

# Measuring the gender-environment nexus: filling data gaps for evidence based decision-making

Side event to the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the status of women

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (THU),  
8:00 to 9:30 A.M. EST  
(Admission starts at 7:50 A.M. EST)



Location: Virtual Event

Co-Organizers and co-sponsors: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Co-operation Directorate, UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Pacific Community (SPC), UK Health Security Agency, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Pacific Disaster Center, Australian Aid

Additional Panelists/sponsors from Member State governments: Mongolia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, United Kingdom

Conference services requirements (if organized in person): Webcast / Teleconference services

## Background:

The lives of women and men are intrinsically connected with the environment. As women are less likely to own productive resources and have less agency to make environmental decisions, their capacity to cope with the effects of climate change is limited. However, they can play an essential role in environmental conservation and management, and their disproportionate mastery of traditional environmental knowledge can place them as agents of change towards sustainable development.

The lack of data on the gender-environment nexus, including on the connections between gender and climate change and gender and natural hazards resulting in disasters, has limited the visibility of these connections and hampered evidence-based environmental decision-making that is responsive to the needs of women and men. Only recently, efforts among the international community started focusing on filling related data gaps to shed some light on the gender-environment nexus.

As set out in [EGM/ENV/IP.7](#), CSW-66's informational paper on 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes', national governments and other data producers are faced with a variety of options to fill existing data gaps, but allocating resources, promoting related partnerships and prioritizing these efforts are all essential to ensure this is achieved. Some countries are already making headways in this regard.

The government of Mongolia, for instance, has placed environmental conservation and gender equality at the center of its Sustainable Development Vision 2030. To enhance related policy-making, the National

Statistics Office recently rolled out the country's first nationally representative survey on gender and the environment.

In the United Kingdom, the UK Health Security Agency has long been working with the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Science Council and its many partners to deliver the [UNDRR-ISC Hazard Definition and Classification Review - Technical report](#) (2020) and its Supplement to provide 302 hazard information profiles. These are an important resource to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction and risk-informed investment, aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, but also the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Sustainable Financing.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands lead key discussions on gender equality and climate change during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and key reflections include the need for evidence to inform future actions.

Innovation is also driving great progress in the quest to fill data gaps. UN Women has leveraged it to enhance the measurement of the gender-environment nexus, through data integration and data collection. The OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC), similarly, has substantially advanced the measurement of development finance towards this nexus, through the use of the OECD DAC [Gender Equality Policy Marker](#) and the [OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate](#) in their creditor reporting system. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Pacific Disaster Center manages the Disaster Aware platform, a data platform for evidence-based decision-making.

#### Objectives:

This side event will explore some of these new efforts to fill gender data gaps on environment statistics, and innovative tools being used to generate related gender data. From new data on the connections between gender and climate change, to the use of markers to monitor environmental financing, and the use of geospatial information and online tools to fill data gaps on disasters, the event will showcase efforts being undertaken for filling gender gaps with the use of innovation. It will also examine the importance of utilizing these data for evidence-based decision making, in order to find solutions that truly respond to the environmental needs of women and men.

#### Panelists:

- **Batdavaa Batmunkh**, Chairperson, National Statistics Office of Mongolia
- **Molly M. Helkena**, National Advisor, Early Childhood Development, Office of the Chief Secretary, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- **Virginia Murray**, Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health Security Agency
- **Sara Duerto Valero**, Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics, UN Women Asia Pacific
- **Charlotte Goemans**, Policy Analyst, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD
- **Steve Recca**, Humanitarian assistance programme advisor, UH Mānoa Pacific Disaster Center

Moderator: **Papa A. Seck**, Chief Statistician, UN Women

Format: Panel discussion followed by Q&A