Advocacy at the Intersection

THE WOMEN’S ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (WEDO)

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GENDER GAPS
AROUND THE WORLD

POVERTY
OVER 50% OF THE 1.6 BILLION PEOPLE LIVING ON 3$ A DAY OR LESS ARE WOMEN (SOURCE: UNDP)

WATER
ON AVERAGE WOMEN AND CHILDREN SPEND 8 OR MORE HOURS PER DAY COLLECTING WATER (SOURCE: UN WOMEN)

GOVERNANCE
GLOBALLY, WOMEN ARE 18.7% OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, 19.8% OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND 9% HEADS OF STATE (SOURCE: IPS)

FOOD
WOMEN PRODUCE OVER 60% OF FOOD IN SOME COUNTRIES (SOURCE: FAO)

LITERACY
TWO THIRDS OF THE 774 MILLION ILLITERATE ADULTS WORLDWIDE ARE WOMEN (SOURCE: UNESCO)

LAND
WOMEN OWN JUST 2% OF THE WORLD’S LAND (SOURCE: UN WOMEN)

CLIMATE CHANGE
IMPACTS

CROP FAILURE
Women experience increased agricultural work and overall household food production burden

FUEL SHORTAGE
Many women in developing countries can spend between 2-9 hours a day collecting fuel and fodder, and performing cooking chores

WATER SCARCITY
Increased burden on women walking further distances to access safe water, impacts the education and economic stability

NATURAL DISASTER
Women have a higher incidence of mortality in natural disasters; women can suffer from an increased threat of sexual violence

DISEASE
As caregivers women often experience an increased burden for caring for young, sick and elderly as well as lack of access to health care facilities

DISPLACEMENT
Forced migration could exacerbate women’s vulnerability

CONFLICT
While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression

IMPACTS
EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUITIES

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Space for Change

Environmental laws and policies tend to be gender-blind—speaking about impacts on all people and communities. The environmental movement, can very easily neglect to think about women’s rights or include women in decision making.

Even strong climate justice oriented groups often fail to link to gender justice or interrogate and challenge patriarchy in their understanding of systems change.

EXAMPLE: IUCN Congress (99 motions from conservation groups/not a single mention of women or gender.

W E D O

A global women's advocacy organization that seeks to increase the power of women worldwide as policymakers; to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet, and human rights for all.
The Beginnings

“We call on world leaders attending the 1992 Earth Summit to sign a Global Climate Change Convention (with industrialized countries making a minimum commitment to a 20% reduction of carbon dioxide by the year 2000 and a Convention on Biological Diversity).”

Reading: W. Harcourt. Springer, 26 Apr 2012. Women Reclaiming Sustainable Livelihoods: Spaces Lost, Spaces Gained

WEDO’s Role

Technical Advisor: Advising government and UN agencies on implementation of an intersectional approach to sustainable development in policy and practice

Advocate: Leading global advocacy for women’s human rights and justice across policy spaces

Facilitator and Convener: Partnering with, and bringing together diverse organizations/individuals to demand a just and sustainable future across policy spaces

Trainer: Delivering leadership development, orientation to complex processes and advocacy skills training to hundreds of women each year

Organizer: Administering logistical and coordination support for women advocates to participate and engage in international processes and campaigns, and connecting partner organizations to small project grants

Knowledge Creator: Analyzing processes, actions and outcomes and producing and promoting knowledge products
WEDO Strategies to Achieve its Goals

WEDO values its diverse collaborations and partnerships across the globe with women's organizations; environmental, development and human rights organizations; governments; and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations. The WEDO strategies reflect and draw from this, both building on and building up WEDO's strengths.

Advocacy & Influence | Capacity Building & Training | Knowledge & Outreach

WEDO Programs

Women only account for 12% of the heads of national environmental ministries.

Source: IUCN, 'Women's Participation in Global Environmental Decision Making'

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1. **Topic 1: Gender focal points in environmental ministries**
   - Does each environmental ministry have a gender focal point?

2. **Topic 2: Gender policies and programmes in environmental ministries**
   - Does each environmental ministry have a formal gender policy?
   - Does each environmental ministry include gender considerations in policies and/or programmes?

3. **Topic 3: Environmental linkages in/with national women’s affairs mechanisms**
   - Does the national women’s affairs mechanism have an environmental focal point?
   - Does the national women’s affairs mechanism perform cross-ministerial work with environmental ministries?

Source: IUCN Gender Focal Points and Policies in National Environmental Ministries: EGI Brief
2017 Focus Areas

Our work focuses on some key areas:
- Climate Change Policy (UNFCCC)
- Climate Finance
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Just Transition to a Low Carbon Society
- Peace & Conflict in the Context of Climate Change
- Resilience & Livelihoods (Food, Water & Land)
- Sustainable Cities & Transport

Always at the intersection of women’s rights, environment and development.

Building Power in Intl. Spaces

Take advantage of UN spaces and multilateral process
Grassroots bring concepts to steer the policy discussions
- Concepts need to be framed in the political space
- Power of language
- Address through interventions and advocacy
- Watch for harmful policies
- Working with international allies
- Media Access/Amplify messages
- Connect to relevant decision-makers
Influencing Change

Gender Climate Tracker
Tools to Translate, Track & Transform

BRIDGET BURNS, THE WOMEN’S ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (WEDO)
Current Data Sets

- Women’s Participation on national delegations
- Gender mandates across decisions
- NDC analysis
  www.genderclimatetracker.org

Phase 2 – New Data Sets

- Women’s Participation on constituted bodies / civil society
- Gender mandates across other MEAs, plus CEDAW, BP4A
- NAP analysis; climate finance analysis
  www.genderclimatetracker.org
Phase 2 – New Features

- Online platform w/ visualizations
- Translation (French & Spanish)
- Open source features to country profiles


Outreach

- Launch event at COP22
- Feedback sessions/ evaluation in December 2016
- Presentation during Vietnam ADB meeting
- CSW event/ Handbook Ad
- Presentation during May intersessional
- Shared with partners / local and national activists working across several regions