

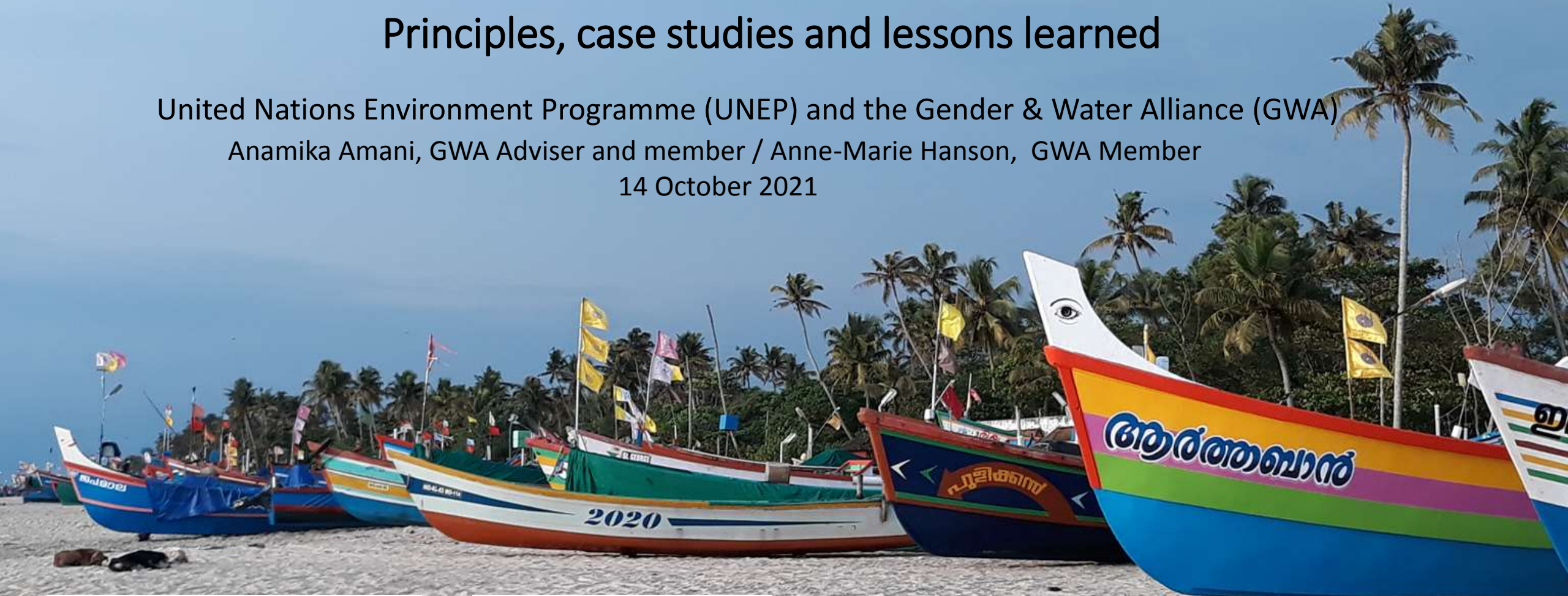
Gender Mainstreaming in Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management

Principles, case studies and lessons learned

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Gender & Water Alliance (GWA)

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14 October 2021



Fishing boats take over a tourist beach site in Kerala, India, during Covid-19. Credit: Anamika Amani, GWA

Background of report development

- Follow up to earlier UNEP-GWA report (2019)
- The 2021 report
 - Uses 10 case studies from **diverse geographies** and ecosystem settings, and covers a **wider set of themes** in coastal and marine ecosystem management.
 - to provide **practical** gender mainstreaming guidance in a **more structured** form, that is useful for practitioners and policy makers (PRINCIPLES)
 - Intends to **bridge the gender-technical divide** (i.e. to involve not just gender experts, but also researchers and project managers in thinking and writing about integrating gender in their work)
 - Gives some current insight into how the **Covid-19 pandemic** is affecting coastal people, livelihoods and ecosystems, and its implications for gender relations and strategies

Combining themes in coastal management with key domains for gender analysis

Themes in coastal management

- Ecosystem restoration and resource management
- Employment and livelihoods from fisheries, crops, aquaculture, other
- **Services for people (WASH, health)**
- Coastal resilience to climate-related and other crises (Covid-19)
- **Marine litter and plastic waste mgt. in coastal areas**

Case studies

Domains for gender analysis

- Access to and control over assets and resources
- Scope and level of participation in decision-making (project & policy)
- Recognition and valuation of work, knowledge, skills
- Changing social norms, perceptions and beliefs
- Legal and institutional practices and environment

Structure of the report

- Section 1. Introduction
 - Section 2. Definitions and Key Concepts
 - Section 3. Principles for mainstreaming gender in coastal and marine management
 - Section 4: Case Studies
 - Section 5. Coping with crises: Coastal communities and the Covid-19 pandemic
 - Section 6. Key Findings and Recommendations
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Gender principles for integrated coastal and marine management

- Gender principles can be seen as **‘tried and tested’ strategies or actions** for promoting socially just, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient development in coastal and marine areas.
- 10 gender principles were distilled from (1) a **questionnaire survey** sent out to GWA, UNEP and associated partner networks, (2) **discussions** with gender experts and practitioners in coastal and marine areas, and (3) **literature review**.
- The 10 gender principles **are not meant to be an exhaustive list**, they are **interconnected** and they are **strengthened in combination** rather than implemented as isolated actions.
- **Each of the 10 principles is illustrated by a case study** which aims to explain
 - Why: the rationale behind the use of the principle;
 - How: the practical aspects of implementing it in a particular context; and
 - Context-specific results, key challenges, and lessons learned.

Gender Principles in coastal and marine ecosystem management

Gender Principle 1: Data that reveals the work of invisible and unrecognised stakeholders

Gender Principle 2: Creating spaces for the unheard to speak and be listened to

Gender Principle 3: Validating and utilizing different capacities and knowledge of women and men

Gender Principle 4: Enabling equitable access to resources for all

Gender Principle 5: Gender-responsive skills and knowledge-building for a sustainable livelihood

Gender Principle 6: Enhancing inclusive decision-making in community-based organisations

Gender Principle 7: Political mobilisation of excluded groups to advocate for their rights

Gender Principle 8: Multi-stakeholder collaboration for gender-equitable sustainable development

Gender Principle 9: Utilizing diversity, to boost equity and inclusion in building local resilience to crises

Gender Principle 10: Sustaining empowerment and ecosystem benefits in the long term

1: Data that reveals the work of invisible and unrecognised stakeholders

- Women and men contribute differently to coastal and marine economies and environmental management.
 - Different (paid and unpaid) work responsibilities, knowledge and skills.
 - Uneven access to natural and legal resources.
 - Different needs and responses during crises
- The work and contributions of women, informal workers, indigenous groups have been routinely ignored or underestimated in statistics and policies in fisheries, coastal and marine conservation, climate change.

Recommendations:

- Link collection, analysis and dissemination of *gender disaggregated data* from local-national-regional level.
- Develop targeted knowledge products for different stakeholder groups (policy recommendations, qualitative case studies to enrich research and statistics).

Case study from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fiji:
Revealing the contributions of Indigenous fisher women in small-scale fisheries in Fiji



Mud crab fishers from Bua Province, Fiji. (Credit - Alyssa Thomas)

2. Creating spaces for the unheard to speak and be listened to

- Gender combines with class, race, age, sexual orientation, and other variables to deepen inequalities and make it difficult for certain groups to participate or be invited to public forums and consultations.
- In many coastal areas and SIDS, deeply embedded patriarchal norms and biases may make it especially difficult for women to be seen and/or heard in public meetings.
- **Recommendation:** For coastal and marine development and management that ‘leaves no one behind’ it is very important to *create safe and inclusive spaces for different groups of women and men to voice their concerns, access relevant information and build their capacity.*

Case study from The Nature Conservancy (TNC):
Dialogue and partnership for climate action with local women’s groups in Yap, Micronesia



Women from local community groups at Yap Women’s Learning Exchange, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (Credit – TNC)

3. Validating and utilizing different capacities and knowledge of women and men

Case study from the Intercultural Center for the Study of Desert and Oceans (CEDO), Mexico:

Participatory Coastal-Marine Spatial Planning in a protected Biological and Fisheries Corridor, Sonora – Mexico

- Local women and men possess specific knowledge and capacities in how they use and manage coastal and marine resource, based on different household, community and work responsibilities.
- **Recommendations:**
- Facilitate socio-legal organisation of fishers, shell-fishers, so they can participate more effectively in coastal conservation and fisheries policy and management consultations.
- Utilize strong women leadership at various levels to encourage and empower more women to participate in integrated coastal and marine planning and implementation.



*Artisanal fishermen and a woman oyster farmer at work
(Credit – CEDO)*

4: Enabling equitable access to resources for all

- New technology, resources, information and management approaches brought into coastal communities are never gender-neutral.
- These changes affect women and men differently, often creating unintended negative outcomes that undermine sustainability and equity goals of the interventions.
- **Recommendation**: Projects that bring *improved technology and innovations* in coastal areas, must ensure that the most socio-economically disadvantaged groups of women and men also benefit or gain from it. For e.g. better water-management and crop production technology should benefit not only farmers but also landless households and women.

Case study from the Blue Gold Program, Governments of Bangladesh – Netherlands: ***Improving livelihoods of women and landless households through integrated water resources management in coastal Bangladesh***



Members of a Water Management Group operating a sluice gate in Bangladesh (Credit – Blue Gold Program, Bangladesh)

5: Gender-responsive skills and knowledge-building for a sustainable livelihood

- A majority of poor coastal women and men depend on their natural environment for their household food, income and energy requirements.
- With increasing degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, these groups face rising livelihood insecurity and often must resort to unsustainable practices in fisheries, aquaculture and farming.
- **Recommendation**: Coastal conservation and ecosystem regeneration projects should identify groups most dependent on natural resources and ensure that *capacity building and skills trainings are gender-responsive* by addressing the priorities, interests and constraints of these groups.

Case study from The Nature Conservancy (TNC):
Gender-responsive capacity building of women for sustainable seaweed farming in Zanzibar



Women working in groups for better adoption of training in sustainable seaweed farming (Credit - Mondy Muhando, TNC)

6: Enhancing inclusive decision-making in community-based organisations

Case study from Coastal Oceans Research and Development Indian Ocean (CORDIO), Kenya:

Enhancing effective participation of women in Beach Management Units in coral reef dependent communities in Kenya

- Increasing number of national governments are calling on local stakeholders to be involved in co-management of local coastal and marine resources through CBOs such as Village Fishery Committees and Beach Management Units.
- Despite membership quotas for women, their participation in these groups is negligible.
- **Recommendations:**
- Gain support for women's participation with the help of men from their kinship relations, family and the community.
- Support and mentoring by influential leaders (women and men) at local level can also play a big role in encouraging active participation of women in decision making.



*Woman fish trader in Mkunguni, Kenya
(Credit - Joan Kawaka, CORDIO, East Africa)*

7: Political mobilisation of excluded groups to advocate for their rights

- As countries with large maritime areas are increasingly using their oceans and seas for commercial growth, there has been a rise in involvement of international actors and in conflicts over use of coastal and marine spaces.
- Men, and women dependent on small scale fisheries and other coastal resources for their livelihood find themselves increasingly marginalized.
- Women are often left out of most consultations on coastal development as their work is formally unrecognized and undervalued.
- **Recommendation:** In countries where patriarchy is deeply rooted in customary, family and government structures and decision-making, a feminist focus in political mobilisation of women is essential for advocacy building.
- Build alliances with other relevant stakeholder groups (such as fishermen, environmental groups) to make the advocacy more effective and sustainable.

Case study from Solidaritas Perempuan (SP), Indonesia:
Mobilising fisherwomen to campaign against unsustainable coastal reclamation in Indonesia



*Fisherwomen in a public rally in Sulawesi
(Credit - Anging Mammiri, SP)*

8: Multi-stakeholder collaboration for gender-equitable sustainable development

- More governments all over the world are adopting the Blue Economy approach (creating greater value for economy, people and environment through sustainable utilisation of ocean resources)
- This necessitates collaboration between multiple sectors and stakeholders to generate shared understandings of problems and agreement around aims, focus, resources and commitment.
- **Recommendations:** *Strong women and minority-group leadership and representation in Blue Economy collaborations is essential to ensure outcomes are gender-equitable*
- Women and minority-led teams boost participation of these groups in consultations and help enlist their needs and priorities in development agendas.

Case study from Oceanic Global (OG), USA:
Encouraging gender and diversity in multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable tourism in Barbados



The Oceanic Standard launch in Barbados with UNDP Accelerator Lab and local partners (Credit - Cassia Patel, OG)

9: Utilising diversity to boost equity and inclusion in building local resilience to crises

Case study from Utthan – Gujarat, India:

Building on social solidarity and women’s empowerment in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in coastal Gujarat

- Coastal communities are **doubly vulnerable to crises**.
 - First hit points of cyclones, storm surges, tsunamis and sea level rise
 - Last collection points of land-based water pollution and plastic waste.
- The remoteness of many coastal regions also means that their inhabitants are the hardest to be reached by national relief efforts during emergencies.
- **Recommendations:**
- Utilise the diversity of local resources and capacities, and plan interventions in coordination with local women’s and men’s groups.
- Identify the poorest and most vulnerable groups, such as women, elderly and children, and ensure they are included in relief and recovery efforts.



An elderly woman taking food rations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Credit: Utthan – Gujarat, India

10: Sustaining empowerment and ecosystem benefits in the long-term

Case study from TRY Women's Oyster Association , The Gambia and University of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Center, USA:

Recognizing women shellfish harvester's work and amplifying its value through rights-based fisheries co-management

- Sustaining projects after the phase out of funding support is a challenge faced by governments and natural resource-dependent coastal communities all over the world.
- Even in co-managed coastal areas, poor capacity for data collection and reporting, enforcement, and lack of funding support may lead to lapses in proper management.

Recommendations: Specific interventions within active projects such as *facilitating organisation* of poor shell-fishers, small fish traders into CBOs with legal identity; *peer-learning exchanges* between isolated groups; and *training and mobilizing local youth* to fill gaps in co-management tasks can empower and strengthen marginal coastal women and men to continue and even amplify ecosystem management practices in future.



*TRY women oyster harvesters launching canoe
(Credit – TRY, The Gambia)*

Acknowledgements and BIG THANK YOU!!

- Contributing authors and their affiliated organisations
- Members of GWA, UNEP networks who responded to our questionnaire
- Co-author and co-editors Anamika Amani, Anne-Marie Hanson and Patricia Kinyolo
- UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit (Takehiro Nakamura, Leticia Carvalho, Gabriel Grimsditch, and others); and Joke Muylwijk (ED GWA)
- All the webinar participants today. We look forward to your feedback!
- Special mention to Osho Benster for design assistance

Traditional fisher boats in the Arabian Sea - Kerala, India. Credit: Anamika Amani GWA