



NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN 2022-2027



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NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN 2022-2027



ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Networked Intelligence for Development (NiD) is an independent consulting practice providing clients with technical and project management services, inter-disciplinary research, and learning materials. NID's specialized services focus on the nexus of human rights, equitable development and healthy ecologies, in support of social and economic equity. We work from the ground up and are strategic and practical in our approach. We are constantly searching for ways to end poverty through the empowerment of communities to identify and own their solutions to their challenges. For more information visit: www.networkedintelligence.com.

ABOUT NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE



The National Climate Change Office was established in 2015 as the Government of Belize's response to the climate crisis. As the secretariat for climate change, the National Climate Change Office acts as the operational arm of the Belize National Climate Change Committee, by mobilizing climate change related actions across the country.



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ACRONYMS

AF	Adaptation Fund
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses
BNCCC	Belize National Climate Change Committee
CC	Climate Change
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCD	Climate Change Department
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
COP	Conference of Parties
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CRIP	Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project
CRIS	Climate Resiliency Information System
CVRP	Climate Vulnerability Reduction Programme
DOE	Department of the Environment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FOLU	Forestry and Other Land Uses
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GOB	Government of Belize
GSDS	Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
MSDCCDRM	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
MED	Ministry of Economic Development
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Measuring/Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NC	National Communication
NCCO	National Climate Change Office
NCCPSAP	National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan
NCCGAP	National Climate Change Gender Action Plan
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SNC	Second National Communication
TNC	Third National Communication
UB	University of Belize

UKCIP	United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USTDA	United States Trade and Development Agency
VCGE	Vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems
WB	World Bank



DOCUMENT LAYOUT



Gender Vision Statement

outlines the main pillars for Belize's gender just and inclusive climate change planning.

STEP
01

Accompanying Cover Note



The *Cover Note* accompanies and explains at the meta level the Climate Change Gender Action Plan's (NCCGAP) scope and provides the context and rationale for the selection of four 'foundational' focus areas, since this is the inaugural NCCGAP.

STEP
02



Five-year Climate Change Gender Action Plan

Seeks to integrate climate change plans into socio-economic development plans, and in ensuring that society in all its diversity is engaged in managing climate at the micro and immediate scale.

STEP
03

Links to learning Tools



Also available in a set of selected Guidelines and Briefing Notes to support gender-responsiveness and social-inclusion in the implementation of the Climate Change plans. This is to be adapted for each sector to redress the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poor and the disadvantage.

STEP
04



Good Practices & Standards

Important actions to ensure compliance with environmental and social standards.

STEP
05

Impact Measurements



Measuring the impacts on how policies, programs and services are, and will, meet the different needs of gender diverse people.

STEP
06



ACTION PLAN EFFECTIVE PERIOD

This NCCGAP informs actions and activities from 2022 to 2027. In the process of operationalizing the Plan, it will need to be revised and require periodic review according to scientific findings, development priorities and the outcomes of international negotiations, or the adoption of new national policies and frameworks. It shall guide all government and non-government organizations, the private sector, civil society, and all citizens of Belize in the pursuance of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation to enhance the resilience of the natural resource sectors and built infrastructure and reduce potential vulnerabilities to the effects of Climate Change and variability.

KEY RESOURCES

The Belize NCCGAP is informed by the following key resources:

- 1 Belize's three principal climate change documentsⁱ and a selection of related official documents including the updated National Gender Policy.
 - 2 Findings arising from a training needs survey conducted in February 2022; (see Annex I for survey findings and priorities)
 - 3 Stakeholder consultations with representatives of key institutions in Belize; (see [Annex II](#) for details).
 - 4 Review of recent research publications produced by prominent gender and climate change specialists in the regionⁱⁱ
 - 5 Conventions and agreements that capture the values, spirit, and intentions of governments in the region, including the Sustainable Development Goals and SDG 5: Gender Equality.
-

VISION STATEMENT

1

BELIZE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN

CONTEXT AND FRAMING

This Gender and Climate Change vision statement is framed by international and regional agreements and statements of intention spanning a 30-year period from the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 (Agenda 21) to the Bridgetown Declaration and the Escazú Agreement in 2021.

1992

EARTH SUMMIT, AGENDA 21

The United Nations recalls that the only text regarding women in earth's global action was found in Chapter 24 of Agenda 21: Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development. The Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration, Chapter 24 of Agenda 21, left a historic and indelible mark whereby women globally are seen as part of the negotiations process and the realities of women need to be addressed. The result has been a network of activists who have continued to fight to ensure that women's voices and experiences impact Climate Change policy even todayⁱⁱⁱ.

1994

BELIZE RATIFIES UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Government of Belize, a member state of the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on October 31, 1994, the Kyoto Protocol in 2003, and the Paris Agreement in 2016.

- By ratifying the UNFCCC, Belize has committed itself to develop, adopt, and implement policies and measures to mitigate the adverse effects of Climate Change and adapt to these changes.

2009

CLIMATE CHANGE “*NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR BELIZE 2010-2030*”

In the regard for regional and national commitments, the Government of Belize also adheres to the principles upheld in the “*CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*,” and the “*Sistema de la Integración Centro-Americana*” (SICA) Regional Strategy on Climate Change “*National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030*”.

By adhering to these principles, Belize commits to ensure that regional and national prospects for economic, human, and environmental sustainability, development and prosperity are not compromised in the pursuance of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation measures.

2014

LIMA WORK PROGRAMME

Paragraph 4 of the preamble to the UNFCCC’s Lima Work Programme on Gender iv states that “gender-responsive climate policy still requires further strengthening in all activities related to adaptation and mitigation, as well as decision-making on the implementation of climate policies”.

2015

PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement signed at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties in 2015, states in its preamble a guiding principle proposing an intersectionality approach: “... Parties should, when taking action to address climate change,

- respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights;
- the right to health;
- the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and;
- the right to development, as well as gender equality; empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”

2017

MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY

The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2017):

- recognizes that integrating women's rights and autonomy into climate change adaptation and mitigation is not only essential in complementing global commitments to women's human rights and gender equality, but also maximizes the effectiveness of climate policies, programmes and resources.
- issues a call to "harmonize regional norms consistent with women's human rights, and evaluate the extraterritorial effects of the legislation and policies adopted, with respect to transnational issues, such as (...) climate change, (...) and the rights of Afrodescendent women and women of different Indigenous and ethnic groups".

2020

SANTIAGO COMMITMENT

Building on the Montevideo Strategy, the Santiago Commitment^v, agreed to at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020), reached three agreements on gender equality and climate change (ECLAC, agreements 32, 33 and 34).

AGREEMENT 32 CALLS FOR:

- *progress on mainstreaming gender, intersectionality, interculturality and*
- *rights in policies and programmes with financing for sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories.*
- *It also calls for greater participation by women and the inclusion of gender equality in the analysis of needs and response plans, and in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction.*
- *It highlights the need to strengthen collaboration between the machineries for the advancement of women and the entities responsible for environmental, climate change and energy policies, among other issues.*

BRIDGETOWN DECLARATION

In one of the eight decisions contained in the 2021 Bridgetown Declaration ^{vi}, ministers undertook:

- to promote gender equality and urged “all the countries of the region to develop affirmative actions within the framework of environmental public policies,
- to make it possible to make visible and value the women’s contributions in sustainable development, as well as the existing gaps in access, use, control and benefit to natural resources and the negative impacts on women and girls, derived from the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.”

ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

The Escazú Agreement, entered into force on 22 April 2021, promotes environmental democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- *This instrument enshrines in a binding treaty the three rights of access, or procedural rights, contained in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development^{vii}.*
- *Its objective is to “guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters.”*

ARTICLE 2 OF THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

Article 2 of the Escazú Agreement takes the definition of persons or groups in situations of vulnerability to the next level.

- *“Persons or groups in vulnerable situations” means those persons or groups that face particular difficulties in fully exercising the access rights recognized in the present Agreement, because of circumstances or conditions identified within each Party’s national context and in accordance with its international obligations.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The vision statement is held together by the following guiding principles:



THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE:

reduce anthropogenic emissions, and therefore make a positive contribution to achieving the global climate change objective^{viii}.



THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERSECTIONALITY:

Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”



THE PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY AND PROCEDURAL RIGHTS:

promote inclusion and participation of all, by guaranteeing the participation of women in their diversity; and include the voices of all people, whatever their socioeconomic status, stage in the life cycle, ethnic-racial status, territory, disability and migration status. Procedural rights “guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters.” These principles are also echoed in the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consultations (FPIC).

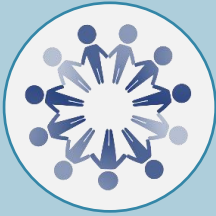


THE PRINCIPLES OF GENDER EQUITABLE CLIMATE FINANCE ALLOCATIONS:

the adoption of financing and cost-recovery methods that are equitable and sustainable, while reflecting the concerns of the poor. Women and men due largely to their gender roles, responsibilities and respective rights have differing vulnerabilities to climate change as well as differentiated capabilities to mitigate emissions, adapt to and cope with climate change impacts. These differences need to be considered in the allocation and disbursement of climate finances to support women’s empowerment in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of climate financing; such a link has been proved for gender-responsive development finance.

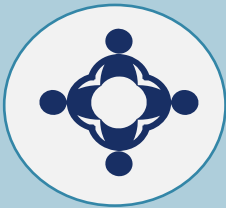
KEY APPROACHES

The vision statement seeks to promote and support the following approaches:



HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACHES:

endeavoring to ensure equitable access, use and control of natural resources and the public commons between men and women; recognize, respect and value the traditional and ancestral knowledge held by rural, Indigenous and Afro-descendent women for nature-based solutions and responses to climate change.



AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS FOR WOMEN:

recognize, respect and value women's contributions to society, economy and sustainable development and harmonize regional norms consistent with the rights of Afro-descendent women and women of different Indigenous and ethnic groups.



LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION APPROACHES:

these are intended to guide the adaptation community as it moves programs, funding, and practices towards adaptation that is increasingly owned by local partners. Through a community of practice, together these organizations will share progress and lessons learned to enhance our understanding of what is needed for effective, equitable locally led adaptation.^{ix}

VISION STATEMENT

Vision

01

Full and Equal Engagement of All Its Citizens

Aligned closely with and building on international and regional agreements and statements of intention spanning a 30-year period from the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 (Agenda 21) to the Bridgetown Declaration and the Escazú Agreement in 2021, and both framed by Belize's National Policy on Gender (2022) and its National Climate Change Master Plan (2022), Belize envisions the full and equal engagement of all its citizens, in all their diversity to advance a transformative climate change agenda for tomorrow.

Vision

02

Pursuit of Gender Equality for a Sustainable Earth

Fundamental changes in society are a necessary precursor for everyone to be involved in the transition to a more equitable and just future. The pursuit of gender equality is an essential factor, since it is about the transformation of gender relations and the dismantling of unjust societal structures, and nurturing a shared, responsible, cooperative and sustainable relationship with Earth.

Vision

03

Gender Inclusiveness and Representation

The Belize NCCO's first National Climate Change Gender Action Plan (2022) provides a framework and a strategy for government, civil society and private sector. Its implementation will create the foundation needed to enable the inclusive leadership and representation of women and their Indigenous and local communities in climate change decisions and praxis.



GENDER ACTION PLAN 2022-2027

2

BELIZE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE

COVER NOTE TO THE NCCGAP

NOTE 01

Integrating climate change plans

Climate Change gender action plans can have an important role in integrating climate change plans into socio-economic development plans, and in ensuring that society in all its diversity is engaged in managing climate at the micro and immediate scale.

NOTE 02

Transition to circular, regenerative and inclusive economic models

A gender action plan can also help to better prepare Belizeans to transition to circular, regenerative and inclusive economic models by engaging with vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems.

NOTE 03

Defining vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems (VCGE)

The UNFCCC refers to vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems (VCGE) to include:

Groups

- *Marginalized groups,*
- *Indigenous groups,*
- *Youth,*
- *Women*
- *Elderly*
- *Poor (extreme poor),*

Vulnerable ecosystems

- *ecosystems highly sensitive to climate change,*
- *those with unique value (e.g., global heritage, provision of critical ecosystem services)*
- *those threatened by other (non-climatic) stress factors (land use pressure, disasters, etc.)*

Regional Agreement defines “Persons or groups in vulnerable situations”

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean^{xi} goes further in defining “Persons or groups in vulnerable situations” as *those persons or groups that face particular difficulties in fully exercising the access rights recognized in the present Agreement, because of circumstances or conditions identified within each Party’s national context and in accordance with its international obligations.*



PROCESSES AND COMMITMENTS

To be an effective and practical GAP, certain processes and commitments need to be put in place:

01

Linkages between NCCGAP & National Gender Policy

Firstly, CCGAPs must align with national commitments while also referencing and being framed by global agreements and standards. The links between the CCGAP and the national gender policy need to be robust and promote synergies.

02

Dedicated budgets, operations and resources

Secondly, CCGAPs must be integrated into current budgets, operations and resources dedicated for national climate change mitigation and adaptation. Some countries have found it useful to define percentage of climate change funds that would be dedicated to the most vulnerable. For example, Nepal has such a law

03

Monitoring and Measurement

Thirdly, the social issues of poverty, inequities and marginalization need to be monitored and measured on an ongoing basis; this in turn implies local and national institutional capacity and technical competencies to track and monitor change needs to be supported.

04

Meaningful Engagement

The commitment to address gender imbalances and VCGE in the climate change context also means that women, other-abled and disadvantaged and marginalised groups must be deeply and meaningfully engaged in the decisions and governance of climate readiness and recovery. Here the principles of FPIC apply.

05

Alignment with Local and Indigenous Peoples' Platform

And finally, CCGAPs must align with the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#) to include their knowledge, their values and their nature-based solutions and governance models.

While climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes may provide protection and livelihood opportunities in sectors such as agricultural production, sustainable urban development and clean energies, failure to address the structural barriers faced by women in accessing their rights will increase gender-based inequalities and intersectional forms of discrimination.



The commitment to address gender imbalances and VCGE in the climate change context also means that women... and marginalised groups must be deeply and meaningfully engaged...

PROPOSED FOCUS AREAS OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN

In response to the review of the relevant national documents, and the recommendations arising from international conventions and discourse, the 2022-2027 climate change gender action plan outlines four immediate and strategic areas of focus:



1

Inclusive representation in climate change negotiations and planning;



2

Policy coherence across all of government to support gender equality and social inclusion;



3

Capacity development for existing institutional structures and;



4

Continuous improvement of documenting evidence and best practices.



FOCUS AREA 1: INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS AND PLANNING

Focus Area 1:1

Build leadership and representation

Advance and support women's leadership and participation in national decision-making on climate change so as to contribute to a more inclusive representation of immediate interests and long-term strategic priorities for different groups;

Focus Area 1:2

Support engagement machinery and mechanisms

Support the engagement of women's machinery and mechanisms in dialogue, design and implementation of climate change policies at all levels, so as to benefit from local knowledge, values and nature-based solutions;

Focus Area 1:3

Inclusive engagement of local and Indigenous groups

Support the engagement of the Belize National Indigenous Council and its members in reviewing the National Climate Change plan through a gender responsive perspective;

Focus Area 1:4

Create space for and guarantee opportunities for women

Create space for and guarantee opportunities for women's participation in national decision-making processes on climate change;

Focus Area 1:5

Increase gender participation over time

Set targets and timelines for on-boarding women decision makers into the formal climate negotiations processes. Include incremental targets with specific timeframes for the participation of women in any decision mandating the establishment of bodies to support the work of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, aiming for starting point of 30 percent of women at their initial establishment, tailored to the bodies' specificities (e.g., criteria for selection of its members and number of years of operation). Within a period of six years after its establishment, a gradual increase from 40 percent and then 50 percent should be realized.



FOCUS AREA 2: POLICY COHERENCE ACROSS ALL OF GOVERNMENT

Focus Area 2:1

Identify key sectors, fragile ecologies and arenas for action

The Belize national documents on climate change are comprehensive living documents that identify key sectors, fragile ecologies and arenas for action, and determine the priorities of immediate concern. The Climate Change Gender Action Plan can further support and strengthen Belize's national climate change commitments by:

- facilitating human relationships and dialogue to the implementation, innovations and solutions to adapt to and mitigate against climate change;
- ensuring that those populations more likely to be overlooked or left behind, or who have higher climate risk exposure will be strategically targeted;
- engaging more stakeholders to support policy cohesion and climate change solutions that are multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral in addressing equity; and
- allocating sufficient budgets to address climate change and the gender gap across sectors and documenting evidence of positive impacts in order to strengthen financial planning.

Focus Area
2:2

Foster policy coherence across key government agencies

An initial step will be to foster policy coherence on gender equality and social inclusion across key government agencies responsible for implementing climate change actions. This entails dialogues, coordination and bilateral collaboration across all levels of government, decentralization and the localization of the gender equality and social inclusion agenda, coherence between different sources of finance (public, private, international and domestic) and coherence between diverse actions of multiple actors and stakeholders (governments, CSOs, private sector, international and regional organizations).

Focus Area
2:3

Integrate gender equality and social inclusion principles throughout the education system

Furthermore, a whole of society approach can be further strengthened by integrating gender equality and social inclusion principles throughout the education system at primary, secondary and university levels. The University of Belize, a member of the BNCCC, can support systemic and societal changes through curricula changes and the praxis of learning. This step is important to ensure that gender equality and social inclusion become ‘everybody’s business’ and that all actors and stakeholders consider how best to:

- champion women’s leadership and empowerment in climate-related programmes, activities, and investments; focus on implementing activities already identified and included in national gender action plans;
- identify and engage with relevant actors and themes across sectors to set targets in addressing communities’ immediate needs and long-term strategic priorities in managing climate change, with attention to the priority areas identified in the national policy documents;
- promote benefit sharing with—and investment in—women and women’s organisations to empower and enable them to access and engage beyond the socio-cultural barriers, which continue to marginalise their participation in rural and urban development;
- partner with traditional knowledge and indigenous governance structures and established protocols for engagement, as set out in the Escazu Agreement to benefit from grassroots engagements, solutions and social accountability;
- improve budget reporting methodologies and processes for elaborating gender and climate budgeting by more clearly defining relevant programs, projects, and activities.^{xii}



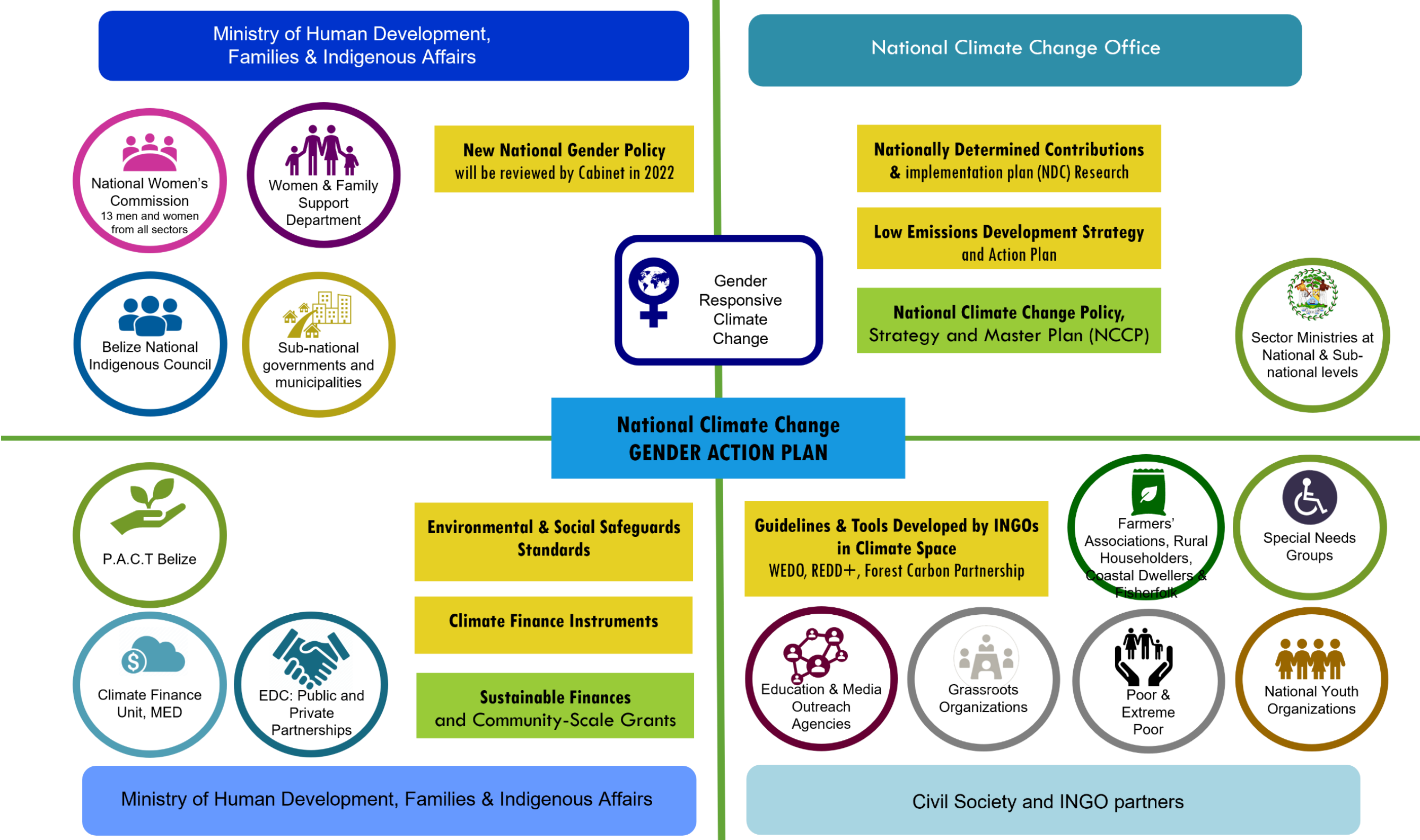
Focus Area
2:4

Partnership mapping

The figure below illustrates a partnership framework that places the NCCGAP in the centre of four quadrants (policy documents are encircled in green). The quadrants reflect the following:

- key stakeholders working within the remit of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs. In the conventional gender equality framework – the National Gender Policy is the guiding policy document, and needs to be co-aligned with the NCCGAP;
- key stakeholders working with NCCO, on climate change policy and strategies – as set out in the NDC, NCCP and LEDS – this includes all sector ministries;
- a select set of stakeholders responsible for climate finance decisions, resource mobilization, public private partnerships and budget allocations – with required compliance of the environmental and social safeguard standards. Today's 'climate' requires that Climate Finance intermediaries establish Gender Equality policies, guidelines and targets^{xiii}.
- Climate finance intermediaries are tasked to achieve the equitable transition to green economies and to tackle climate change at multi-scale levels, therefore resources must reach women and men equally to open equal opportunities and, therefore, they are tracking the proportion of funds that support women's engagement in and benefits from climate change investments, and the differentiated impacts of climate interventions on societies and economies. Gender-responsive climate financing instruments and funding allocations are needed to support the using of scarce public funding in equitable, efficient and effective ways;
- the diverse range of civil society and INGO partner organizations, who together represent production and stewardship interests of community members who may be especially exposed to and vulnerable because of their societal status or physical location. Here there are a number of normative agreements that are important reference points, including for instance, the REDD+ strategy.

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK





FOCUS AREA 3: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

Focus Area 3:1

Allocation of Time and Resources

This focus area is informed by the findings of the training survey (refer to Annex) and an ongoing need to allocate resources and time for dialogue and peer-to-peer learning. There are a number of current and practical training materials available on e-platforms, (see: <https://www.unclearn.org/resources/learning-platforms/>) and other knowledge-sharing platforms that could be adapted and localised to the contexts in Belize.

The UNITAR gender and climate change materials (<https://unitar.org/about/news-stories/news/new-online-course-gender-and-environment>) can be further supplemented by other training materials developed by IUCN, REDD+ and others.

Focus Area 3:2

Facilitate and nurture a learning environment and cross-sector dialogues

The Association of Tertiary Level Institutions in *Belize (ATLIB)* and the University of Belize are well positioned to facilitate and nurture a learning environment and cross-sector dialogues.

- Train and sensitize stakeholders and project staff to be able to recognize gender gaps and apply gender equality and women's empowerment strategies, for equitable efficient and sustainable outcomes, for social inclusion and to protect and promote human rights.

- Strengthen state institutions and technical negotiators representing Belize to integrate gender equality analysis into climate change negotiations
- Incorporate concrete proposals and climate solutions into the action plan that can be scaled up and implemented by women and men at community levels
- Strengthening civil society organizations that are active in representing the interests and priorities of women, vulnerable groups.





FOCUS AREA 4: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF DOCUMENTING EVIDENCE AND BEST PRACTICES

Focus Area 4:1

Build accountability mechanisms

The NCC Master Plan provides a set of indicator tables (Tables 96 to 108). Along with this, the tables provide foundational gender and vulnerability analysis which is a useful starting point for deeper cross-sectoral dialogues, focusing on four to five common indicators that can be tracked over time. Gathering data, however, is not an end in itself. Rather, it is just one source of evidence and facts to support the documenting of change and impact, with the potential to:

- (i) report on overall national and sub-national progress; and
- (ii) provide examples of useful practices that can be scaled out.

Focus Area 4:2

Ensure effective monitoring and reporting systems

In February 2019, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women released a discussion paper, 'Gender Equality as an Accelerator for Achieving the SDGs'. It provides further evidence that promoting gender equality can contribute to addressing climate impacts and protecting planetary ecosystems (SDGs, 13, 14 and 15).^{xiv} In climate change and natural resource management, the paper describes evidence on how promoting gender equality can

contribute to addressing climate impacts and protecting planetary ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15). Bringing M&E staff, along with operational staff and managers to identify and agree on key indicators will also enable Belize to report to the CEDAW process. The process outlines the following recommendations^{xv} *ensure that effective monitoring and reporting systems:*

- (a) Design and institutionalize reliable mechanisms to collect, analyse, monitor and disseminate data across all areas relevant to disaster risk reduction, climate change and gender equality;*
- (b) Ensure the participation of women at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels in data collection, analysis, monitoring and dissemination of findings;*
- (c) Include information in their periodic reports to the Committee on the legal frameworks, strategies, budgets and programmes that they have implemented to ensure the human rights of women are promoted and protected within climate change and disaster risk reduction policies;*
- (d) Translate this General Recommendation into national and local languages, including Indigenous and minority languages, and disseminate it widely to all branches of government, civil society, the media, academic institutions and women's organizations".*

Focus Area 4:3

Identify and define common indicators

With these considerations in mind, the NCCGAP proposes initial steps be taken as follows:

- Conduct one-day indicator workshops with clusters of sector ministries and agencies to define a select set of common CC indicators to report against – that would be most useful for gathering evidence;
- Introduce CEDAW and SDG 15 indicators, frameworks and protocols relevant to each sector;
- Introduce Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) to agricultural project designs; and
- Establish a regular data collection methodology for climate change project and programs that measure impact and the empowerment of women.



Focus Area
4:4

Generate opportunities for development and innovation

The NCCGAP outlines initial peer-to-peer dialogues and discourse to work through these starting points and determine next steps. There may also be opportunities to develop specific innovative projects on climate change that contribute to transforming gender relations, designed by and for women, measure impacts on gender gaps and enhancing women's agency and innovations.

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CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN DETAILS

Focus Area I: Inclusive representation in climate negotiations					
		Responsibility / organization	Actions / indicators / references	Timeframe & Budget allocation estimate	Reference P# in official doc
Expected Outcomes: build GESI leadership and representation in governance structures and in national climate change decision-making and negotiations					
1.1	Validation of the gender and vulnerable group results of the NCCPSMP & provision of technical and policy guidance for mainstreaming GESI goals into the NCCPSMP.	Ministry of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Affairs to be included as permanent representative under the BNCCC.	BNCCC to lead, MHDFIA to be on-boarded. Designate a UNFCCC country focal point on gender and climate change, officially notify the UNFCCC Secretariat’s Gender Focal Point (GFP). The latter notifies the official list of country focal points of gender-related meetings and events in the context of the negotiations and can be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this GAP	2022: Determine the role of National Women's Commission. 2023: Appoint UNFCCC gender focal point, allocate honorarium to cover costs of focal point appointment	NCCMP p.310 https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/list-of-gender-focal-points-under-the-unfccc for current list of gender focal points
1.2	Advance gender balance and inclusive representation in multilateral and intergovernmental climate change processes	UNFCCC, National Climate Change Office, and National Women's Commission: UNFCCC, Decision 23/CP.18 and the Lima Work Programme on Gender calls on Parties to support training and awareness-raising of all delegates on gender balance and climate change issues and build the skills and capacity of women delegates	Set an initial quota of 30 per cent women in Party delegations to subsidiary body meetings and at COPs. The quota should be increased progressively to 40 per cent, with the aim of reaching 50 per cent at the end of a six-year period following the institution of the quota	2022 to 2030: ensure travel funds are in place for representative delegates and allocations are set aside for women delegates. Follow up on the periodic notifications sent to the Parties for the submission of nominations to UNFCCC bodies to ensure women are included on the list of nominations.	https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2016/full-view-ensuring-gender-balance-in-UNFCCC-processes.pdf
1.3	Build competencies and capacities of technical teams to represent diverse climate interests in Belize	NCCO, UN Women, University of Belize: Build skills and capacity of all delegates and target representative groups and women	Strategic Partners to meet and determine detailed action plan and goals with reference to Focus Area III of GAP	2022 to 2026: develop budget allocations and submit funding proposals	
1.4	Build competencies and capacities of communities at local levels to engage in climate change governance and decisions	NCCO, NWC, BENIC with stakeholder consultations across Indigenous communities to shift narrative and amplify alternate values and language	Awareness raising on Escazu Agreement, CEDAW and other relevant monitoring and reporting mechanisms.	2022 to 2026: milestones and desired outcomes and Action Plan to be drawn up with budget allocations	

Focus Area II: Policy coherence across all of government		Responsibility / organization	Actions / indicators / references	Timeframe & Budget allocation estimate	Reference P# in official doc
Expected Outcomes: build alignment across government and key agencies in implementing gender equality and social inclusion in leadership, finances, safeguards, and evidence					
2.1	Championship of GAP to advance alignment across government at the highest executive level	Office of the Prime Minister, BNCCC, NCCO and National Women's Commission	Introduce the NCCGAP outline to COO, Office of the Prime Minister	UNFCCC Country Gender Focal Point to coordinate implementation of the GAP.	
2.2	PACT to align with renewed National Gender Policy on advancing women's leadership in politics and decision making	National Women's Commission, PACT and NCCO EnGenDER	Facilitate deep-dive sessions among institutional stakeholders to operationalize this Gender Action Plan to focus on gaps and implementation	inter-agency dialogues at regular periods to be coordinated by NCCO and Country Gender Focal Point.	
2.3	Establish common principles and framework for climate financing and investments through a gender equality and vulnerable groups lens	MED (PPU & Climate Finance Unit), PACT and NCCO EnGenDER	CFU gender policy to build synergies with this Climate Change Gender Action Plan. The outcomes can include gendered budgets, clear quantitative and qualitative indicators measuring how projects and programmes contribute to GESI objectives, as well as the systematic collection of intersectional data. Indicators can be both project and programme specific and should aim to measure the social aspects of climate change financing.	2022 to 2023: design and facilitate training workshop on gender-responsive climate finance indicators for CFU, PACT, EDC and NCCO. 2023: agree reporting mechanisms and intersectional indicators to track financing and investment outcomes. 2023 to 2026: develop action plan to integrate gender budgeting into sector financial planning.	
2.4	Strengthen social safeguards monitoring through awareness raising at community levels	EDC, NCCO EnGenDER, BENIC and NWC	Deep dive consultation sessions with different communities to establish common agenda, approaches, and criteria for success	Yearly within target communities with opportunities to share learnings and improve & adapt as necessary.	

Focus Area III: Capacity development for existing institutional structures	Sector / organization	Actions / indicators / references	Timeframe & Budget allocation estimate	Reference P# in official doc
Expected Outcomes: build gender equality and social inclusion capacities across government ministries and agencies				

3.1	Co-host peer-to-peer training retreats on climate change / GESI contexts and practices	These national and sub-national activities are intended to include clusters comprised of: Ministry of Blue Economy, Climate Finance Unit, Coastal Zone Management, Dept. of Environment, EDC and PPP advisory body, Energy unit, Fisheries Dept, Forest Dept, Min of Agriculture, Min of Health, PACT. The retreats, workshops and annual meeting could be co-hosted by the National Women's Commission, ATLIB and University of Belize	Deliver certified training modules for all civil servants on climate change, environment and GESI conventions, principles, and frameworks.	Year 1: 4 cluster training workshops	UNFCCC Lima Work Prog, Climate Finances, CEDAW reporting
3.2	Co-host peer-to-peer design workshops on climate change/GESI indicators, indexes and identify common social indicators per sector		Sector modules have been developed and are available online, these can be adapted for peer training sessions	Year 2: 4 training workshops	UN Convention on Biodiversity, REDD+ Program, WEAI
3.3	Facilitate annual 'lessons learned' meeting with BNCCC to improve praxis		Conduct one day indicator workshop with clusters of sector ministries and agencies to define a select set of common CC indicators to report against	Consultation workshops held regularly every year to track feasibility of data collection against indicators	SDG indicators and CEDAW reporting (see Focus Area IV)
3.4	Co-host stakeholder consultation workshops with BENIC and NWC	Translate and adapt GESI training materials to local contexts and languages	All certifications to reflect language diversity for greater community ownership, drawing on local language and knowledge of women and men	Stakeholder workshop held yearly with opportunity for lessons learned and feedback sessions. (are materials on target)	

Focus Area IV: continuous improvement of reporting mechanisms		Responsibility / organization	Actions / indicators / references	Budget allocation estimate	Reference P# in official doc
Expected Outcomes: build GESI accountability mechanisms and indicators into institutional competencies and commitments					
4.1	Develop specific innovative projects on climate change that contribute to transforming gender relations, designed by and for women, measure impacts on gender gaps and enhancing women's agency and innovations	All stakeholders, coordinated by Climate Finance Unit, NCCO, BENIC and National Women's Commission with national accredited climate finance entities. Engage national and media channels, social media, and media networks to promote examples, evidence and learnings	2022: Develop selection criteria and categories of innovation based on indicators 2023: Public outreach and launch of awards program. 2025: Select project examples according to categories. %of women-led social and business ventures established; % of grants awarded to women led CSOs; % of women, youth and other groups participating in United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)	2022 to 2025:	Refer to the WEP principles to advance gender equality goals - see guidance notes
4.2	Set criteria for documenting best practices and examples		E.g., FPIC, benefits sharing economies, collaborative governance of common pool resources, with women's full engagement, environmental democracy principles	2022 to 2025:	Refer to guidance notes for potential indicator adaptation
4.3	Prepare annual reporting to CEDAW	National Women's Commission		Annually	

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ANNEXES

ANNEX I: GESI CLIMATE CHANGE - QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS

Preparing to integrate gender equality and social inclusion to implement national Climate Change plans:
Capacity Needs Assessment

The international community acknowledges and recognizes that GE and Women's empowerment are important in climate mitigation and adaptation in at least three ways.

a) Transitioning to green economies is tied in with Inclusive and equitable societies. Why? Because societies, economies and nation states can only be as resilient to compounding climate crises as the weakest link. The weakest link in societies is those living precariously, in poverty and with no political agency, as they often contribute to dismantling the very ecological foundations that might otherwise protect them from climate change. Transitioning to green economies may open opportunities for decent work and enable women to 'leapfrog' to new and emerging sectors and contribute to the 'leave no-one behind' agenda. Governments and private sector understand that investing in women's abilities to transition to green economies is fundamental to economic stability and sustainability.

b) Today's 'climate' requires that Climate Finance intermediaries establish Gender Equality policies, guidelines, and targets^{xvi}. Climate finance intermediaries know that to achieve the equitable transition to green economies and to tackle climate change at multi-scale levels, resources must reach women and men equally to open equal opportunities and, therefore, they are tracking the proportion of funds that support women's engagement in and benefits from climate change investments, and the differentiated impacts of climate interventions on societies and economies. Gender-responsive climate financing instruments and funding allocations are needed to support the using of scarce public funding in equitable, efficient, and effective ways.

c) Internationally ratified conventions also reflect a consensus view (Rio, Hyogo, Sendai, UNFCCC, CBD, CEDAW) that the 'human face' of climate change must absolutely address the issues of both women and men equally and specifically, and that equity measures must also be taken to target women – as agents of change, as beneficiaries and innovators, and as leaders and decision makers.



Objectives of the gender equality and climate change questionnaire

Responses compiled from this initial survey will contribute towards a capacity building plan to build on current institutional structures and competencies, so that there is cohesion and commitment towards preparing for climate change. Responses to this survey will contribute to identifying learning priorities to support and advance a gender responsive implementation of the overall climate change strategy, at national, sub-national and community levels. Representatives of the **public sector, CSOs and community groups** as well as individuals are all invited to submit their responses in confidence.

The survey had two sections:

Section 1: assesses current capacities and competencies in understanding the nexus of climate change, gender equality and vulnerabilities and identifies priorities for learning; and

Section 2: identifies opportunities and potentials for women's advancement in participating in and influencing policy decisions for the optimal benefit of the sector, and/or the sustainable development of the country in the face of climate change.

Survey respondents February 2022

Gender equality and Climate Change in Belize

A survey to gauge training needs was distributed to wide list of stakeholders provided by the EnGender project coordinator. Nineteen (19) responses were received (10 women and 9 men). Thoughtful and critical inputs were provided by:

- Belize Fisheries Department
- Belize Forest Department
- Belize Water Services
- BSI/ASR
- Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
- Economic Development Council
- Humana People to People Belize
- Maya Mountain Research Farm
- Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation
- Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics
- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- National Climate Change Office
- National Garifuna Council
- Office of the Prime Minister of Belize
- Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association
- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- Southern Environmental Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Reef Keeper Belize.



The key findings

The Key findings arising are summarized as follows:

1. (Gender responsive) budget allocations. Budgets are required to achieve training outcomes. At all times, training outcomes, targets and indicators must be gender equitable and socially inclusive.
2. Review and assess all trainings regularly. Collect disaggregated and intersectional data on who is being trained.
3. Partner with INGOs like the World Resources Institute, Nature Conservancy, GEF or REDD, and other likeminded organizations to provide training materials for adaptation. (Training should be interactive. Lunch and Learns are a good way to engage participation.)
4. Set leadership training targets at the grassroots level and the political level.
5. Initiate and monitor leadership training programs for students in upper year high school, colleges and beyond.
6. Train and sensitize stakeholders and project staff to be able to recognize gender gaps and apply gender equality and women's empowerment strategies, for equitable efficient and sustainable outcomes.
7. Share successes: set criteria for documenting best practices and examples
8. Co-host peer-to-peer training workshops on climate change/GESI contexts and practices
9. Be aspirational: every civil servant should at minimum have taken a training on CC m gender equality and social inclusion.

All trainings should be under pinned by an appreciation for how gender-responsive and socially-inclusive approaches increase the effectiveness and sustainability of climate action; and how gender-blind approaches undermine the effectiveness of climate action.

Overall responses to survey questions:

- Two organizations had provided training on gender equality and women's advancement in the national planning for climate change
- 50% had never participated in gender equality training
- 85% were not familiar with the international conventions on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women that are related Climate Change
- One person had taken the course Gender and Human Rights in Climate Action and Renewable Energy
- Majority agree that setting targets and quotas are an effective measure to advance women and vulnerable groups.
- On-going and regular trainings are needed
- Important to ensure compliance and not just pay lip service to agreements and standards
- All initiatives must include the required financial commitment.
- There is a recognition that women have key contributions and responsibilities and there is a desire to do more.
- There are more women in leadership roles in NGOs.
- Few women in leadership roles at the political and grassroots level.



ANNEX II: LIST OF INTERVIEWS AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Karen Bautista, University of Belize

Lennox Gladden, NCCO

Hunter Hales, Climate Finance Unit

Pablo Mis, BENIC

Eleanor Murillo, National Women's Commission

Nayari Perez, PACT Belize

Ishmail Quiroz, Economic Development Council

Leonel Requena, GEF Small Grants Program

Leanda Rickets, University of Belize

Michael Sommerville, NCCO

Gina Young, NDC Coordinator

Melizza Zuniga, BENIC



END NOTES

ⁱ Nationally Determined Contributions and associated implementation plan; National Low Emission Development Strategy and Action Plan; National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan;

ⁱⁱ Notably: L. Aguilar Revelo, “Gender equality in the midst of climate change: what can the region’s machineries for the advancement of women do?”, Gender Affairs series, No. 159 (LC/TS.2021/79), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Monique Essed Fernandes (2012) Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, United Nations Chronicle, June 2012, No. 1 & 2 Vol. XLIX, The Future We Want? United Nations

^{iv} At COP 25 Parties agreed a **5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (Decision 3/CP.25)**. March 2020 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf

^v ESCAP (2020) <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/en/news/latin-american-and-caribbean-countries-approved-santiago-commitment-which-seeks-accelerate>

^{vi} UNEP (2021) <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/34969>

^{vii} Principles 10 and 20 of the Rio Declaration, along with the Escazú Agreement, are based on a fundamental premise: while ensuring environmental protection, the fulfilment of human rights, strengthening of democracy and the consolidation of a sustainable development model, States are duty-bound to ensure access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

^{viii} The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures, taking into account that policies and measures to deal with climate change should be cost-effective so as to ensure global benefits at the lowest possible cost. To achieve this, such policies and measures should take into account different socio-economic contexts, be comprehensive, cover all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and adaptation, and comprise all economic sectors. Efforts to address climate change may be carried out cooperatively by interested Parties.

^{ix} See: <https://www.wri.org/initiatives/locally-led-adaptation/principles-locally-led-adaptation>

^x UNFCCC Expert meeting to assess progress made in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) 2018 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/presentation_item%20%20vulnerable%20communities%20groups%20and%20ecosystems_0.pdf

^{xi} The Regional Agreement is a ground-breaking legal instrument for environmental protection, but it is also a human rights treaty. Its main beneficiaries are the people of our region, particularly the most vulnerable groups and communities. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf

^{xii} See: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/gender-climate-budgeting-synthesis-april-2021.pdf>

^{xiii} Source: <https://climatefundsupdate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CFF10-ENG-2020-Digital.pdf>

^{xiv} Publication: [Gender and environment statistics: Unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs](#)



^{xv} CEDAW: (2018) General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_37_8642_E.pdf

^{xvi} Source: <https://climatefundsupdate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CFF10-ENG-2020-Digital.pdf>

