

Mainstreaming Gender in Environmental Assessment and Early Warning



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*Mainstreaming Gender in Environmental Assessment
And Early Warning*

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEO	Africa Environment Outlook
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
CCC	Community Conservation Coalition
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women (UN)
DEWA	Division of Early Warning and Assessment
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPC	Forest Protection Committees
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HABITAT	Human Settlements Programme
IDS	In-Depth Studies
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JFM	Joint Forest Management
MERGE	Managing Ecosystems and Resources with Gender Emphasis
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OXFAM	A group of non-governmental organizations from three continents working worldwide to fight poverty
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programs
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPR	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SEGA	Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (Programme of FAO)
SIDA	Swedish Development Agency
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WID	Women in Development
WIDTECH	Women in Development Technical Assistance Project (WIDTECH) Small Grants Competition
WB	World Bank
WSSD	World Summit of Sustainable Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund





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Executive Summary

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The purpose of this study is to assist the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), a division within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in meeting its goals of incorporating gender mainstreaming throughout the entirety of its programme of work, activities, and products.

Gender mainstreaming is best understood as a continuous process of infusing both the institutional culture and the programmatic and analytical efforts of agencies with gendered perspectives. Gender mainstreaming means taking gender seriously – and taking it into account in all aspects of the workplace and the work products of the institution.

Key Features of this Report

This report provides:

- a summary of current definitions and best practices of gender mainstreaming in cognate international organizations and assessment of the institutional conditions under which gender mainstreaming succeeds or fails (Chapter One).
- a substantive review of four areas of gendered environmental research: water, poverty, security/conflict, and



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vulnerability/disaster. These four represent areas of work that already are high on the agenda of UNEP and DEWA; we identify promising research trajectories that could shape DEWA's contributions to these fields (Chapter Three).

- an analysis of the institutional and intellectual challenges that DEWA will need to take into account as it develops its gender mainstreaming agenda, including: keeping gender on the agenda in the face of competing mandates and in a climate of apparent diminishing commitment to gender analysis; combining science-based and technical environmental analysis with social science and qualitative-based gender analysis; avoiding iconic and essentialized tropes about women and the environment; and manage this information despite the lack of gender-disaggregated data and indicators (Chapter Four).
 - a close reading and analysis of the current treatment of gender in two of the signature publications of DEWA, the *African Environment Outlook* (AEO) and the *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO), and detailed suggestions for ways to improve on this treatment (Chapter Five).
 - a substantial set of recommendations to advance DEWA's institutional and programmatic integration of gender (Chapter Six).
- However, to date, gender has been largely absent from DEWA's and UNEP's main work programmes and work products.
 - With their unique command of resources and global prestige, DEWA and UNEP are positioned to make strong contributions to the global agenda for gendered environmental research; DEWA can and should take global leadership in advancing gender and environment work and visibility. To date, neither DEWA nor UNEP has been proactive in bringing gendered analysis into its work, but the institutional conditions, including leadership commitments, are now in place for strong forward movement in this field.
 - The four substantive issues discussed in this review (water, poverty, security/conflict, and vulnerability/disaster) represent areas of innovative gendered environmental analysis; currently, though, most of the work conducted by UNEP in these areas does not incorporate gendered analysis.
 - DEWA is especially well placed to play an active role in advancing the "toolkit" available for gender and environment work. Rather than being a passive recipient of gender research generated elsewhere, DEWA can become an engine of cutting-edge research and, in particular, DEWA could undertake projects that prioritise the *development of* gender-disaggregated data and indicator sets that will support "gender and the environment" analyses.

Key Findings

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