



## Gender Priorities for UNFCCC COP 19

19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Warsaw, Poland, 11-22 November, 2013

### Introduction

The 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP19) will be an important one: not only must negotiators make substantial progress toward establishing the framework for the post-2015 climate change agreement, but they must continue to implement commitments already made – including on gender.

The so-called ‘Gender Decision’ (23/CP.18), “*Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,*” agreed by Parties last December in Doha is but the most recent affirmation of the growing global recognition that climate change solutions will only be effective, let alone efficient, with gender sensitivity. Climate change is exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, not least for women – but solutions stand to flourish when both women and men are fully engaged, empowered and resilient.

Over the last five years, especially, as negotiators worked via the comprehensive Bali Action Plan, support from countries representing every region of the world ensured that ‘gender considerations’ were included in nearly every key aspect of climate change through recent COP outcomes, from adaptation and REDD+ safeguards, to gender balance on Boards such as the Green Climate Fund’s, to knowledge sharing, education and capacity building.

Progress in understanding the intrinsic nature of advancing gender equality as prerequisite to sustainable development – and the transformative co-benefits each can provide to the other – has been profound, and yet ensuring that gender equality issues are rooted in the architecture for the post-2015 climate change regime is critical for COP19, as well as COP20. Beyond global negotiations, of course, interpreting those international mandates for national implementation will be crucial; fortunately, the IUCN Global Gender Office (GGO) is poised to support countries through this process, as it has begun to do, as articulated below, in over a dozen countries already. Countries will also know how they score on implementation when IUCN launches at COP19 its newest innovation: the first-ever Environment and Gender Index (EGI).

As negotiators prepare for and anticipate COP19’s influence, the IUCN GGO is prioritizing and lending its support to the following issues and events in Warsaw:

For more information, please contact:

M.Sc. Lorena Aguilar  
Global Senior Gender Adviser  
IUCN Headquarters  
[Lorena.aguilar@iucn.org](mailto:Lorena.aguilar@iucn.org)

Ms. Cate Owren  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Global Gender Office  
IUCN Washington, DC  
[cate.owren.iucn@gmail.com](mailto:cate.owren.iucn@gmail.com)

IUCN World Headquarters  
Rue Mauverney 28  
1196 Gland  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 999 0000  
Fax: +41 22 999 0002  
[mail@iucn.org](mailto:mail@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

## 1. Strengthening Support for Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Climate Regime

As indicated above, significant progress has been made since COP14, especially, in integrating gender concerns throughout key aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations, bodies and processes. With gender references included in the Cancun Agreements, Durban Platform, Doha Outcomes and SB mandates, indicative language on gender now exists throughout multiple critical areas of climate change discussions and response. However, as Parties continue to hone a framework for the post-2015 climate regime to be agreed in Paris in two years, Parties should also mind that:

- ✓ *The decisions coming out of COP are creating the right enabling conditions for gender responsive action down the line; thus, decisions on, inter alia, loss and damage, mitigation, finance, and technology should be made with an understanding of the differential impacts of those decisions.*
- ✓ *No decision, nor subsequent implementation, is gender neutral. A gender equality action plan or blueprint, as further discussed below, could be a step toward creating the enabling environment needed for gender responsive climate policy especially in complement to the new 2015 agreement.*

As a founding member of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA),<sup>1</sup> IUCN supports the GGCA's vision for COP19: Warsaw is another important chance for governments worldwide to commit to an efficient response to climate change – one that is driven by gender equality, climate resilient development, sustainable and low-carbon technologies, and respect for all human rights at its core.

Specific priorities noted by the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) include:

- ✓ *Launching a COP19 Gender Equality Action Plan that includes and equitably benefits women and men (see below)*
- ✓ *Closing the ambition gap by prioritizing funds in renewable and sustainable pathways and divesting from fossil fuels and harmful technologies*

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2007, IUCN co-founded the [GGCA](http://www.ggca.org), an alliance of now more than 80 UN, NGO and IGO members united toward ensuring climate change decision-making, policies and initiatives at all levels are gender-responsive and improve the lives and livelihoods of women and men. Visit [www.gender-climate.org](http://www.gender-climate.org) or follow @ggca\_gender for more.

- ✓ *Implementing commitments under UNFCCC climate finance and technology bodies in a gender-responsive way*
- ✓ *Advancing gender equality and ensuring the promotion and implementation of human rights in climate related activities and all efforts toward achieving the ultimate goal of the Convention*

More specifically, IUCN partner and co-founder of the GGCA [Women's Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\)](http://www.wedo.org)<sup>2</sup> will continue to provide [technical support to Parties](#)<sup>3</sup> and stakeholders per COP19 agenda item on issues related to gender language, including in Subsidiary Bodies' (SBI and SBSTA) processes, as well as COP, CMP and KP.

## 2. Implementation of the Gender Decision and the Gender Decision Workshop

A vision for gender equality promoted under the auspices of the UNFCCC is articulated in Doha's Gender Decision, Decision 23/CP.18, in Para 2, which notes its purpose is to "enhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, *in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally*". In fact, as emphasized in the [Secretariat's recent report on gender balance](#),<sup>4</sup> women remain far underrepresented in UNFCCC negotiating processes and bodies, and yet women's leadership – in partnership with men's – in all aspects of climate change will be essential toward ensuring the above-referenced goal. In this respect, it is fundamental to acknowledge that:

- ✓ *The needs, positions, perspectives and, importantly, experience and expertise of both women and men must inform sound climate change policy and form the basis for effective and resilient response.*
- ✓ *Improving gender-balanced representation amongst decision-makers is one critical mean towards the end goal of equality and, in the context of climate change, increased resiliency.*

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wedo.org>

<sup>3</sup> On site in Warsaw: mail to [Bridget@wedo.org](mailto:Bridget@wedo.org)

<sup>4</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/04.pdf>

As per Decision 23/CP.18, a COP19 Gender Workshop will be organized on Tuesday, 12 November, from 15:00-18:00. To inform the discussions and agenda for the Workshop, Parties were invited to make submissions on their views on options and ways to advance the goal indicated above; to date, at least 17 Parties and 10 Observer organizations have made relevant submissions. Parties' submissions [have been compiled](#)<sup>5</sup> and are available on the UNFCCC website, along with Observers' including [IUCN's](#).<sup>6</sup>

The Gender Decision Workshop will be an important opportunity to exchange views, lessons learned, and best practices in promoting women's leadership and advancing gender-sensitive climate policy, bringing together experts from multiple regions. IUCN has been supporting the UNFCCC Secretariat, and working in collaboration with GGCA partners and allies, to develop a substantive agenda and has offered suggestions for key speakers. Parties might use the opportunity of the Gender Decision Workshop to, *inter alia*:

- ✓ *Spark meaningful action to strengthen UNFCCC gender balance as a key steps towards gender equality by defining quantifiable targets and timelines for gender balance in the UNFCCC processes;*
- ✓ *Gather lessons learned and best practices on current state of UNFCCC gender balance;*
- ✓ *Support and build capacity of Parties and institutions seeking progress on gender equality, including tools and resources to do so;*
- ✓ *Augment research on the benefits of a gender-sensitive approach to climate policy and practice; and*
- ✓ *Consider a COP19 Gender Equality Action Plan, or blueprint for action, which comprises elements such as the above toward the implementation of the Decision.*

### **3. Fostering Transformative Action Through Climate Change and Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs)**

IUCN has unique experiencing translating gender equality mandates into action in the environmental arena at national level. At COP19, the IUCN GGO will continue to highlight lessons learned and best practices from its innovative methodology to support

<sup>5</sup> [http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced\\_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007595#beg](http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007595#beg)

<sup>6</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/smsn/igo/130.pdf>

countries through processes to create ccGAPs. With now more than a dozen ccGAPs conducted since 2010, at least another dozen on the horizon, and growing demand for this type of support, IUCN is committed to helping governments – through participatory, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes – turn their commitments to both sustainable development and gender equality into action; national stakeholder workshops, which specifically include and build the capacity of women's organizations and networks in-country, result in innovative Action Plans that synergize national policies and plans and propel action beyond 'business as usual'. These lessons and cases will be showcased at three events during COP19:

- *UNFCCC Gender Decision Workshop – Tuesday, 12 November, 15:00*
- *IUCN side event 'Giving Life to Acronyms: from Pledges to Action under EBA, REDD+ and ccGAPS – Wednesday, 13 November, 20:15*
- *IUCN's High-level Event to Launch the Environment and Gender Index (EGI) – Tuesday, 19 November, 08:00 (see below)*

### **4. Advancing Accountability: Launch of the Environment and Gender Index (EGI) on Gender Day**

To kick off this year's Gender Day,<sup>7</sup> which for COP19 has the timely theme of 'accountability', IUCN GGO will organize a high-level breakfast event to launch its Environment and Gender Index (EGI) – a brand new tool to monitor progress toward gender equality in the context of global environmental governance. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres will join officials from the U.S., Finland, Switzerland and Mozambique on a high-level panel introducing the first-ever accountability mechanism of its kind.

The [Environment and Gender Index \(EGI\)](#)<sup>8</sup> brings together variables that measure environment and gender in a composite index. The EGI ranks and scores 72 countries worldwide along 27 dimensions divided into six categories: Livelihood, Ecosystem, Gender-based Rights & Participation, Governance,

<sup>7</sup> An annual day organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat, in collaboration with women's organizations and gender equality allies

<sup>8</sup> <http://environmentgenderindex.org/>

Gender-based Education and Assets, and Country-Reported Activities. The EGI process combines the normalized data in the six main categories, weights them based on input from the distinguished EGI Expert Panel, and results in final ranking and scores. This approach facilitates both global and regional comparisons as well as identifying individual country strengths and weaknesses. The methodological goal of the EGI Index is threefold: (1) to provide a comparative basis for discussion, analysis and cross-country comparisons, (2) to identify strengths and weaknesses both at the country, regional and global levels, and (2) to identify where critical data gaps exist.

## **5. Momentum for Change – and Learning from what Works**

Momentum for Change: Women for Results – an initiative of the UNFCCC Secretariat – showcases women-led activities that address climate change. These “lighthouse activities” will demonstrate measurable impact on the ground, and the potential for replicability and scalability at the local, national and international levels. IUCN GGO’s Global Senior Gender Adviser was appointed Chair of the Women for Results Committee and will be pleased to participate in the high-level event congratulating awardees at a Momentum for Change event on Gender Day (19 November, 13:15.)