groups and indigenous groups;
- At the community level:
 - * Integrate gender considerations into existing approaches, for example through the application of indigenous and traditional knowledge and disaster risk reduction initiatives, rather than as stand-alone projects.

Scaling up the integration of gender-sensitive approaches and tools

What does it take?

- Raise awareness and enhance capacities at all levels:
 - * Build the capacity of women and gender-focused organizations at the national level, including through dedicated training;
 - * Build the capacity of community-level practitioners, who often play a major part as intermediaries between multilateral processes, national governments and local communities, for them to be better able to:
 - ⇒ Document and share information by establishing local networks with multi-stakeholder participation, including indigenous groups;
 - ⇒ Adapt guidance to the local context and local language;
 - ⇒ Channel good practices and lessons learned from the communities to the UN-FCCC process;
 - ⇒ Actively engage communities and female leaders in planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation;
- Allocate financial resources over long-term periods in order to reflect the fact that the integration of gender considerations requires time:
 - * Earmark funding for integrating gender considerations into adaptation programmes;
 - * Provide resources for gender considerations in risk analysis and national budgeting.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS FOR ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT

Making knowledge more relevant and accessible

- Systematically documenting and widely sharing case studies that demonstrate the benefits of applying gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation at the global and regional levels, and in different sectors;
- Facilitating close collaboration between practitioners and local communities in developing/adapting gender-sensitive tools to reflect the specific social and cultural context:
 - * Tools and guidelines for gender-responsive activities need to be translated into local languages beyond major languages such as English, French and Spanish;
- The UNFCCC secretariat could facilitate learning and the sharing of experiences, as well as capacity-building efforts, among different groups of stakeholders and different communities of practices, by creating a network of experts.

Addressing critical knowledge gaps

- Developing guidance/tools/approaches to enhance explicit gender considerations in all phases of adaptation processes, and more particularly:
 - * Methodologies/approaches for applying available gender-sensitive approaches and tools in the adaptation context;
 - * Concrete approaches as to how to ensure gender sensitivity in all phases of vulnerability assessments;
 - * Guidance on how to ensure effective participation of women in consultations;
 - * Gender-sensitive indicators for adaptation planning process;
 - * Framework for monitoring gender sensitivity at different stages of the adaptation process;
 - * Gender-sensitive resilience frameworks for adaptation initiatives;
 - * Guidance on developing gender strategies and action plans;
 - * Guidance on gender budgets, including on their use as effective gender-sensitive management tools;
- Developing guidance to facilitate the consideration of gender aspects in key national adaptation processes, including the national adaptation planning processes:
 - * Expert groups could be created under the UNFCCC process to develop tools and approaches for including gender considerations in the NAP process;
- Establishing a systematic assessment process to test the usefulness and applicability of existing tools and approaches, and promote new approaches:
 - * Scientists/researchers/academia would need to be involved (particularly through South–South collaboration), in order to:
 - ⇒ Elucidate the linkages between successful adaptation and the consideration of gender sensitivity;
 - ⇒ Monitor/test/validate the application of various gender-sensitive approaches and tools for risks and vulnerability assessment and capacity building;
 - ⇒ Monitor and assess benefits associated with the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation across different levels;
 - ⇒ Develop curricula for different target groups;
- Strengthening the technical work related to the monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation that integrate the consideration of gender.

For further information, the [Adaptation knowledge portal](#) provides access to:

- Documents [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11](#) and [FCCC/TP/2013/11](#);
- Detailed [case studies](#) on gender-sensitive approaches;
- Further information on [tools and approaches](#) on the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation;
- [Additional knowledge resources](#).