



Information and data to advance safety and dignity for gender equality towards bluer and greener futures

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This presentation discusses gender-based violence.

Please take care.

MEL tells the story of us.

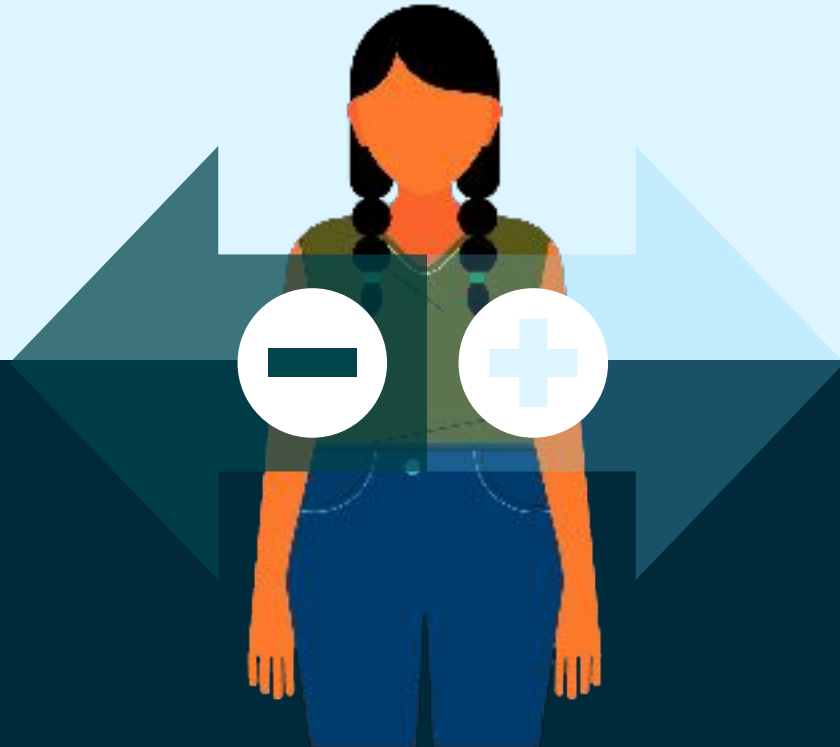
Our work.

Our goals.

Our message.



The dichotomy between women and girls' empowerment and vulnerability

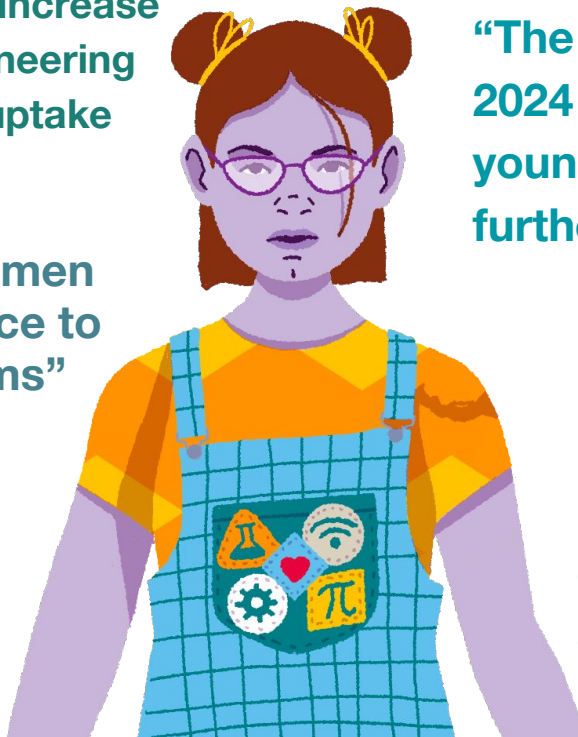


Example – Real initiative headlines: **“How to Engage More Girls in STEM”**

One NDC has a priority to “promote gender balance in physics and computing to increase Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) uptake amongst girls”

“Encouraging women and girls in science to follow their dreams”

“Scientists spur girls to 'reach for the stars'”



“The Women and Girls in Science 2024 challenge aims to inspire young women to pursue and/or further their careers in STEM”

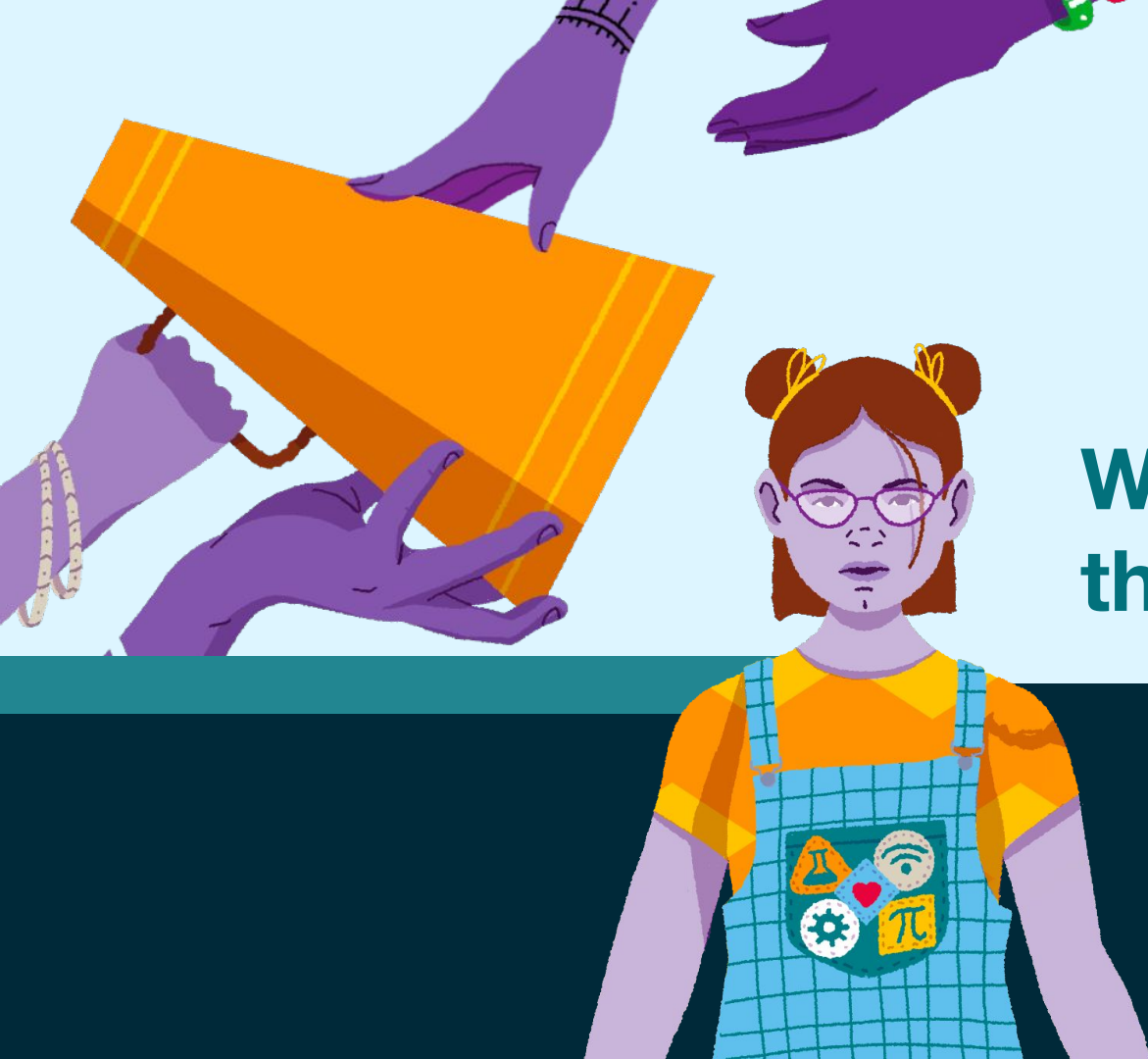
“You can do it girl!”

‘What girls need is: Self-Assurance, Self-Reflection, Self-Discipline’

The world they face entering STEM studies and workforces

- A three-year study surveying 5,300 women who achieved engineering degrees found **38% left engineering careers or never started** due to work cultures that prioritised men over women from the very start – including within studies and internship experiences – and pervasive environments of sexual harassment
- A Women In Ocean Sciences survey of 980 women saw **78% of respondents** reporting having experienced sexual harassment in the marine science workplace and learning environments
- According to a survey by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, **58% of female STEM students** face sexual harassment during their academic years.
- In 2015, a report showed that **1 in 3 women professors of STEM** experienced sexual violence.
- A 2022 report commissioned by the National Science Foundation (NSF) showed that out of the 290 female respondents, **72% agreed** that sexual harassment and sexual assault are a problem.

Women claim their rightful place within environmental sciences, often with extraordinary determination and grit.

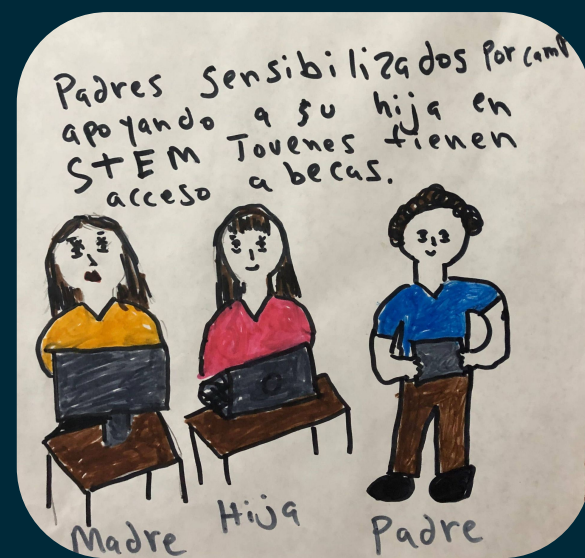


**What story does
this tell?**

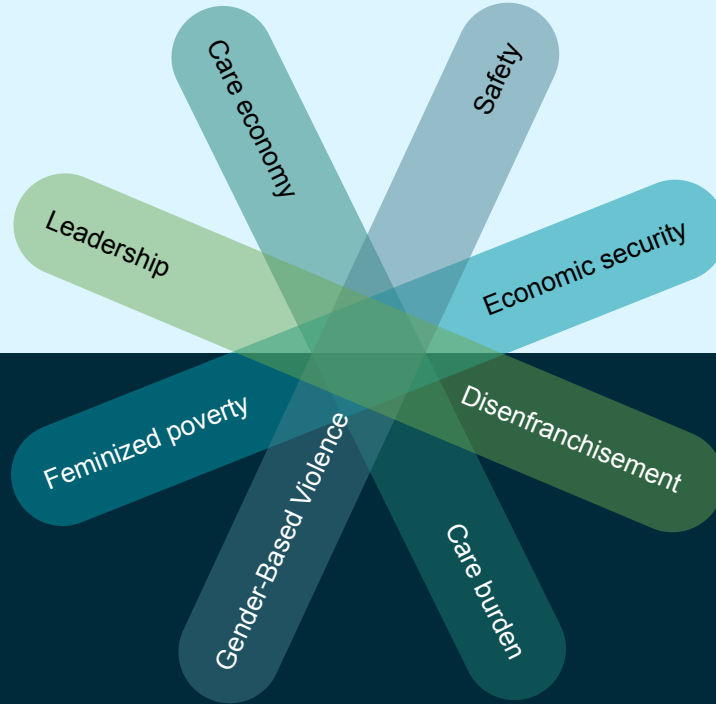
Data can help inform more diverse actions

- **Guatemala ccGAP:** Engaging parents to build early and supportive environments for girls in STEM
- **Sri Lanka NDC:** Calls for improved Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and funding, including gender-responsive vulnerability analyses to enable greater engagement and contribution of women in the sector
- **US NGO Rise:** Safety in Stem expands a Survivor Safe Haven program to address safety from GBV for women in STEM studies and fields

Removing gender barriers – including GBV – in STEM, not solely [inadvertently] inferring women and girls as the ‘source’ of the problem



There isn't a dichotomy – there is a spectrum



So how do we align what and how we monitor?

Typical gender indicators in environment projects

Consultation participation

- Number and percentage of men and women actively participating in consultations, workshops, and committee meetings
- Number of women and men in decision-making positions relating to the activities or in the project context
- Number and percentage of men and women, by social group, consulted about project plans

Benefit sharing

- Number of women and men benefitting from organized workshops and trainings opportunities within the program or project
- Number of poor households that are project beneficiaries; number headed by men/women

Access to resources and assets

- Number of women and men who have access to land, water and forest resources.
- Number of women and men who have knowledge of laws relating to areas of intervention



Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning mini-case study

BUILDING SAFETY FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

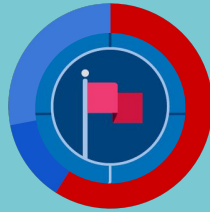


Quantitative information on what environmental practitioners say

Overarching IUCN findings:

- GBV is used to negotiate and reinforce existing privileges and power imbalances in access and control of natural resources
- These dynamics are exacerbated in the face of climate change and environmental degradation and threats
- GBV is used to shape and control environment work and environmental defence

Survey responses from over 300 practitioners:



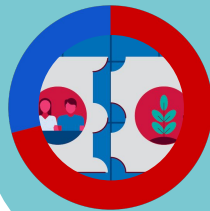
59%

Shared they have observed GBV in project implementation



46%

Note GBV is not a priority in their office or programme



71%

Note a knowledge gap on GBV and environment programming links

Data Insight: 31% of respondents were men

Psychological violence against women was identified by:

- 70% of male respondents
- 76% of female respondents

Physical violence against women was noted by:

- 70% of male respondents
- 58% of female respondents

Sexual violence against women noted by:

- 64% of male respondents.
- 43% of female respondents

Sexual violence against girls noted by:

- 48% of male respondents
- 31% of female respondents

Quantitative information on prevalence and scope



GBV is a spectre in women's environment-related roles:

- In Nigeria, "**85% of women** in four local government areas of Borno State in Nigeria expressed **fear of rape, murder, and abduction while collecting firewood.**" Another proposal cited statistics showing that **8 out of every 10 girl in this situation are either kidnapped or molested in the process of gathering firewood.**
- In the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Southeast Bangladesh **61% of women experience GBV at marketplaces**
- In 2022 in the Philippines, **59% of reported GBV** in Baguio City and Benguet province happened in **major mines and commercial vegetable production.**
- A 2018 study by the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture reported that **60% of women in forestry experienced GBV**, including sexual harassment and forced labor.

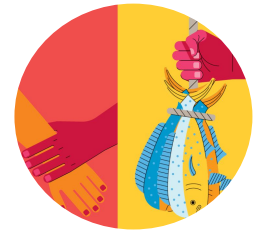
Exploitative sexual violence is too common in environment sectors:

- In Kenya, in fishing communities sex-for-fish practices in areas such as Homabay and Migori counties results in a high prevalence of GBV. **Sexual assault victims account for the highest number of cases reported in the county at 53.5% and 51.1% respectively against a national average of 16%.**
- In Uganda, women are **sexually exploited to gain access to salt wells** as salt is a major commodity in the Rwenzori region, which contributes to high HIV prevalence (10.8%).
- In Kericho, Kenya an investigation found that more than **70 women out of 100 spoken to experiencing sexual harassment and exploitation** on tea foreign-owned tea plantations

Threats to defenders are on the rise:

- In Lao PDR and Cambodia, a study **among 153 women environmental human rights defenders, 73% reported witnessing GBV or experienced GBV while executing their role – 42% of respondents cited safety concerns as their greatest barrier** to participating in natural resource management
- A 2022 report by the Colombian Commission of Jurists indicated that **60% of environmental defenders experienced GBV**, including sexual assault and threats.
- In Honduras, a 2022 report found that deaths, attacks and acts of criminalization against women environmental defenders have **tripled in the last six years.**

Qualitative information provides insights on environmental programming impacts



In Mexico, a group of women ran a small fruit and firewood plantation on a plot they leased from the communal agrarian authority, but the plot was burned down by men, to signal disapproval of the initiative. These men succeeded in their dissent, as the plantation was completely lost. The establishment of another women's collective plantation was never discussed again, and there was no ability to establish another source of firewood near the residential area.

– Informant interview, Mexico

“A woman and a man were selected from a rural village to attend a training on manual drilling in a neighbouring district. The woman attended the training and participated fully. She was the only woman to take part, and when she returned to her village, she had to face unpleasant rumours that she had had sexual relations with men while she was away.”

– Practitioner, Environmental organization

Renewable energy and community digital centers set up in rural off-grid Indigenous communities in Guatemala found that women leaders onboarded as administrators experienced domestic and psychological violence from Community Development Councils and local government leaders and personnel, who have also spoken to family members of women to demotivate their leadership roles.

– RISE applicant, Guatemala

In the Philippines, an alternative livelihood development for Filipino women fisherfolks failed as the majority left the organization due to domestic and intimate partner violence.

– RISE applicant, Philippines

“The environmental project did not address women's needs or safety. We paid for it with our safety, our bodies.”

– Community member, Uganda

About RISE

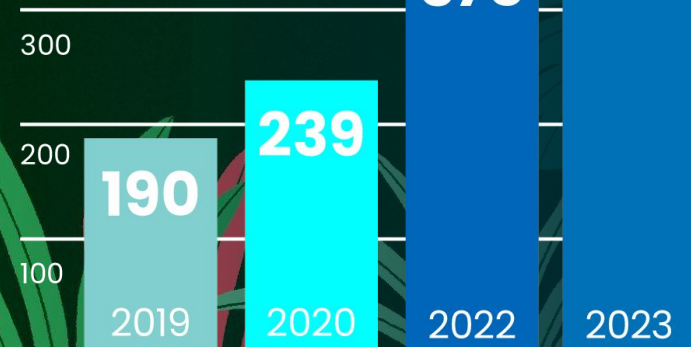
- The Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge supports activities designed to address GBV and environmental linkages in environment and climate-related programs
- The goal is to generate evidence and promising interventions for global learning and application
- It contributes to preventing harm and fostering more inclusive and equitable conservation and climate action

Demand for help is constantly rising:

814

IUCN has received **over 475 requests** for information, support, and technical assistance to address GBV and environment links since 2020.

Similarly, RISE funding requests grow each year:



Selected RISE indicators: Addressing GBV as a barrier

Safety | Gender-Based Violence



In a RISE project, a pilot working in artisanal mining utilised control groups – seeing a decrease in sexual harassment from 32% to 19% while sexual coercion in extractives halved from 12% to 6% in areas that used a uniquely developed interconnectedness model

- Percentage of people that report **increased feelings of safety from GBV** due to RISE grantee interventions in the context of environmental programming – using proxy indicators to use an ethical approach:
 - Do women and girls in this community feel safe when engaging in [environmental activity]?
 - Are there any specific security concerns affecting women and/or girls?
 - Has there been an increase in security concerns facing women and girls in the last year?
 - How freely can women and girls move or travel within your community to access [x] resources?
 - How freely can women and girls move or travel outside of your community to access [x] resources?
 - Do women and girls feel safe to participate in [environmental] decision-making?
- Percentage of people who participated in RISE grantee implemented training that report **increased knowledge of GBV and environment linkages** (defined as increased knowledge of context-specific linkages as well as agreement with the right to a life free of GBV)
- Number of people reached by a RISE-funded intervention providing **GBV services** (e.g., health, legal, psycho-social counseling, shelters, hotlines, other)

Selected RISE indicators:

Addressing
norms around
economic
security and
the burden of
care as well as
participation/
leadership in
relation to
environmental
programming

of men and boys engaged in focus group discussions/trainings to build positive masculinity to prevent GBV and promote gender equality

Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities – disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity



of people contributing to policy processes via RISE, disaggregated by gender, region, country, policy process

Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed, or adopted with RISE assistance designed to improve prevention of or response to sexual and gender based violence at the national or sub-national level

"I grew up with my father and he used to tell me things like that cooking is for women. That was stuck in my mind, but since then, I have made a change in my life. Today I respect, I know what a woman is worth and what a man is worth, that we are all worth the same. Now I value my wife's work and we live an excellent, peaceful life. This has greatly improved my family life".

– Male participant in positive masculinity training to mitigate GBV and support WEE in coastal biodiversity, Central America



"Excited to share that as a Gender Specialist, I led the submission to the Parliamentary Committee on National Guidance and Gender Matters in Zambia... Having led this submission I am optimistic about the impact it can make in the fight against GBV."

– Samantha Munang'andu, RISE leader, ActionAid Zambia, addressing sex-for-fish



Influencing policy change

- Via the GBV-ENV Center, we have helped inform policy change on GBV and climate change via CSW66, the CBD GPA 1.5, and work in ongoing in relation to the next GAP of the UNFCCC
- Worked with national governments to integrate GBV-CC linkages in national policies and plans
- IUCN and USAID's thought leadership on gender-based violence and environment linkages has helped inform the update of US government strategies:
 - [USAID Climate Strategy](#)
 - [United States Strategy To Prevent And Respond To Gender-Based Violence Globally](#)
 - [USAID 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy](#)

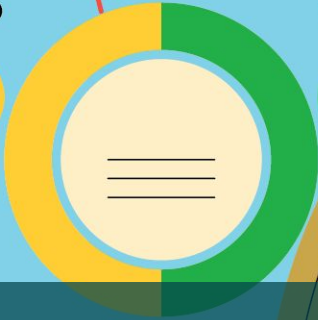
- Grantees have effected national and subnational policy change:
 - Integrating GBV into a REDD+ GRM
 - Advising national Parliaments on addressing GBV in fisheries
 - Working with local judiciaries, relevant police units and women's community watch groups to address GBV in fisheries
 - Working with national governments to make environmental workplaces and learning environments safer from GBV for women and girls



50%

50%

*Promote
practice!*



*This is a good
strategy!*

What story would you like to tell?

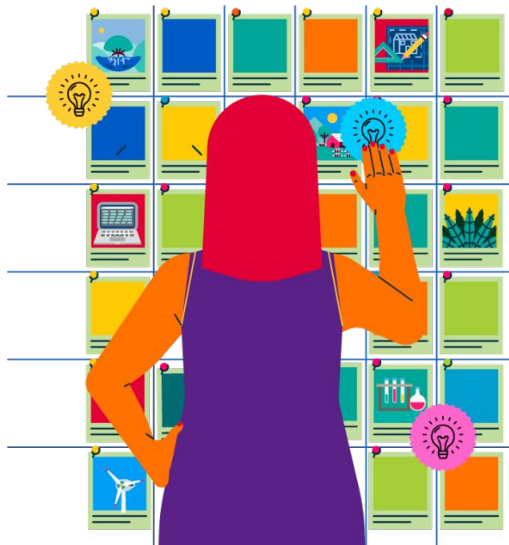


*This is a clear
example!*



Gender and Environment Resource Center

- Repository of knowledge products and news from IUCN and its work on the gender and environment nexus
- Houses a library of curated resources



A screenshot of the IUCN Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the IUCN logo, a home icon, and links for 'ABOUT', 'INITIATIVES', and 'LIBRARY'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Library' is displayed in large, bold letters. To the left, there is a 'Filters' section with a 'Filters applied' indicator and a 'CLEAR ALL' button. Below the filters, there is a 'Quick filter' section with a list of categories and their respective counts: 'Addressing Gender-Based Violence (401)', 'Advancing Women's Participation and Leadership (216)', 'Climate Change (217)', 'Environment and Gender Data (22)', and 'Fisheries (100)'. On the right side, there are three featured articles: 'Virtual Event: Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge: How to...', 'IUCN awards four new initiatives to address the linkages between gender-based violence and th...', and 'Cultivating change and breaking barriers: Combatting gender-based violence th...'. At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text 'Refine results or run a custom search'.

Gender equality for greener and bluer futures

Why women's leadership matters for realising environmental goals





Formed as a Collective Commitment under the Generation Equality Forum, GEDA will improve accessibility, methods, understanding and application of robust gender data to contribute to equitable and sustainable outcomes for all. GEDA will grow over an initial 5-year implementation phase, to serve four key functions:



- Compile and review existing data and research at the nexus between gender and the environment
- Amplify and communicate disaggregated, intersectional gender data
- Strengthen capacity of statistical bureaus and other traditional data spaces
- Influence norms of data generation, synthesis and analysis



GEDA

GENDER + ENVIRONMENT DATA ALLIANCE



Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard

- Will measure comprehensiveness of gender integration in climate policies
- Monitor implementation



Economic security

Women's lesser access to economic resources and opportunities



Care work

Unpaid care burdens



VAW

Exposure to gender-based violence



Participation

Women's exclusion from climate decision-making



Thank you!

BUILDING SAFETY FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

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