“Gender Equality in National Climate Action: Working Towards Gender-Responsive NDCs”
**MINAE:** Ministry of Environment and Energy. Coordinator of the implementation of the NDC and climate policies.

**INAMU:** National Women’s Institute. National mechanism for the advancement of women's human rights and gender equality, including the environmental sector.

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme. Supports the government on the implementation of the NDC.
Gender analysis of the national context

• Costa Rica is one of the leading countries in Latin America in the implementation of legal (regulation) and social (public policies) mechanisms for the advance of women and girls, in all scopes. Nevertheless, formal equality still has not been able to reach real equality, which entails two complex issues; on the one hand, it is urgent to create greater legal and social affirmative actions, or special temporary measures, that will close the gender gaps that particularly affect women in groups with vulnerability and exclusion situations such as: rural and periurban, women with disabilities, senior citizens, immigrants, refugees, natives, African descendants, lesbians, bisexuals, trans, and intersexuals. And, on the other hand, the imperative transformation of the sociocultural, political and economic conditions that continue to hinder equality for women in all scopes, with an important focus on the response of Costa Rican public institutions.

• Costa Rica has made commitments (1) to support the participation of women in REDD + policymaking and implementation, with The National Fund for Forest Finance (FONAFIFO). In addition, it is developing, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) Gender and Inclusion Policy for the Agricultural Sector. It has also focused on training the staff of the Ministries of Agriculture and Transportation (MOPT), both on the importance of gender equality in climate change and its integration in budget planning; Has identified and prioritized the development and dissemination of information disaggregated by sex and recognizes that the lack of this information is one of the main challenges for the implementation of public policies on climate change with a gender perspective.

(1) UNDP, 2016 Gender Equality in National Climate Action: Planning for Gender-Responsive Nationally and Contributions
Gender analysis of the national context

• The principal barrier to incorporate a gender-responsive approach into NDC of Costa Rica is to reduce the interinstitutional disarticulation that the country presents on gender and climate change, therefore the INAMU has been incorporated to the Interministerial Technical Committee on Climate Change, to lead the guidelines and actions, will unify efforts, avoid duplication of actions and strengthen work already done in Costa Rica.

• Second barrier: are the difficulties experienced by women in participating actively in actions and decision-making on mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

• Third barrier: is the absence of knowledge and skills on gender and climate change from public institutions, the private sector and civil society will also be challenge, as training and guidance on gender equality and climate change practices.
GOVERNANCE/INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Systems already in place:

Inter-ministerial Technical Committee for Climate Change-CTICC.

- National Women’s Institute with representation in CTICC and the national system of prevention and attention of emergencies and specific Technical Advisory Committee on Psychosocial Support

National policies on environmental issues, climate change and disaster risk management have adopted the gender perspective as a transversal axis.

The action plans and strategic alliances to set the gender focus in realities of greater and more tangible participation of women in the face of climate action are also supported by the provisions of the Gender Action Plan agreed during COP23
GOVERNANCE/INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Progress in coordination on gender responsive climate change actions

National Policy for Effective Equality Between Women and Men 2018-2030 with strategic goals in CC.

Also, from last year to date we have achieved:

• To carry out the first National Forum on Climate Action with a gender perspective, aimed at staff of public institutions in the environmental sector, gender units of public institutions, municipal offices for women and local governments.

• Collaboration with the South-Central Regional Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock-MAG, in the construction of a consultation methodology with women producers for the preparation of a regional plan for adaptation to climate change for the agricultural sector with a gender focus.

• Technical and political support in the elaboration and validation of the Gender Plan of the Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and more - REDD +, with Costa Rica being the 6th country in the world that has a gender plan for implementation of this strategy.

• Participation in the consultation workshops of the National Plan of Adaptation to Climate Change and the National Plan of Decarbonization, as well as the governmental initiatives to improve urban.

• Participation in the election of the members representing the Citizen Advisory Council for Climate Change (5C) WOMEN. And joint support with UNDP and DCC for First National Women’s Meeting of this council.

Opportunities for coordination

Action Plans of different public policies already approved in environment, climate change, risk management and gender equality, and the new Gender National Plan for the Agriculture Sector.

Department of Identity and Life Projects of INAMU, defined to open an area of action called Environment, Climate Change and Risk Management, through which institutions can establish joint working relationships and give concrete life to the gender mainstreaming. Technical collaboration of international cooperation agencies such as the United Nations Development Program-UNDP.
PLANNING

CONSULTATIONS

• Validation of the Gender Plan of the Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and more - REDD +, with grassroot women.

• First National Women’s Meeting of the Citizen Advisory Council on Climate Change (5C).

• For this year, INAMU and National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Care-CNE plan to do consultations with Local Emergency Committees and groups of women in some regional units of INAMU in north side of the country and vulnerable communities in urban counties.
PLANNING

• First digital portafolio for gender and climate change.

It represents a contribution to identify projects and initiatives of organizations and institutions in the field of climate action, which are being developed with the participation of women and a gender approach that enriches national contributions and the transformation towards the decarbonization of the economy.

*The portafolio was supported by the NDC Support Programme, UNDP.

The videos can be access at: https://cambioclimatico.go.cr/
ALIGNING POLICIES

In line with international agreements and mandates on environmental issues, climate change and disaster risk management, national policies have adopted the gender perspective as a transversal axis in the following instruments:

• National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050

• National Policy of Adaptation to Climate Change: it includes the approaches of Human Rights, Gender Equality, Indigenous Peoples and Integrated Adaptation (ecosystem, community, risk management).

• National Biodiversity Policy 2015-2030: it only mentions gender in the guidelines related to education and public awareness of the value of biodiversity.


• The National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018-2030 in the axis of Distribution of Wealth, goals that point to:
  - Access and control of the ownership of land, housing and water.
  - Access to productive resources, financial services, infrastructure, transportation and urban planning, technology and innovation.
  - Access and skills for the use of information and communication technologies.
  - Access to technical, technological and scientific education, and state-of-the-art research for sustainable development.
  - Strengthening of skills and abilities for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and its effects, as well as for risk management.

• Gender Plan of the Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and more - REDD +, which is the only gender responsive action plan in the sector.

**Key issue on the process of enhance of Costa Rica´s NDC.**
LEADERSHIP

• An administration that is explicitly committed to this task, led by the First Lady of the Republic, Claudia Dobles, who has managed to make a national team work of high professional level.

• The role of many professional women in the field and in decision-making positions in the environmental sector, who are sensitive, knowledgeable and committed to the substantive reduction of gender inequalities.

Vice Chancellor of the Republic: Lorena Aguilar
Vice Minister of Water and Oceans: Haydee Rodríguez
Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock: Ana Cristina Quirós
Director of Climate Change: Andrea Meza
Executive President of the Institute of Municipal Development and Advisory: Marcela Guerrero
LEADERSHIP

“For All Coalition” seeks to promote gender equality and human rights in multilateral environmental agreements. Initiative present by Costa Rica to the UN Secretary General in 2018.

• The Coalition will carry out activities within several complementary fronts:
  1. Political. The Group of Parties Friends of the Coalition will be the entity that facilitates the creation of spaces for dialogue and negotiation between the different countries and negotiating groups.
  2. Technical. UN Women and OHCHR will provide substantive and technical support and guidance in the development of strategies and proposals for decision elements for the different conventions according to their agendas.
CAPACITY

• Joint actions between Gender Office of CNE and INAMU, such as the training of personnel attending emergencies at the national, municipal and local levels, including working with women in the community, working in the technical advice for the revision and reformulation of guides, manuals and action protocols.

• Environment and Gender Network, led by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, started in December 2018, as a tool to facilitate this articulation and national dialogue.

• Gender and Climate Change workshops supported by INAMU, DCC and UNDP.

• Studies in Gender and Transportation/urban mobility.
Other messages

- Develop and reinforce capacities to enhance the gender-responsive approach during the participative process
- Identify measures to strengthen gender mainstreaming and equality through the implementation of Costa Rica’s NDC.
- Low level of knowledge of gender and Climate Action linkages (for a responsive action)
- Women unemployment due to lack of opportunities and wage difference between men and women (especially rural context)
- Obstacles for professional development and leadership within environmental institutions and related productive sectors (e.g. forestry, agriculture)
- Women still suffer barriers to access incentives and/or finance
Thank You!

Comments or questions

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