

Gender perspective in Climate Change Research and Public Policies Construction



INECC

INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE ECOLOGÍA
Y CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO

Dra. Amparo Martínez Arroyo

**Gender Summit 8 – North & Latin America
April 28, 2016**

*Mainstreaming gender is not as simple as:
incorporating the word women and shake well
before use*

*La incorporación de la perspectiva de género no
es tan sencilla como: agréguese la palabra
mujeres y agítese*

Patricia Ruiz-Bravo López y Maruja Barring,
Fundación Mujeres

Contents

- Is it gender a climate change issue?
- Gender in national and international scientific research and agreements related to CC
- The role of gender in the scientific analysis of responses to climate change. Adaptation and mitigation
- Policy implementation: case studies
- Conclusions

A climate issue?

- Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men.
- These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes.

In Mexico, the visibility of women scientists in academia went through different stages in recent decades, but is not a solved issue.

- In 2013, the presence of women in the National System of Researchers, represented 33% of the total. In the Mexican Academy of Sciences the proportion was 23%.
- A long process initiated by groups of women scientists around the country in 1980, culminated in the amendment to the Science and Technology Law that expand opportunities for women in education, training and consolidation of human resources in science until 2009 and 2013.
- This process is part of the progress occurred in Mexico regarding the design and consolidation of legal instruments and public policy on gender equality.

Initial ideas

- ❖ Climate change is primarily an anthropogenic phenomenon.
- ❖ Any solution to climate change must recognize ordinary people (women and men) as active participants and contributors in the design and implementation of responses.
- ❖ Climate change occurs in a global context characterized by high levels of inequality and asymmetrical distribution of burdens and benefits that places women in a position of subordination and disadvantage.
- ❖ This situation is expressed in the limited access to land, education, knowledge, information and decision-making, that is also shared by social groups including men.
- ❖ Climate change responses have not to be "gender neutral": women and men of similar ages and socio-economic background, could experience the effects of climate change differently and have different capabilities and resources to face them.

National Legal Framework: Inclusion of gender perspective (1)

- The inclusion of environmental and climate change dimensions into the Mexican policy framework on gender equality is the result of several years of advocacy and joint efforts from civil society, academia, government and agencies international.



- In the last decade, progress was made in the design and consolidation of legal instruments and public policy on gender equality. Different sectors and government institutions have adopted international instruments on gender equality and human rights of women.
- Climate change and gender issues are present in the General Law on Climate Change, the Planning Act and the Federal Budget and Fiscal Responsibility Law.

National Legal Framework: Inclusion of gender perspective (2)

- National Development Plan (2013-2018)
- National Program for Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination against Women 2013-2018 (PROIGUALDAD).
- Expenditure Budget of the Federation (PEF) -September 2013
- National Strategy of Climate Change (ENCC) and the Fifth National Communication of Mexico to the UNFCCC.
- The PECC 2014-2018.
- Document "Adapting to climate change in Mexico: vision, elements and criteria for decision-making"- INECC-SEMARNAT 2012.
- Mexico's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution -2015

¿Why women and climate change?

- Women and men and their living environment, must be placed in the center of responses to climate change.
- Development actors are women and men that face different and often uneven constraints, which may have different needs and priorities, depending on the socioeconomic and cultural spaces in which they develop
- Effects of climate change are different in men and women. Economic, social and political inequalities between regions, social groups and gender contribute the different vulnerability, resilience and adaptive capacity.
- Recorded natural disasters have a greater impact on life expectancy of women: they are 14 times more likely to die during a disaster.



Some concepts

IPCC AR5 Glossary

- **Vulnerability** is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate change and variation to which a system is exposed, **its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.** (AR5 Glossary IPCC)
- **Adaptation** In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, **in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.** In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate.
- **Adaptive capacity** The combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources **available to an individual, community, society, or organization that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions** to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities

Gender perspective for mitigation and adaptation policies

- Gender perspective shows the different roles, responsibilities, participation levels in decision-making, visions, needs and interests of women and men.
- It takes into account the differences between women and men as well as gender inequalities present in societies; it avoid playing the traditional roles of women and men that expand equity gaps.
- Social differences between women and men become inequalities in the use, access and control or resources (natural, economic, cultural) and in the distribution of opportunities, rights, obligations and decision-making processes.
- Women are important agents of change; their knowledge are fundamental and should be incorporated into the measures and policies for adaptation and mitigation.
- Sustainable consumption is a very gender sensitive aspect because they are women who make most of the decisions.
- There are notable differences between the ecological footprints of women and men.

Policy implementation

- Gender mainstreaming is the integration of the gender perspective into every stage of policy processes - design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation - with a view to promoting equality between women and men.
- It means assessing how policies impact on the life and position of both women and men - and taking responsibility to re-address them if necessary. (European Commission)

Adaptation measures with gender perspective: Wetlands Project



- International cooperation initiative financed by the World Bank -GEF.
- Project INECC partners: Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA), National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and the National Water Commission (CONAGUA).
- Adaptation measures implemented in 3 pilot sites: Carmen-Pajonal Lagoon system Tomboy (Tabasco); Punta Allen wetland (Quintana Roo); Alvarado Lagoon (Veracruz).
- Objective: To reduce the vulnerability of communities living in wetlands and increase greater resilience of this ecosystem.
- Start date: May 6, 2014
- Closing date: 31 October 2016.

Project Components:

- Ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Communities in Action adapting to climate change.
- Recovery of traditional knowledge.



- Social participation strategy with gender.
- Active participation from women and men from communities in the decision-making (planning, implementation, project evaluation).
- Strengthening of new capabilities and skills in women and men.
- Integral Vision: gender equality, teamwork, learning and collective growth, values of solidarity and environmental conservation.



Projects implemented in Tabasco:

- ✓ Rainwater capture and establishment of a social enterprise of drinkable water.
- ✓ Mangrove reforestation.
- ✓ Construction of a set of houses on stilts.

Benefits of incorporating the gender perspective in the Wetlands Project

- Women and men participated in all project phases.
- In all these activities their contributions, times, opinions, lifestyles and adaptation measures that were already developing in their communities they were respected.
- Incorporate women as active participants and agents of change in decision-making.
- Despite illiteracy and lack of participatory culture, women were very comfortable in the workshops. They worked with more than 40 degrees of heat in building stilt houses or system t o capture rainwater; they met new people and lifestyles, they were empowered, organized and became visible to their peers and community leaders.



Conclusions

- ❑ Gender inequity is not a consequence of climate change, but the public policies on adaptation and mitigation only can reach their goals with a strong and realistic gender perspective and recognition of the existent inequities.
- ❑ For INECC is not enough to add the word "women" or include some specific objectives for the topic. It is necessary that every one of the objectives of the projects implemented, promote equal opportunities.
- ❑ It is necessary to overcome the stereotypical view of women as vulnerable beneficiaries only, in order to see them as citizens with rights that must be recognized by their capacity for action, skills and experiences.
- ❑ Interventions and processes on climate change should incorporate gender from the beginning, whether in relation to policy, research, community-based programs or advocacy actions.
- ❑ The challenge we face today on climate change policies is to make visible and measurable the specific conditions in which men and women face climate change. Collecting disaggregate data by gender and social condition related with different impacts of climate events, could give a solid record to support this task.

National Determined Contribution of Mexico (Paris Agreement)

- **Gender perspective:** These policies and actions include a cross-cutting human rights and gender perspective in order for the measures to be implemented to take into account women as important decision makers regarding energy consumption. They also emphasize the importance of implementing them such that they do not exacerbate the impacts of climate change that already have disproportionate adverse effects based solely on gender.
- **Perspectiva de Género:** Estas políticas y acciones contienen una perspectiva general de derechos humanos y género para asegurar que las medidas a implementar consideren a las mujeres como tomadoras de decisiones importantes en relación al consumo energético. Además, hacen hincapié en la necesidad de que en su ejecución, no se exacerben los impactos del cambio climático que ya de por sí tienen impactos adversos a mujeres en mayor proporción.

¡Gracias!

www.inecc.gob.mx

A NUEVOS TIEMPOS, NUEVAS ACCIONES



• ADAPTÉMONOS •