



Beyond the vulnerability trap

-enhancing a gender driven climate response-policy interface-

Belynda Petrie November Global Landscapes
Forum COP 19

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"Ukuto ya Batho"

TEACHINGS FROM OUR PEOPLE

WOMEN
ADAPT
TO CLIMATE CHANGE

"My reflections on adaptation initiatives from around the developing world show that women often take the lead in these endeavours. It is no surprise that women play an important role in developing and passing on indigenous knowledge, innovative strategies and practices to alleviate poverty and to survive in face of climate change."

Her Excellency, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane
minister of international Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of
South Africa and President of COP17/CmP7

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Women are on the move...

It has taken nearly 2 decades for gender to emerge as a focus for the multilateral climate change debates

Until recently, mitigation was 'it'

The focus on adaptation has sharpened over the past decade particularly in developing countries where people have personal experiences of changing climates and as the world faces the fact that emissions are still headed in the wrong direction

The emergence of a gender perspective in climate change research consistent with renewal of interest in the rights of women

Gender references in negotiating text increased at COP 17 – sharpening the focus on gender based research and public attention on the vulnerability of women, children and the aged

The argument needs to go one step further: we need to move beyond the vulnerability paradigm and to focus instead on women's resilience



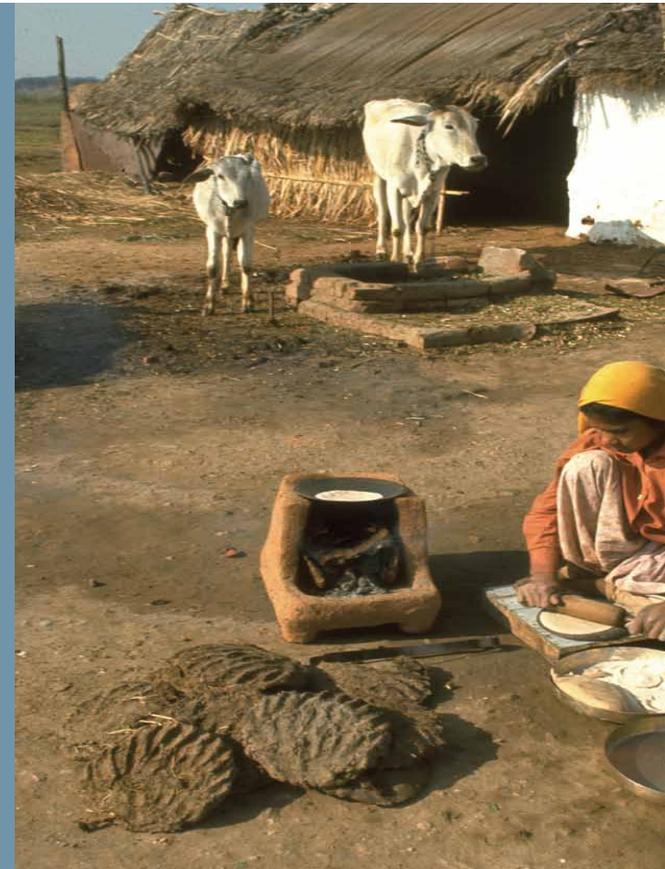
Investing in women's resilience

Women's resilience is..

"...a combination of adaptive and innovative capacities in the face of demanding challenges. Our focus is not on women as victims crying out for beneficial intervention from multilateral agencies and the outside world – although hundreds of millions of women are deserving of this – but as innovators in their own right."

Thato ya Batho – Women Adapt to Climate Change, OneWorld 2012

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Key messages - Where women adapt, change follows

Learning never ends

Women are key to combatting resource loss and increasing food security

Women learn by cooperating

Empowered women become drivers of real change

Diversification and uses of new technologies generate alternate sources of income in times of drought

Women are effective decision makers when equal

Women are fountains of useful knowledge

Women facilitate the replication and upscaling of technologies



Case Studies from around the world demonstrate these key messages



PART THREE

Spreading wings

Mentorship across borders: Women's groups in northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia organise and mentor their way out of environmental and economic difficulty.

Adaptation Brief

Hazard: Environmental degradation, drought and population growth have impacted severely on livelihoods, especially those of women.

Strategy: Collective-action, peer- learning and savings and loan schemes create a virtuous circle of self- and community improvement and advancement.

Enabler: Mentorship, education, numeracy and literacy, and participatory methods to evolve actions, create the base from which pro-activity develops.

Lessons: Collective peer-to-peer action and peer-to-peer learning are good ways to build confidence and create changes in the lives of rural women.

Scaling Up: The methods and benefits of this approach can be scaled up at all levels with the right mentorship and skill and capacity development.

Sustainability: The approach and benefits are sustainable if the correct practices are followed. There needs to be constant learning, but the actions generated must avoid an increased load on the environment.

Pastoralist communities; remote rangelands
Livestock = 'walking bank accounts' die quickly leaving people destitute
Diversification key
Neighbouring Kenyan project built on objectives of

- Collective action
- Micro finance
- Inspiration, capacity building
- Market access

Collective women's compulsory savings associations – cash for projects – enterprise development & education
Group leaders helped women across Ethiopian border

Improved housing, hygiene, education & economic status

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Women's groups: a key to climate funding:

International climate funds recognise the importance of women in adaptation project design and execution – A Senegal example

Adaptation Brief

Hazard: Coastal erosion, salinisation of soils and groundwater constitute the key hazards Senegal is expected to lose 70m2 of coastline – and fisheries with sea level rise.

Strategy: Women provide essential input to adaptation project design and execution, thus strengthening the outcomes for those most affected by climate change (*fish processing, distribution and marketing*)

Enabler: Women's organisations help drive the process, assisted by capacity building and training.

Lessons: Women who work in organised groups and are focused on their objectives lead to increased project impact; this has been recognised by some large international funds.

Scaling Up: : The approach and methods can be scaled according to the opportunities presented.

Sustainability: The approach should be highly sustainable given continuing appropriate support to local women's groups.

Spreading women's farming expertise: Bolivian agricultural programme utilises traditional knowledge of climate prediction & crop planning to improve decision making in agricultural production and risk management.

Adaptation Brief

Hazard: The main hazards are frost, hail, flooding, heat and drought.

Strategy: Indigenous knowledge should be consolidated and spread through local experts.

Enabler: Indigenous knowledge and training of yapuchiris who use a risk management approach gain rapid acceptance.

Lessons: A risk management framework is essential in harsh environments and is cheap. Women are empowered when they are recognised as knowledge managers and experts. Incorporating local decision-making practices and prior information fosters innovation.

Scaling Up: This approach can be applied elsewhere where a rich indigenous knowledge system exists. Training of male and female *yapuchiris* (or equivalent) and their outreach to other farmers can be scaled up by encouraging similar participatory processes.

Sustainability: The “learning by doing” approach under local guidance is aimed at increasing sustainability through continuous adaptation to evolving conditions. Agricultural risk management that is based on farmers' own skills, capabilities and practices is usually more sustainable and successful than imported knowledge which is not well communicated

Laws for land: Kenyan legal frameworks are reformed to give women greater participation and decision making powers around natural resource management - adaptive change follows.

Hazard: The impacts of changing climates are exacerbated when women, who are the primary food growers for home use, have little control over land use and decision-making.

Strategy: Give women legal access to land and by definition greater decision-making control over how resources are used.

Enabler: Constitutional changes enacted by the government have enabled the necessary changes.

Lessons: Improved legal status makes a big difference to the way resilience can be improved.

Scaling Up: This example should be observed by other countries and progressively acted upon.

Sustainability: The outcomes are highly sustainable. Improved decision making usually results in much better outcomes.

Women negotiated with husbands over access to land for agroforestry projects

August 2010 constitutional changes allow women equal access to land – equal rights in decision making over land

Further boost from central Govt stated intention to support womens projects

Women to benefit from of a revolving fund for project subsidies - pooling members' resources

Globalising the idea.. to invest in women is to invest in the future..

Women in some of the world's poorest countries are adept at coping with the impacts of climate change.

More importantly, women are adapting, innovating and replicating successful innovations, for the benefit of us all.

- Position women to inform global climate finance: GCF establishment
- Establish women-led investments as a significant portion of global funds investment portfolios through supportive policies
- National policies should prioritise the creation of domestic conditions for implementing investment decisions that benefit women
- Recognise women's role in agriculture and improved land use management (reforestation) in policy making and reform processes to accelerate the pace of change and strengthen climate resilience

..Promote gender equality and accelerate change – sensitively: from the kitchen to the negotiating chamber...

The CC challenge confronts all of us at all levels – in ‘the kitchen’ cultural norms get in the way of change; in the negotiations, longstanding conditions of macroeconomic dominance and subordination have a similar effect.

Nobel Economics Laureate Muhammad Yunus said:

“[The]most dramatic thing that has happened to Bangladesh in the last 25 years is the total change in the status of women.... They become aware of their ability to handle their lives and make decisions (for example) about how many children they will have...”.

(Time magazine, 2009)

This could be our global ambition – and legacy.

PART SIX

Investing in equality

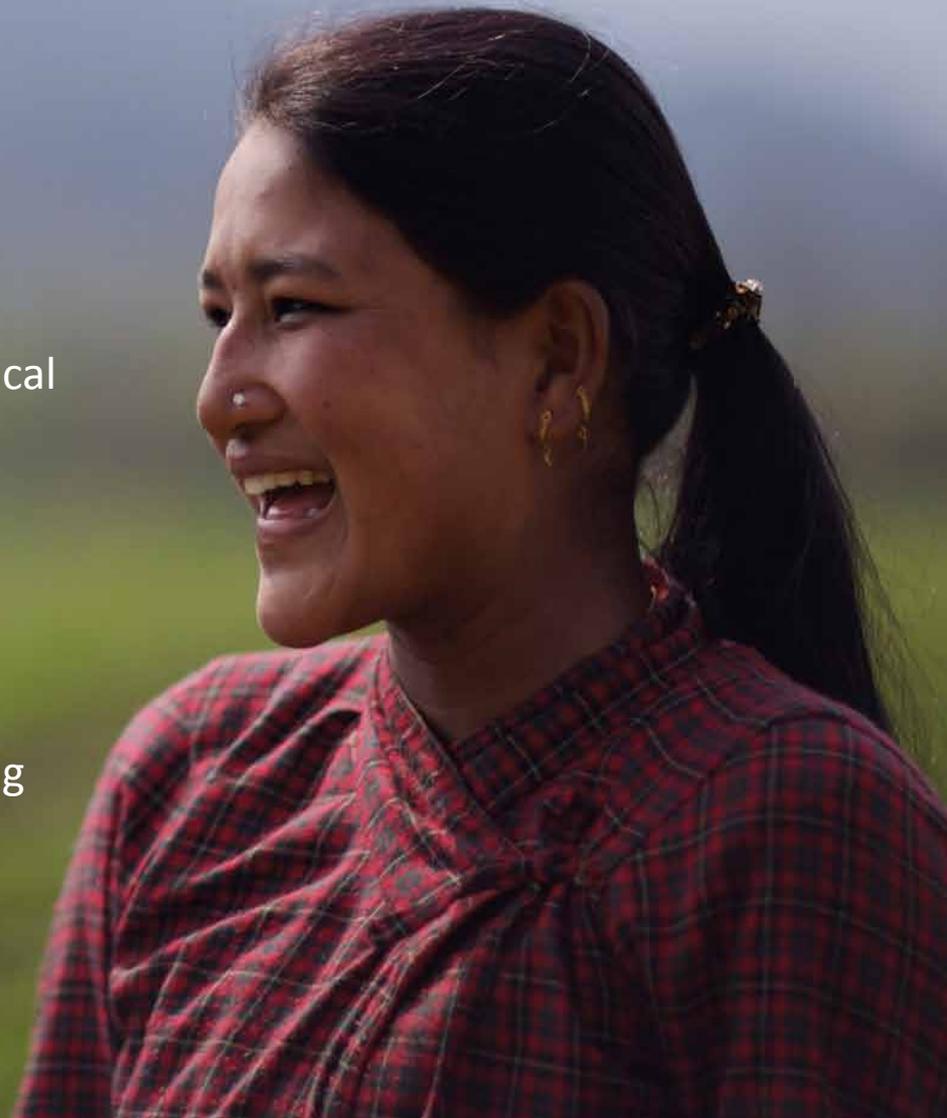
Build on lessons and continue to use practical
action for evidence

Deepen research for scaling up

Monitor Review & Validate

Stop portraying women as victims

Focus on opportunities & resilience building



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