

Example on gender-sensitive approaches and tools, including good practices for the application of these approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change¹

Inputs provided by:

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Title of practice/tool

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project Gender Assessment

Description of approach/practice/tool

Climate change will seriously affect communities in the region, particularly vulnerable people and those experiencing social and/or economic inequalities. It is important to determine how climate change will impact women and men differently, as well as within different age and economic groups and what existing capacities should be strengthened. Acknowledging the differences and addressing inequalities will help women and men to continue to work together to build their resilience to future climate risks.

A broad gender assessment of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project was undertaken to assess the level and degree that the Project addressed gender. The assessment considered a wide range of areas and issues including the enabling environment, available resources and the capacity for gender mainstreaming at all levels.

Gender mainstreaming aims to ensure that both women and men benefit equally from the development process and seeks to address areas where inequalities have been identified. Gender mainstreaming is concerned with integrating a gender perspective and analysis into all stages of the project, policy and programming cycle. Gender mainstreaming assesses the implications of planned actions for men and women to enhance development overall and promote gender equality.

The assessment involved an extensive literature review, a desk study of project documentation, consultations with key national and regional stakeholders, interviews and surveys with national coordinators, and in-country consultations and site visits in Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Tonga.

Recommendations take into consideration existing project management arrangements, and will incorporate findings from the 2013 Mid Term Review of PACC that was being undertaken concurrently with the gender assessment. The recommendations aim to achieve two objectives: (i) develop actions to support gender mainstreaming in PACC which are relevant in both national and regional contexts and support the effectiveness of climate change adaptation; and (ii) promote awareness of how gender mainstreaming can improve project delivery and sustainability of outcomes and gender equality in general.

Recommendations and entry points identified in the assessment report serve as a starting point for

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further action planning by National Coordinators, key stakeholders and the PACC Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU).

The following guiding principles were utilized in the assessment:

Project Design

- Gender should be mainstreamed into the overall goal, objectives, outcomes and results
- Gender analysis and expertise should be included in the original design
- Climate change initiatives should be informed by national and regional gender equality policies and strategies, as well as gender issues identified for the relevant sector
- Climate change adaptation requires an analysis of the vulnerabilities and capacities of women, men and other groups
- Gender roles, gender divisions of labour and gender differentiated resource uses are critical concerns in the identification of climate change impacts on men and women
- The beneficiaries of climate change adaptation should specifically include women, men and particularly vulnerable groups
- Women and men should have equal opportunities to be involved in the design of climate change initiatives and adaptation measures

Mainstreaming Climate Change

- Climate change policy and legislation should be guided by national gender equality policies and strategies, and should consider gender issues in regional, national and sectoral development frameworks
- Climate change policy and legislation should consider the needs, aspirations and priorities of women, men, young people, and particularly vulnerable groups
- National women's machineries and women's NGOs should be meaningfully involved in the development and implementation of climate change policy and legislation
- Gender should be comprehensively and coherently integrated throughout climate change policies and legislation

Adaptation Measures

- Adaptation measures should be underpinned rigorous social science, particularly at local level
- Sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis is needed to understand the gender dimensions of climate change
- Women and men need relevant information, knowledge and skills to be able to adapt to climate change

Technical Support

- Women and men should have equal opportunities to build capacity, particularly in technical fields related to climate change
- Women, men or specific groups may need to be targeted for capacity development and behaviour change
- Effective partnerships can maximize technical skills in gender and climate change at national and regional levels

Communications

- Women and men need to be well informed and motivated to adapt to climate change, particularly

at local level

- Women and men may have different communication needs that should be addressed in relation to climate change
- Images about climate change can also promote gender equality

Lessons Learned

- More evidence is needed to upscale and improve the integration of gender into climate change mainstreaming and adaptation
- Pacific Island countries and the region as a whole need more evidence to support and advocate for gender mainstreaming in climate change mainstreaming and adaptation
- Good practices and lessons learned about gender and climate change should be shared at national and regional levels

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Effective monitoring and reporting frameworks and systems are needed to capture lessons learned and good practices related to gender and climate change

Participation and Decision-Making

- Women and men should have equal opportunities to participate and make decision in project governance and management structures
- Both women and men at community level should be meaningfully involved in climate change
- Climate change initiatives would benefit from increased engagement with national women's machineries and women's NGOs and CBOs
- Women and men should be considered active agents of change for climate change adaptation

The Enabling Environment

- Effective integration of gender into climate change requires: i) responsive institutional arrangements; ii) gender awareness, competencies and skills; and iii) commitment, political will and dedicated resources
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Region

- Pacific Island Countries

Country

This will be utilized under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change(PACC) project in Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and under PACC+ also in Kiribati and Tokelau.

Sector

Food security, agriculture and fisheries
Marine and coastal ecosystems
Other terrestrial ecosystems

Transport, infrastructure and human settlements
Water resources

Name of implementing institution/s

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility

Further information

www.sprep.org and www.pacificclimatechange.net

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