

**Regional Workshop for Africa on
updating National Biodiversity
Strategies and Action Plans
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Mainstreaming Gender into NBSAPs

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Why does gender matter?

- Importance of biodiversity varies to different individuals, communities and groups.
- Biodiversity critical for survival, belief systems, cultural norms and spiritual values
- Women and men's role in use, managing and conserving biodiversity
- Successful conservation policies **CANNOT** neglect the wider socio-economic setting



Gender and biodiversity

Conservation	Women produce, select and save up to 90% of seeds and germplasm; in some societies women grow different crops from men eg groundnuts, pumpkin, sweet potatoes grown by women.
Sustainable use	Men and women have different uses of NR. Women's uses of NR tend to be more related to household uses
Access and Benefit sharing	Traditional knowledge held by men and women is different. Women tend to provide more of their income to household and family welfare, compared to men
Agrobiodiversity	Women are the main producers of the worlds staple crops, provide 90% of the rural poor food intake. Women play a role in selection, improvement and adaptation of plant varieties.
Biosafety	Women and consumer decisions; approx 90% of crops grown by poor farmers (majority women) come from seeds/plant material stored by the poor farmers.

Benefits of GM into NBSAPs

- Enhance sustainability
- Increases efficiency
- Ensures the incorporation of important knowledge, skills and experiences
- Improves credibility and accountability
- Contributes to poverty reduction and the achievement of MDGs
- An issue of social justice, human rights and gender equality

How to Mainstream gender

- GM- not an add on, but logical, interconnected, coherent & comprehensive inclusion of gender into design & implementation
- Mainstreaming of gender into NBSAPs- PROCESS & CONTENT.
 - Process: Organisational, composition of planning team, stocktaking & assessment, budget, monitoring and evaluation etc
 - Content: Guiding principles, cross cutting issues, sectoral strategies, content, objectives, implementing institutions.

Process 1: mainstreaming gender into strategy and action plan development

- Institutional structure and capacity of planning process
 - Country specific
 - Inclusion of an gov and non gov institution with gender mandate
 - Gender training for key departments
 - Human resources- promotion of gender sensitive environment, awareness creation for staff
 - Gender champion

Institutional structure cont.....

- Steering committee, important to have commitment at highest political level
- National project coordinator- important to have basic 'gender sensitivity', supported by gender experts during development, implementation and monitoring
- Gender expertise- could be internal or external, depending on experience and availability.



Process 2: Stocktaking & Assessment

- Assess economic, social, cultural relations to biodiversity of different groups- gender responsive stocktaking
 - What BD is used by whom? For what?
 - Threats to biodiversity- men and women
 - Causes of threats by gender- socio-economic, cultural, political etc
 - Men and women access to biodiversity
 - Men and women control of biodiversity
 - Men and women benefit sharing of BD



Process 3: Strategy and action plan development

- Entry points for mainstreaming- gender equality as cross cutting issue & participation and involvement of women
- Participation- women participation in decision making process
 - National workshop (initial and final)
 - Objectives of NBSAP to encompass gender
 - Field work- field team and consultation

Process 4: Action Plan Development

- Identifying activities
- Priority setting- were gender institutions represented in this process?
- Plan of implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation- gender indicators defined early in the process
- Budgeting- is gender budgeting applied?

Content of NBSAPs

- Preamble and guiding principles
- Sex disaggregated data
- National & international instruments on gender
- Gender as a cross cutting issue, BUT also includes climate change, IAS etc.
- Gender text in the activities and action plans
- Implementing institutions- gender balance, gender institutions.

Examples of gender action plans

- Gender responsive research on endangered species.
 - Which species are used by women, who has access and control, what are the gender specific threats and causes?
- Empowering women through micro-project activities
 - Liberia. Information, workshops.
- Improve women's access to credit facilities in order to utilise natural resources
 - Access to information on credit facilities, assess access levels for women and men and what's causing the gap?
- Gender issues mainstreamed into the biodiversity planning framework to enhance participation
 - Botswana. Evaluate gender access and ownership of NR

THANK YOU!

