



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# ADVANCING GENDER IN THE ENVIRONMENT:

STRENGTHENING ROOTS FOR  
EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

A Review of AGENT's FY18 Results, Reach, and Impact



PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK



STOP  
VIOLENCE



**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES:  
Strengthening knowledge for action**

IUCN Global Programme on Governance and Rights

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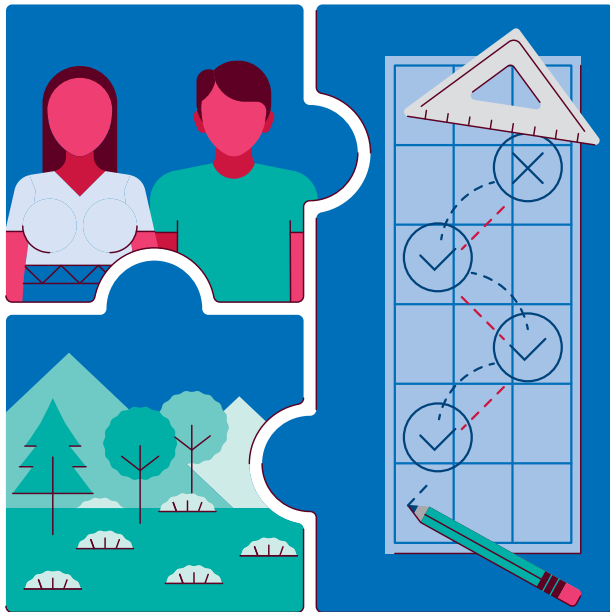
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## ABOUT ADVANCING GENDER IN THE ENVIRONMENT (AGENT)

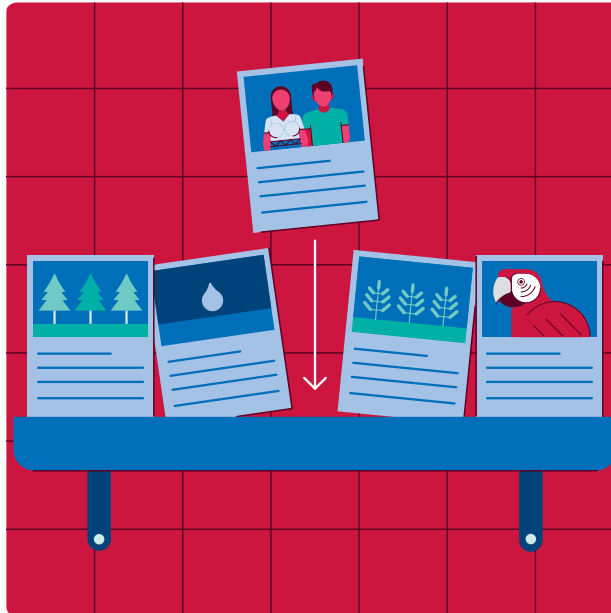
Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT) is a ten-year program launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2014 and implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The purpose of the partnership is to increase the effectiveness of USAID's environment programming through robust gender integration and to improve gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes in a broad range of environmental sectors. AGENT envisions a world that approaches environmental work at all levels with gender-responsive policy and action. By recognizing women as agents of change and valuing the diverse knowledge, experiences, and capacities of women and men alike, AGENT drives transformation toward a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

### AGENT'S SUPPORT FOCUSES ON THREE IMPACT AREAS:

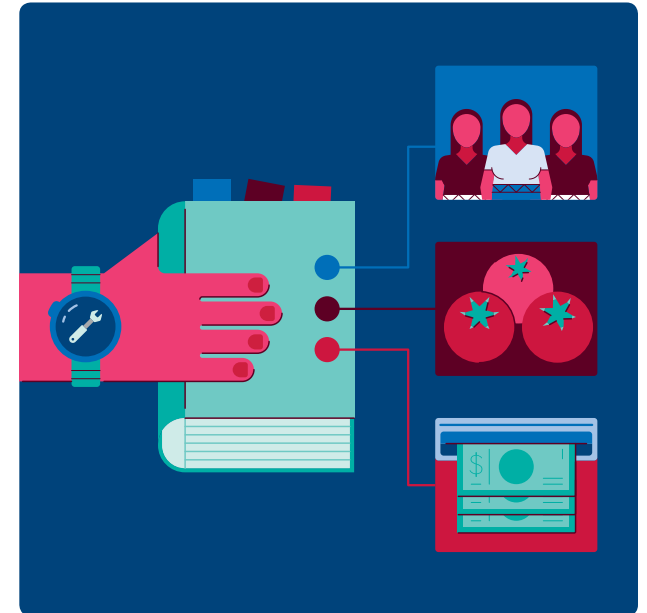
MAKING THE CASE FOR GENDER INTEGRATION  
ACROSS ENVIRONMENTAL SECTORS AND  
PROGRAMMING



FILLING CRITICAL INFORMATION GAPS ACROSS  
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTORS TO INCREASE GENDER  
EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



PROVIDING TAILORED TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
TO USAID ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT,  
AND STRENGTHENED LIVELIHOODS



## WHY AGENT IS IMPORTANT

Gender equality and women's empowerment are powerful levers for change. Women are vital to conservation and resilience-building efforts, and women's empowerment is intrinsically linked to achieving sustainable development. Yet, gender inequalities and gaps persist: women commonly face obstructed access to markets, capital, training, and technologies; they are underrepresented in—if not restricted from—decision-making spheres at all levels. Women in much of the world do not have the same customary or legal rights to land, property, and resources that men do, blocking their access to critical means for survival and resilience. And while they hold crucial roles and responsibilities in natural resource management, women's contributions, innovations, and leadership are often overlooked. The result is a lost opportunity for environmental initiatives to achieve multiple benefits, amplify results, and increase effectiveness—as gender equality and women's social and economic empowerment leads to more successful, efficient, and equitable development outcomes.

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

During FY18 (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018), the USAID Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment (E3) supported technical assistance and knowledge generation on gender equality and women's empowerment through AGENT—with widespread results. The results presented in this annual review demonstrate that investments in gender equality and women's empowerment strengthen Bureau and Mission-level capacities to meet the US Government objectives and mandates on gender equality, and compel wider stakeholder action, including:

- Improved environmental programming and projects;
- Inspiration for new areas of cross-sectoral and collaborative research;
- Increased opportunities for economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Influencing the broader international, interlinked sustainable development and gender equality agenda by highlighting USAID's and IUCN's knowledge and experiences.

This review also provides infographics showcasing the contextualizing these achievements alongside the broader impact of the partnership over the life of the grant to date, as well as a snapshot of what will come from AGENT in FY19.



# WORKING ACROSS ENVIRONMENT SECTORS

AGENT'S WORK SPANS SECTORS, PROVIDING SUPPORT NOT ONLY TO USAID OFFICES BUT MISSIONS, IMPLEMENTERS, AND PARTNERS ALIKE.



POLLUTION,  
CHEMICALS,  
WASTE, MARINE  
PLASTICS



NATIONAL  
RESILIENCE  
STRATEGIES



GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE AND  
ENVIRONMENT  
LINKAGES



SUSTAINABLE  
LANDSCAPES



WATER



ADAPTATION



URBAN  
SERVICES



FORESTRY



ENERGY



FISHERIES

## MAKING THE CASE FOR GENDER ACROSS ENVIRONMENTAL SECTORS



Jackie Siles (IUCN) presents the business case for gender equity throughout commodity value chains at the TFA 2020 General Assembly in Accra, Ghana.

PHOTO CREDIT: IUCN

### **CULTIVATING MORE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

To support the USAID's E3/Global Climate Change office in meeting their goals as part of the Steering Committee for the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020), AGENT produced a resource guide making the case for gender integration. It provides information and strategies on how to best ensure the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized peoples throughout key commodity sectors, such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper. This included tools and resources distilling existing best practices from across TFA 2020 Partners. The guide has been shared at several fora focused on major commodity corporations, reaching over 100 decision-makers in commodity companies, governments, and nonprofits.

The resource guide is being used by TFA 2020 in to inform its jurisdictional work and was specifically designed to be an easy-to-navigate tool for non-gender specialists. It is also being used as a model for sharing best practice experiences, resources, and policy guidance by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), UN Women, and others.



Ana Rojas (IUCN), second from left, shares findings from AGENT knowledge products at SEforALL alongside Sheila Oparaocha (ENERGIA), Monica Maduekwe (ECREEE), Karin Reiss (UN Industrial Development Organization), Iliyana Arnaudova (RCREEE), and Ellen Morris (Sustainable Energy Solutions).

PHOTO CREDIT: IISD

## POWERING GENDER EQUALITY IN ENERGY

In FY 2018, AGENT made the case for women in the energy sector and gender equality in large-scale renewable energy infrastructure development through the AGENT Energy Brief series. These briefs were informed by 100 gender and energy experts engaged via AGENT’s Gender and Renewable Energy (G-REEN) network, which is made up of more than 900 energy practitioners from around the world, together with USAID’s E3 Offices of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GenDev) and Energy and Infrastructure.

These resources, together with previous knowledge products, have been showcased at major energy-sector events, such as the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) conference. They are also widely cited by major international organizations, regional actors, and other key stakeholders that influence global and national energy policy and programming, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, International Renewable Energy Agency, and regional academic networks, including the Mexico City-based Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias. They are also used by key US Government stakeholders to build evidence, inform guidance, and make the case that gender is critical for achieving USG energy goals. For example, AGENT energy and gender resources are utilized and cited in the USAID-funded National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Practical Guide to Women in Energy Regulation, as well as by USAID stakeholders in project and activity design, gender analyses, and strategic communications.



## **SPREADING THE WORD ON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES**

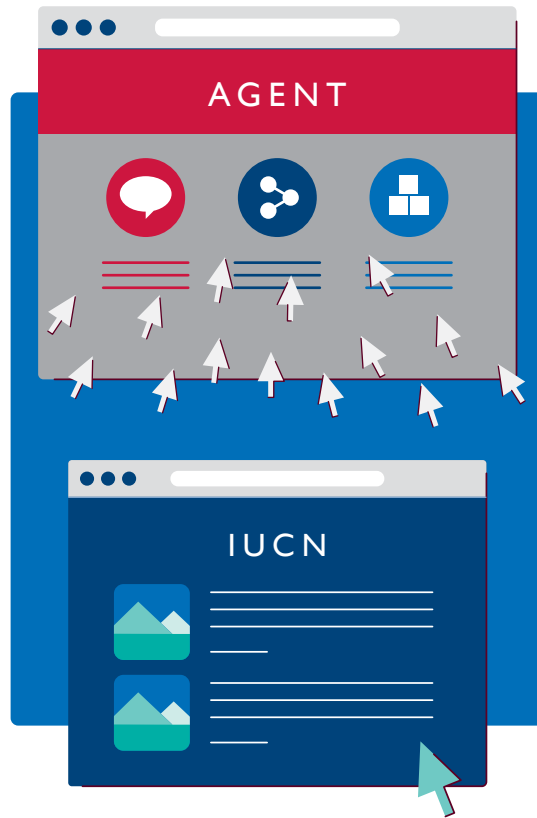
**IUCN HAS UNIQUE NETWORKING ABILITIES AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.**

As a membership Union composed of both governments and civil society organizations, IUCN provides public, private, and non-governmental organizations with knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development, and nature conservation to take place together. IUCN harnesses the experience, resources, and reach of its 1,300 Member organizations and the input of over 10,000 experts through commissions. Leveraging this expansive base, AGENT works actively to promote USAID and IUCN developed thought leadership by advancing knowledge, advocacy, and capacity building at all levels.

PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

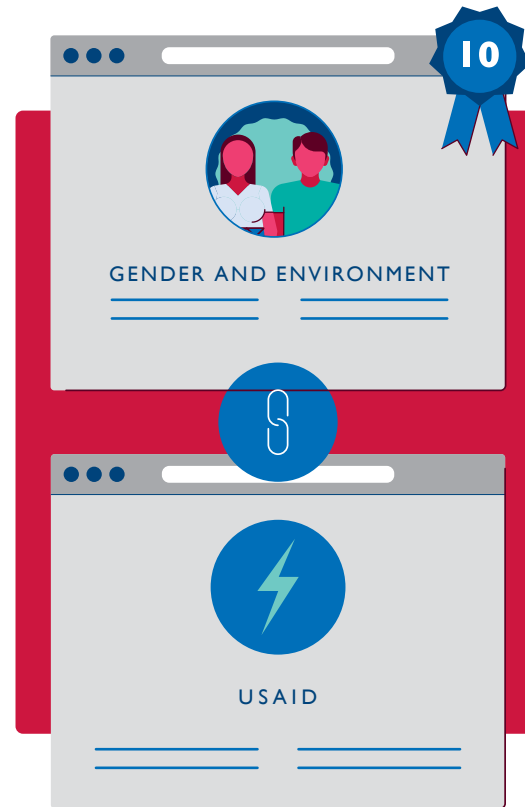


**14,000+**  
resources accessed



As of January 2019, AGENT resources have been accessed 14,435 times from IUCN platforms throughout the life of the grant.

**A TOP SITE**  
in referring online users to USAID's Energy and Infrastructure content



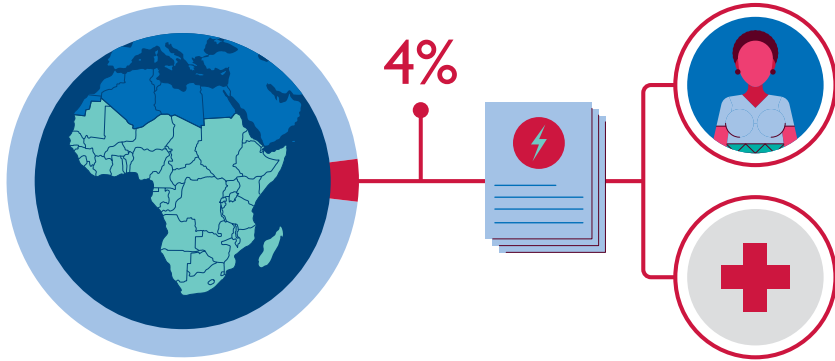
The global leaders in curating and sharing gender and environment resources, IUCN's [genderandenvironment.org](http://genderandenvironment.org) drives online traffic towards relevant tools and publications.

**100+**  
tools and knowledge products created throughout the life of the grant to-date



AGENT has published white papers, authored reports and guides, generated data, distilled knowledge into briefs and factsheets, produced webinar videos, developed slide packs, curated resources, composed talking points, and constructed online knowledge platforms.

## FILLING GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE GAPS



Of 45 national energy frameworks from 29 sub-Saharan African countries studied, few address the link between energy access and women’s physical security and improved healthcare services

### ENERGIZING EQUALITY

During FY18, AGENT research identified the trends and gaps in how gender considerations are addressed in national energy frameworks from around the world. This analysis sheds light on the regions and thematic areas—such as health and equal participation in governance, energy careers, technology, and innovation—where further advancements at national levels are needed to unlock opportunities for women to not only benefit from energy-related policy decisions, but contribute to the growth and evolution of the sector at large. The research is influencing numerous international policy spheres, with findings being incorporated into Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) databasing tools that map global stakeholder engagement on gender equality, social inclusion, and women’s empowerment at the intersection of sustainable energy.

The global research also resulted in new areas of collaboration: through a buy-in from Power Africa on advancing Women in African Power (WiAP), AGENT produced a regional data analysis report on sub-Saharan Africa’s integration of gender equality principles in national energy policies and frameworks. As one of the world’s largest public-private partnerships in development history, Power Africa is putting the data to good use, inputting the raw data into country profiles to inform potential partnerships and investments about the status of gender equality in a country’s energy sector.

Of over 300 environment practitioners who responded to an AGENT survey on gender-based violence and environment linkages,

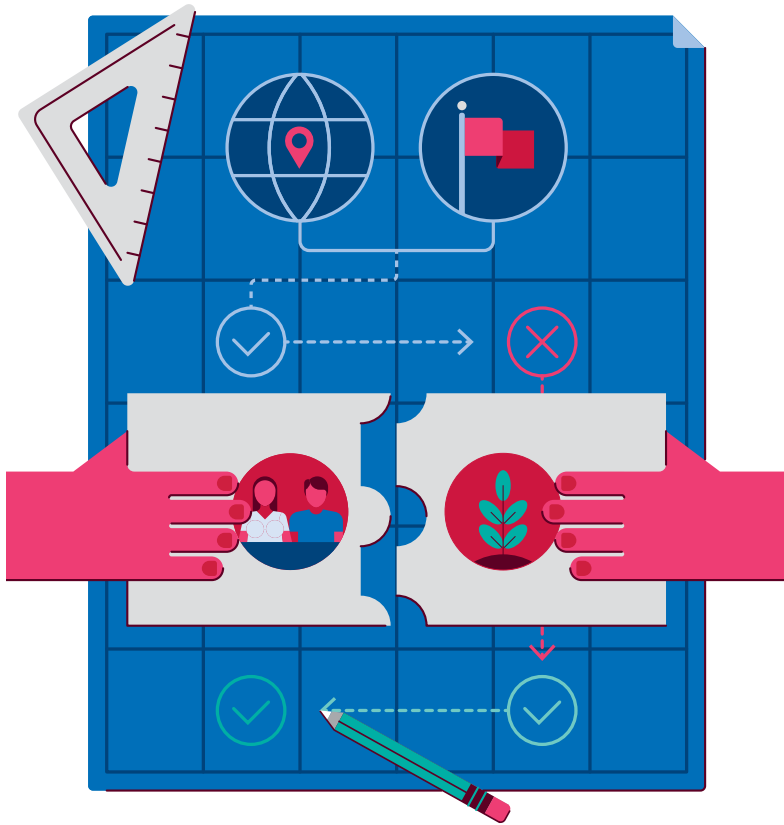
**59%**

shared they have observed GBV in project implementation



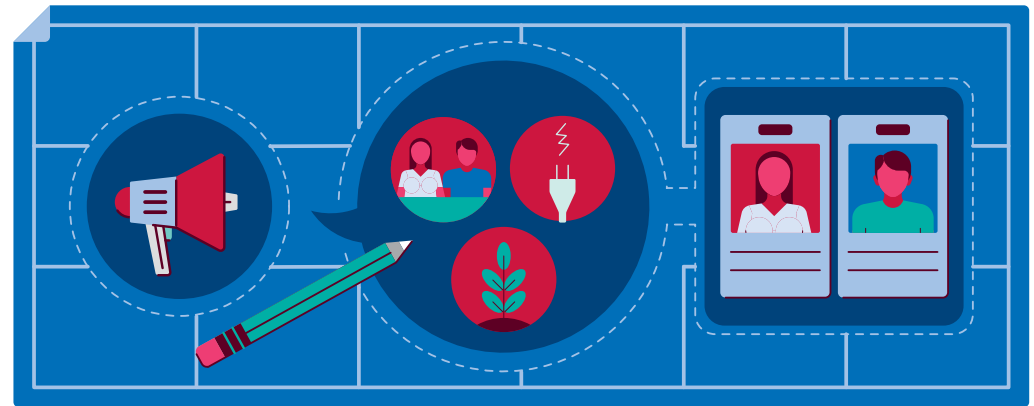
### FILLING ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE GAPS

In order to fill a critical knowledge gap, USAID commissioned AGENT to conduct a global review of evidence on the connections between gender-based violence (GBV) and environment linkages. As a result, AGENT collected over 100 case studies and 300 survey responses to support its FY18 research which is the first of its kind examining these connections. In FY19, AGENT will release a paper revealing research findings across issues and sectors. Due to widespread demand from a range of international stakeholders, AGENT will also use these findings to develop technical resources, networks, and recommendations on how to mitigate and respond to GBV in environmental programming and projects, with a particular focus on what USAID and IUCN can do collectively.



### **STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC LEVEL GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION**

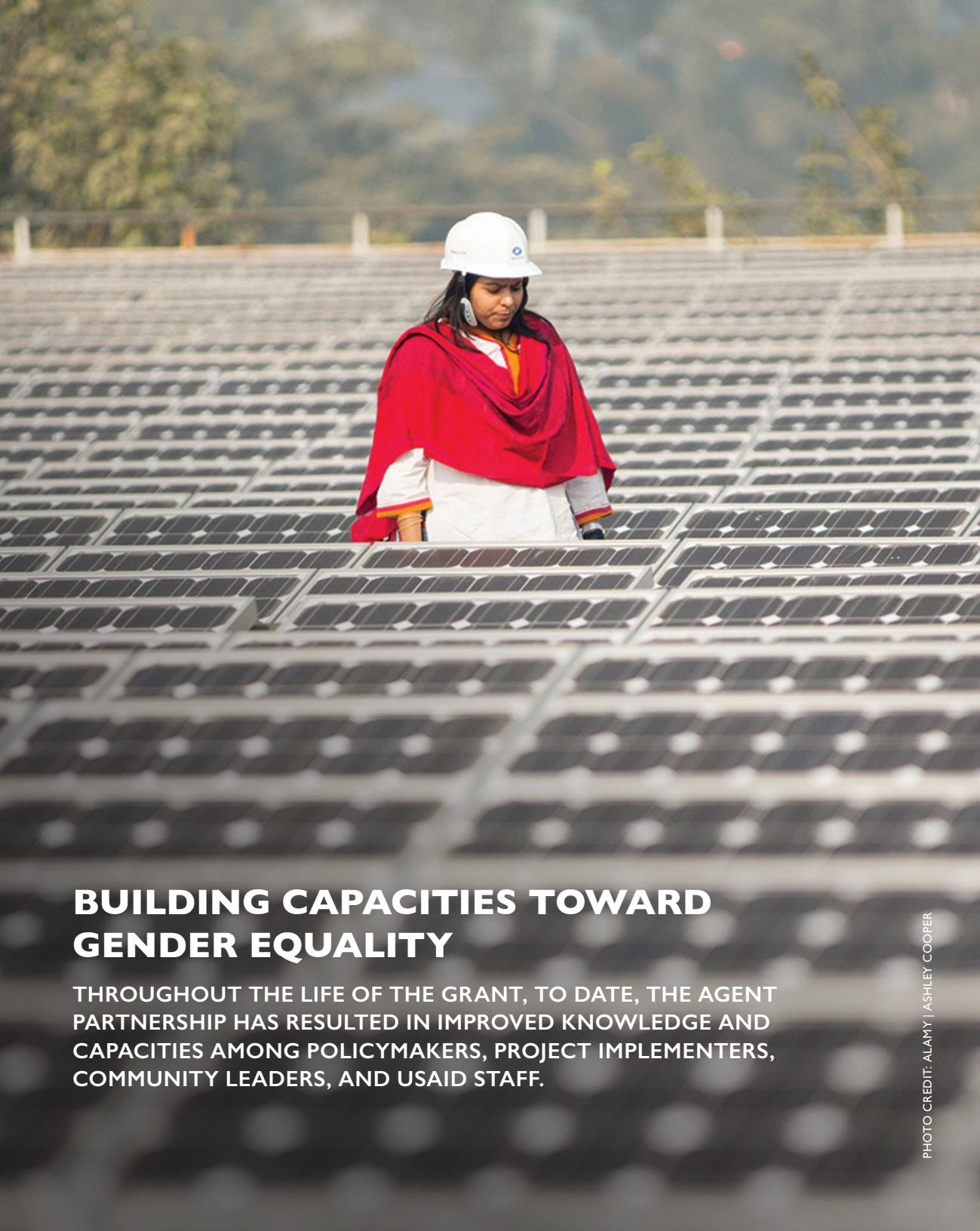
In its FY18 review of USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) and Regional Development Cooperation Strategies (RDCS), AGENT determined how gender and environment links are integrated into high level strategic USAID planning at both regional and national levels. This analysis will support GenDev in providing tailored gender support to Missions in order to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment within environmental sectors and programming.



### **POWERFUL GENDER EQUALITY MESSAGING AND ADVOCACY**

AGENT provided on-demand thematic content, data, talking points, and other strategic communications products to enable critical advocacy around the importance of gender equality within USAID’s work to conserve the environment, manage natural resources, and meet its sustainability goals. Strategic communications products supported USAID’s gender and sustainable development work in country-specific contexts—for example high-level talking points on gender and water management in Peru—and influenced how USAID sets future spending priorities on gender, clean air, environmental crime, and extractives.

AGENT also leverages a wide network of international stakeholders, including IUCN state and non-state members, providing access to strategic cross-sectoral audiences. For example, in FY18, AGENT produced a webinar series targeting primarily the energy sector, enabling knowledge sharing with diverse stakeholders while presenting USAID best-practice examples that reached over 1,600 participants. The AGENT webinar series in FY19 will strengthen knowledge around fisheries, climate fragility, and more. Demand for USAID and IUCN knowledge is clear: by 2019, AGENT resources (from the start of the grant) have been accessed via IUCN platforms 14,435 times. AGENT has also supported the development of gender subpages on all of E3’s environmental web platforms and actively curates the most compelling and up-to-date gender resources.



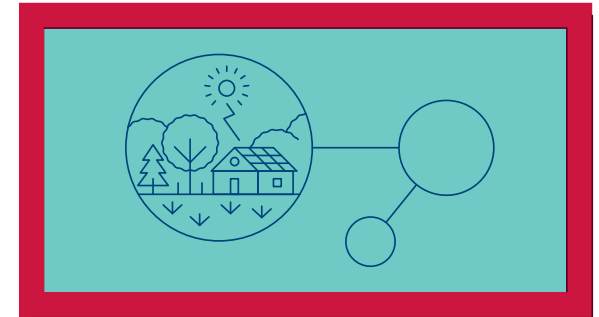
## BUILDING CAPACITIES TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY

THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE GRANT, TO DATE, THE AGENT PARTNERSHIP HAS RESULTED IN IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITIES AMONG POLICYMAKERS, PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND USAID STAFF.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALAMY | ASHLEY COOPER

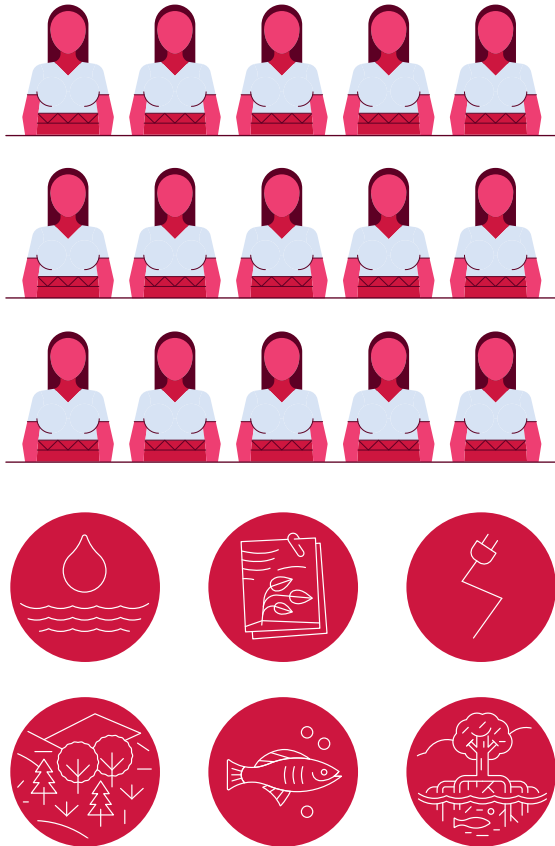
# 5,000+

women and men policymakers trained on gender and environment linkages worldwide



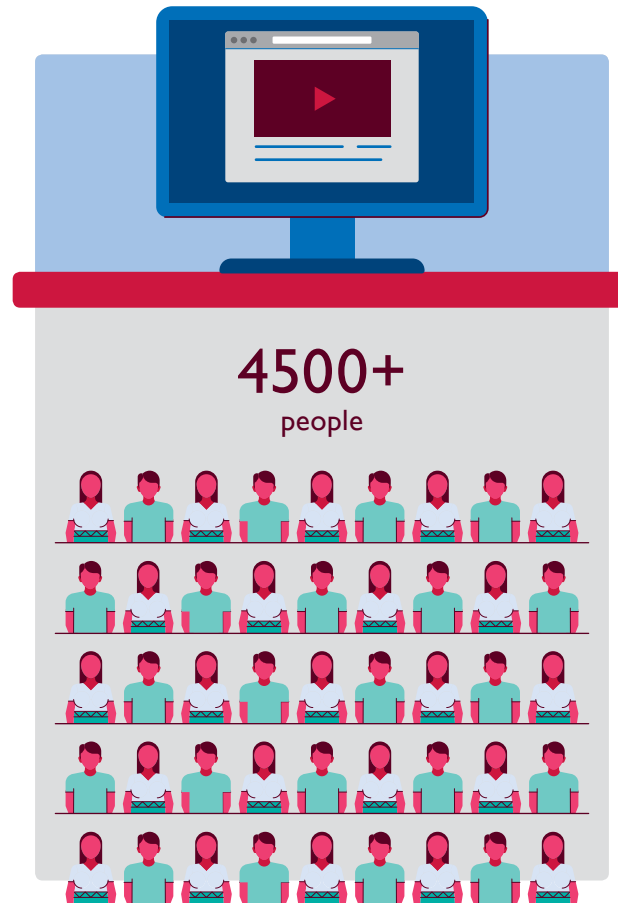
Of the more than 25,000 women and men policymakers IUCN has provided capacity building on gender and environment linkages worldwide, about 20% have been supported by AGENT.

**1,500+**  
women and women's  
organizations trained



Ensuring women can meaningfully participate in environmental decision-making, AGENT trains women and women's organizations across forestry, fisheries, water management, energy infrastructure development, adaptation, and resilience sectors to advance their interests and rights.

**33**  
webinars reaching



AGENT has facilitated webinars on gender and environment sectors, including mitigation, energy, STEM fields, large-scale infrastructure, Nationally Determined Contributions, finance, skills development, urban issues, and more.

**13**  
Sectoral issues supported  
in USAID gender analyses



AGENT's technical expertise across energy issues, biodiversity sectors, types of pollution, and recycling topics has been applied to support USAID gender analyses in Haiti, Mesoamerica, and Central America.

## TAILORED TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR USAID PROGRAMMING



PHOTO CREDIT: IUCN

### MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

AGENT provided gender technical support for USAID's Regional Coastal Biodiversity Project in Central America (RCBP). This included a gender analysis for one of the project sites where information was gathered by conducting workshops and focus groups with local women and men. As a result of AGENT's technical guidance, RCBP included information and strategies to address key gender issues, such as interventions to support women's participation in local fisheries value chains and identifying gender indicators for its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan. AGENT also supported the project in leveraging entry points to mainstream gender into local sustainable management plans, which included gender being integrated in regional communications strategies on the importance of women's roles and contributions toward the sustainable management of coastal biodiversity and related resources.



PHOTO CREDIT: IUCN

### STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL FISHERIES PARTNERSHIPS ON GENDER INTEGRATION

At the request of E3's Office of Forestry and Biodiversity (FAB), AGENT provided support and guidance in the development of a gender analysis for a global alliance, the Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT), that facilitates knowledge exchange and action to promote legal and sustainable fisheries through improved transparency in seafood supply chains. Additionally, AGENT participated in the co-creation process and was able to further underscore the importance of understanding how gender issues impact human and labor rights issues, which is a key priority within SALT's strategic approach. AGENT's contributions helped lead to the development of stakeholder working groups that will focus on these social issues and will hopefully expand SALT's focus beyond vessels to include the entire value chain. This is critical for addressing gender equality issues as women play many important roles throughout the sector and can become change agents in addressing labor conditions.



## **IMPROVING SOCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ENERGY SECTOR**

In Central America, the construction of large-scale renewable energy projects has been the source of tension with neighboring communities, who feel uninformed or consulted about the projects. Additionally, women’s interests have tended to be misrepresented where consultative processes exist. To address these issues, governments have made efforts to further regulate how social impact assessments are conducted, particularly with a human rights and gender equality framework. Despite the establishment of this bylaw, implementation has remained challenging. AGENT provided technical support to USAID’s Comunidades y Energia Renovable (CER, Spanish acronym; Communities and Renewable Energy) activity on transparent renewable energy development by building trust between stakeholders and enhancing local community engagement. Implemented by Iniciativa Climatica de Mexico, the project works to ensure local communities—particularly indigenous peoples—are included in early development planning in order to reduce potential conflicts and ensure respect for local autonomy and rights to self-determination.

During FY18, AGENT supported the project in the implementation of participatory diagnostics to understand how key actors view the development of locally-based large-scale renewable energy projects in the Yucatan and Chihuahua regions. Showcasing global example strategies and approaches on how large energy projects work with women and men from local communities, AGENT also trained renewable energy teams on conducting gender-sensitive and responsive community outreach and social impact evaluations. Additionally, AGENT supported the development of a theory of change to guide the development of a public policy that can deliver more inclusive renewable energy projects. CER reported that thanks to AGENT, it is more conscious about not only consistently including women in community engagement and information collection, but also ensuring gender considerations are included in all reports to ensure the differentiated views of women and men are addressed at all levels.

In FY19, AGENT will support the mainstreaming of gender into the project’s training curriculum on social impact assessments, with three energy generation companies already expressing interest in specialized training for staff on how their activities result in differentiated impacts on women and men, such as access to new job opportunities, gender-based violence, or access to energy or large-scale renewable infrastructure resources such as water from hydropower works or steam from geothermal generation.

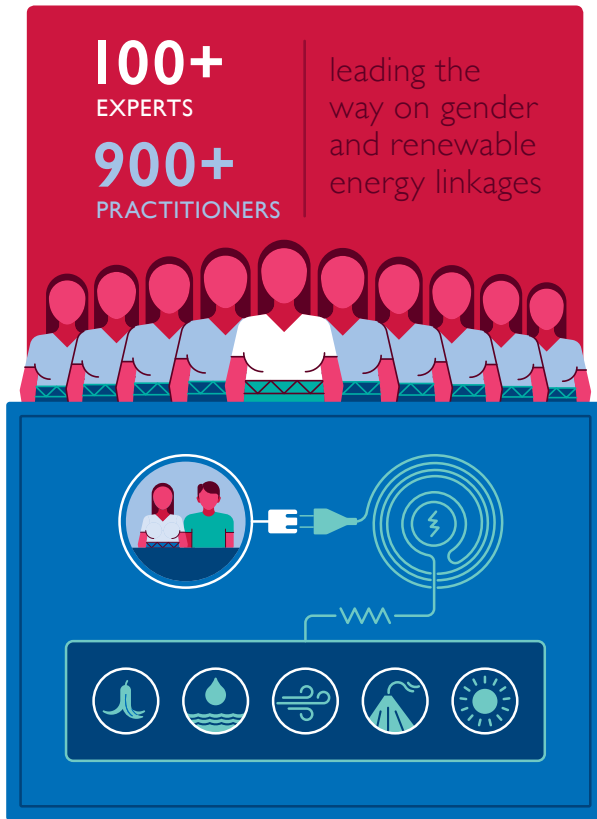


## **ADVANCING DIALOGUE ON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT GAPS**

**NOT ONLY DOES AGENT FILL KNOWLEDGE GAPS, IT ALSO CONTINUALLY ADVANCES POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION BY CONVENING AND FACILITATING INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE THAT TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION.**

PHOTO CREDIT: IUCN





Based on the first white paper of its kind on gender and renewable energy linkages, in 2016, AGENT created the first global initiative addressing gender and mid- to large-scale energy. Today, an expert working group of more than 100 leaders facilitates next-step and next-trend discourse with over 900 practitioners in AGENT's global Gender and Renewable Energy (G-REEN) network.



In 2018, AGENT-generated knowledge and identified evidence gaps in a forthcoming guide on *Gender in Fisheries - A Sea of Opportunities*, leading to the creation of a USAID Learning Initiative to investigate linkages between increased women's access to finance and improved sustainable fisheries management outcomes across several pilot sites globally.



Research by AGENT showed there are enormous gaps in integrating GBV into environmental programming and in 2019, will start a global community of practice towards harmonized and meaningful action.





PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

## LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming year, AGENT will continue to provide on-demand technical assistance, conduct research to fill critical evidence gaps on gender and the environment, and utilize strategic communications to influence USAID's approaches on gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental programming. Some of the planned activities include:

- Serving as the lead coordinator for USAID's Learning Initiative on Women's Empowerment, Finance and Fisheries;
- Creating technical resources and tools on GBV and environmental sectors;
- Publishing research on the triple nexus of gender inequality, climate vulnerability, and state fragility to inform targeted interventions that address intersections;
- Supporting USAID project implementation through tailored technical support;
- Advancing knowledge on gender-lens financing in energy sectors; and
- Developing on-demand messaging to support USAID in advancing gender equality and empowerment throughout its work in conserving the environment, managing natural resources, and meeting sustainability goals.

Taken together, AGENT is well on its way in transforming the way USAID, IUCN, and other key partners and stakeholders view gender and environment issues. AGENT will continue to be a key source for knowledge creation and dissemination, best-practice exchange, and technical support for women's economic empowerment and equality to help remove barriers to a more sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for all.

AGENT is available to support USAID Missions and other Operating Units in a myriad of ways to support gender and empowerment in the environmental sphere. Please reach out to the AOR, Corinne Hart, for more information on how AGENT can support your work!

To learn more about Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT), please visit [gender.pub/agent](https://gender.pub/agent)



PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

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