



**Advancing actions of the Lima Work Programme on Gender:  
organization of an in-session workshop at SB44 (May 2016) on**

***“Gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on adaptation and capacity-building,  
and training for delegates on gender issues”<sup>1</sup>***

*A submission from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to the UNFCCC*

At COP20 in Lima, Peru, Parties agreed the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), which mandated a two-year work programme for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy. A key activity of this decision was the organization of an in-session workshop on *gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on adaptation and capacity-building, and training for delegates on gender issues* (as per Paragraph 12 in the LWPG) during SB44 in May 2016. In light of the newly agreed Paris Agreement, too, which integrated key gender language in its Preamble as well as in Article 7 Paragraph 5 (with respect to adaptation) and in Article 11 Paragraph 2 (with respect to capacity-building), ***the upcoming workshop is an important opportunity to move Parties and stakeholders substantively forward on these issues. It should aim to foster concrete understanding of gender-responsive policymaking and programming, its challenges and benefits, and strategies for action. Crucially, the workshop should also consider gender-responsive criteria and requirements for adaptation projects supported by the climate financing mechanisms.***

Drawing on decades of experience supporting governments and stakeholders through gender-responsive policy, programming and capacity-building processes, IUCN, through its Global Gender Office (GGO), is pleased to submit the following suggestions for the organization of the workshop and looks forward to supporting its design, implementation and subsequent outreach and training on these subjects.

1. To begin on a practical note, we find the most strategic **timing of the workshop** to be during the start of the second week of the intersessional.
2. We also find that the language of the LWPG clearly indicates the **purpose of the workshop**: to advance understanding of gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on adaptation and capacity-building, and training for delegates on gender issues. The latter two elements are essential components of the first, and all should be considered with the end-goal in mind: that programming and practice transforms the lives, livelihoods and resilience of women and men, all over the world.

**Adaptation will cut across and be relevant to all key sectors**, from water to agriculture; from finance to infrastructure planning. This suggests a substantial scope, but a comprehensive overview defining the linkages of these issues from a gender perspective is essential in responding to and building resilience of communities and countries to the imminent impact of climate change, even within a 1.5- to 2-degree Celsius limit as set forth by Parties. Further, under the COP21 Paris Agreement, Parties “acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach” and that “capacity-building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity-building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive.” **These new commitments, along with the 12 decisions in relation to gender and adaptation from COP1 to the present, as well as the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)—which provide some of the newest and most comprehensive articulations of how countries aim to adapt to a changing climate, should guide implementation and be anchored in national and sub-national best-case approaches for**

<sup>1</sup> Lima Work Programme on Gender:  
[https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima\\_dec\\_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv\\_cop20\\_gender.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gender.pdf)

**increasing the multiple co-benefits of climate adaptation response, while advancing progress toward commitments on women’s rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.**

3. Many examples are now emerging at international, regional, national and subnational levels that illustrate how governments and stakeholders are developing gender-responsive climate policy and programming. At SB44, **the workshop should focus on showcasing concrete ways forward toward gender-responsive implementation, including via scaling up of best-case examples.** The workshops under the auspices of the UNFCCC are meant to support implementation of already agreed commitments; thus, Parties and stakeholders need to go beyond the “why” and focus proactively on the “how” and on the way forward through specific recommendations. A range of strategies, tools, methodologies, and lessons exist to guide discussions, identify best practices across sectors, and define recommendations to guide the way forward.

IUCN can point to several experiences from the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) processes for example (a process that has now been facilitated in 20 countries around the world) that span sectors and strategies, and that illustrate the scope of gender-responsive adaptation and the unique forms implementation can take at different levels:

- In Jordan, at policy level, the government identified the need to revise national legislation related to **water** to ensure that gender and climate change considerations were fully integrated;
- In Zambia, at planning level, it was proposed that women need to be supported and empowered to sit on all levels of planning committees to ensure **infrastructure** was planned and built from a gender-responsive and climate-smart perspective (from roads, bridges and schools, to water and waste management facilities);
- In Tanzania, with respect to governance and information-sharing, stakeholders sought to establish and strengthen the link between women’s groups and local authority **health** officers to share information on development of diseases and curative measures;
- In Nepal, to strengthen **food security**, focus was placed on prioritizing women’s access to productive resources by creating campaigns to ensure women’s access to land, seed, credit and agricultural information;
- In Peru, the ccGAP included an idea to transform **educational** standards and the preparedness of local youth by developing a national certification for resilient schools to climate change (e.g. differentiated school calendars to adapt to climate specificity in regions, construction materials, etc.); and
- In the remote villages of Mozambique, which rely heavily upon traditional medicinal plants and healers, stakeholders committed to create climate change health kits that would empower local communities with tools and plants to safeguard against **disasters** and disease— for example, moringa to purify water and citronella to ward off mosquitos.

Across the wide spectrum of “gender and climate change” as a topic, the strongest data, lessons learned, and opportunities for replication and scaling-up best practices exist in the context of adaptation. As countries move forward with implementation through a wide range of adaptation and capacity building strategies, including developing policies and programmes (e.g., NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, INDCs) and providing finance (including via the GCF, GEF or bi-lateral action), there will be increasing demonstrations of gender as a catalyst for success. To ensure gender considerations are effectively and cohesively integrated evermore into climate-resilient and low-emissions development planning and measures, IUCN urges this workshop to push past identification and knowledge sharing of good policies and practices that exist, to concrete recommendations for achieving sustainable development, climate-resilient and gender-responsive outcomes.

Best practices from existing mechanisms and instruments (e.g., NAPs, INDCs) can be a starting point. Moreover, an examination of climate finance mechanisms should illustrate the breadth of gender mandates that exist and the ways in which projects can and must meet gender requirements. The key multilateral climate finance mechanisms have recently integrated gender considerations into their policies and guidelines demonstrating a significant step in progressing towards gender equality in climate change. This serves as a crucial signal to the wider global climate finance architecture, including the private sector and bilateral actors, on the importance of providing inclusive and equitable resources, participation, and access to funding—all being key to implementation at national and subnational levels. Despite this achievement, much of the large finance projects from the multilateral finance mechanisms, and bi-lateral financing, focus on mitigation and large-scale interventions often neglecting to fully recognize the key role that **financing adaptation** plays in building climate-smart, -resilient and adaptive communities and governments.

The UNFCCC and Parties have designated these funds under the Convention articles, but there is not yet a prescribed operating procedure for ensuring gender equality and social safeguards in the distribution of these funds. While there has been considerable effort from donor organizations and civil society to incorporate gender into projects, or design projects focused on women—crucial elements for building women’s engagement and economic empowerment—they remain at a small scale and do not necessarily prompt transformational change. Training and building the capacity of donor organizations, bilateral agencies and multilateral climate finance mechanisms on environmental and gender safeguards, monitoring and accountability measures will ensure a ripple effect that positively impacts the lives and livelihoods of those that climate policies should consider. Facilitating access to financing, and to information on climate financing mechanisms and their mandates, in communities provides a necessary means for enhancing, and scaling-up women’s involvement by giving equal opportunity, access and benefits to both women and men. For the billions of dollars already being mobilized, gender can and needs to be effectively addressed. *It is imperative that climate adaptation financing supports entire populations in adopting and strengthening policies and measures for reducing climate risks and sociocultural inequalities. Therefore, one of the elements that could be covered in this workshop is the definition of a set of actions to work hand-in-hand with the financing mechanisms.*

3. With respect to **training for delegates** on gender, IUCN, through its Global Gender Office, reflects upon many years of experience delivering impactful trainings, capacity building activities, and orientation sessions for high-level delegates and government officials. In short form: trainings are essential. Capacity building on why gender-responsive implementation is crucial (i.e., in that it delivers more effective, efficient and equitable outcomes) and, more importantly, strategies for doing so, are consistently necessary over time. With every change in political appointment and delegation representation, capacity for addressing gender and adaptation changes. *It would be highly strategic for the UNFCCC to establish a regularly convening body, similar to the Nairobi Work Programme, to support decision makers’ capacity on evolving gender concerns. This could be one of the key recommendations of the workshop.*

4. Along the lines of workshop recommendations, the outcome of the workshop needs to go beyond a report that summarizes the discussions but builds on the evidence base of strong gender-responsive examples of policy, planning, financing and measures presented, and provide targeted recommendations on the path forward. **The outcome of the workshop must provide guidance, drive action, and be a tool for Parties to continue to make progress in gender-responsive implementation.** We suggest that an outcome report provides concrete examples and strategies that span sectors and focuses on three main levels: national policymaking, country-wide

programming, and subnational projects. In addition, it should target, as noted above, specific recommendations toward climate finance bodies and programmes.

IUCN looks forward to working in partnership with the Parties, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Women and Gender Constituency, members of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance and other key networks of stakeholders to identify the most effective presenters and guide proactive discussions at the workshop, and shape the outcome report.

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