The relevance of gender in environment and climate change

Gender is relevant in all areas of environmental policy. Gender relations between women and men and girls and boys have an impact on who controls environmental resources. Gender is particularly relevant in climate protection policies.

Grey literature in EIGE’s library

EIGE’s library hosts one of the largest collections of gender-related literature related to the environment. The collection presents good practices of current policies throughout Europe as well as gender indicators aimed at assessing gender equality in the environmental field. Several resources focus on the ways in which the EU has mainstreamed gender into policy processes for the environment. You will also find research reports and statistical documents providing data on key gender issues related to the environment.

Policies

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) identified the environment as one of 12 critical areas for women. Area K of the Beijing Platform for Action, on women and the environment asserted that ‘women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns, and approaches to natural resource management’. Since then governments have been tasked with including a gender perspective when planning their policies. Within the library you will find resources presenting an overview of national gender laws and policies in the environmental sector.

Reading list

Review of the implementation in the EU of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the environment — Gender equality and climate change — Report; Gender Mainstreaming among Environment Ministries.
Impact of climate change on women and men

Data shows that climate change impacts women and men differently. A gender-sensitive approach requires an understanding of existing inequalities between women and men and the ways in which climate change exacerbates these inequalities. It also requires an understanding of the ways in which these inequalities can intensify the impact of climate change for everybody.

Within the library you will find resources outlining ways to address climate change in a gender-sensitive way, as well as tools to understand the socioeconomic effects of hurricanes, desertification and other disasters. Several resources also present statistical information to examine the impact of climate change on women specifically.

The role of women in sustainable development

Gender equality is an objective of sustainable development in its own right. However, it is also one of the key enablers of sustainable economic growth and the green economy. Indeed many resources within the library show that women are particularly vulnerable to unsustainable development. This creates opportunities for women to lead as sustainable consumers and decision-makers in the green economy.

The European institutions stress the important role of women in the environmental sector. In our library you will find the European Parliament resolution on the role of women in the green economy. This resolution calls on the Commission and Member States to conduct studies into how the conversion into a green economy will affect women and men in different sectors. They have also been tasked with integrating a gender perspective into environmental protection and environmental impact assessment studies. Several resources in the library also explore the role of women in the green economy and show how women can nurture sustainable development.

In the library you will also find data to measure progress, improve information and empower countries to advance gender equality in the environmental sector.

Reading list

**Climate Change: Addressing the Impact on Human Security;**

**Socioeconomic Impacts of Natural Disasters: a Gender Analysis.**

Reading list

**Are Women the Key to Sustainable Development?;**

**Women Nurturing Sustainable Development;**

**Results of the Environment and Gender Index (EGI).**

About EIGE

The European Institute for Gender Equality is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond, by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable information on gender equality in Europe. With over 800 000 items, EIGE’s Resource and Documentation Centre is a one-stop shop for gender knowledge. Access our collection of policy documents, books, articles, studies, specialised databases and more at www.eige.europa.eu

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