

ENCOUNTERING GENDERED SPACES IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DISCOURSE IN INDIA

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DECCMA 7TH CONSORTIUM WORKSHOP AT GHANA (JULY 2017)

Climate change is a global phenomenon affecting all people. It has created enormous challenges in the global negotiations but in spite of an existing precarious political situation and significant challenges between the countries of the north and south, gender is no longer an inconsequential issue but is mainstreamed in most international climate treaties and State policies. In the United Nations, where the dialogue on women's inclusion in climate change takes place, gender has been continuously reconstructed.

The enquiry of this study has been to contextualize gender within the Indian policy discourse on climate change in the backdrop of India's commitment and endorsements to international conventions. The Indian National Communication (NATCOM) to UNFCCC, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution commitment and the statements at the COPs have been analysed along with the Indian policies relating to environment, climate change and disaster management to locate the gender aspects in the policy discourse.



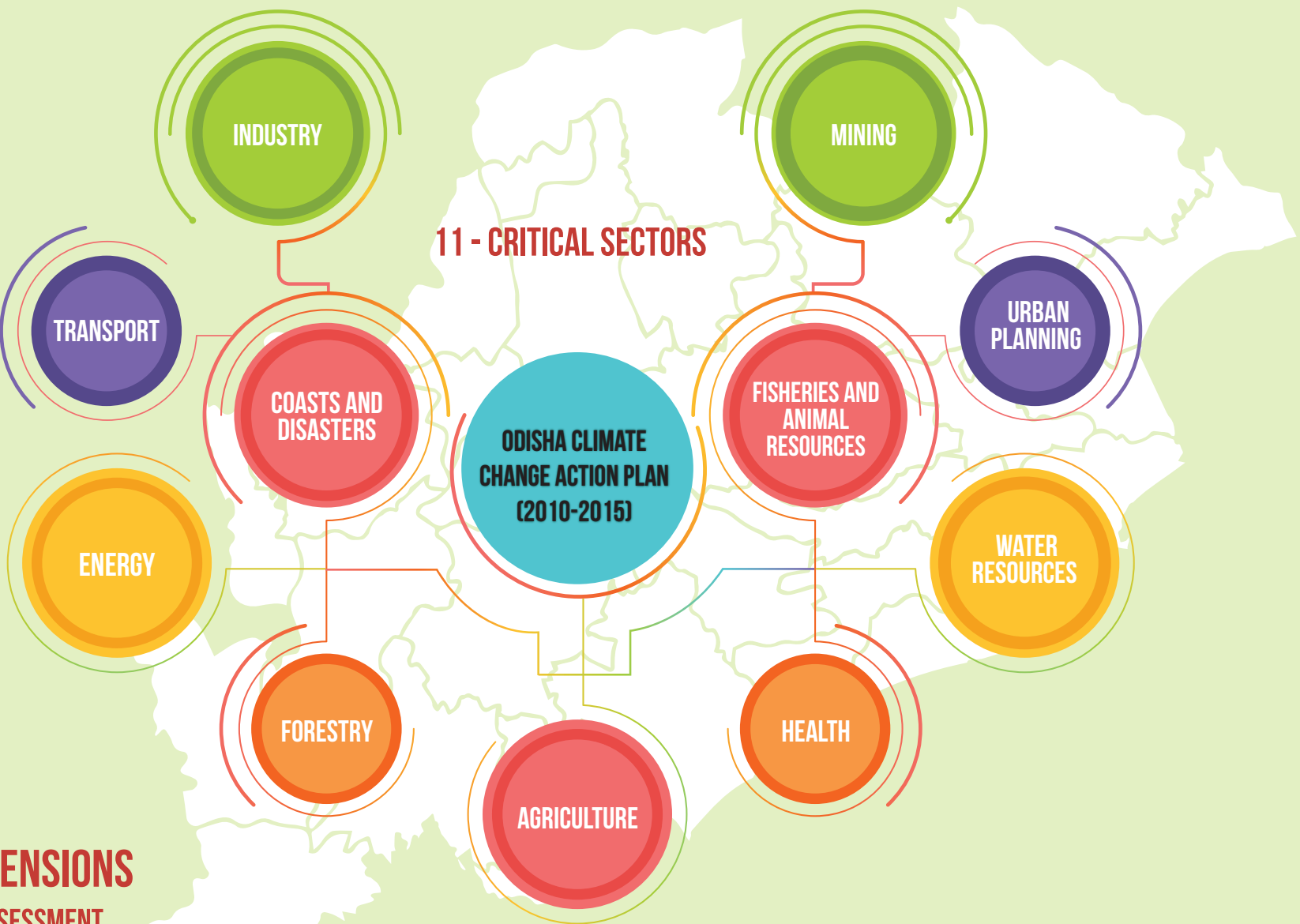
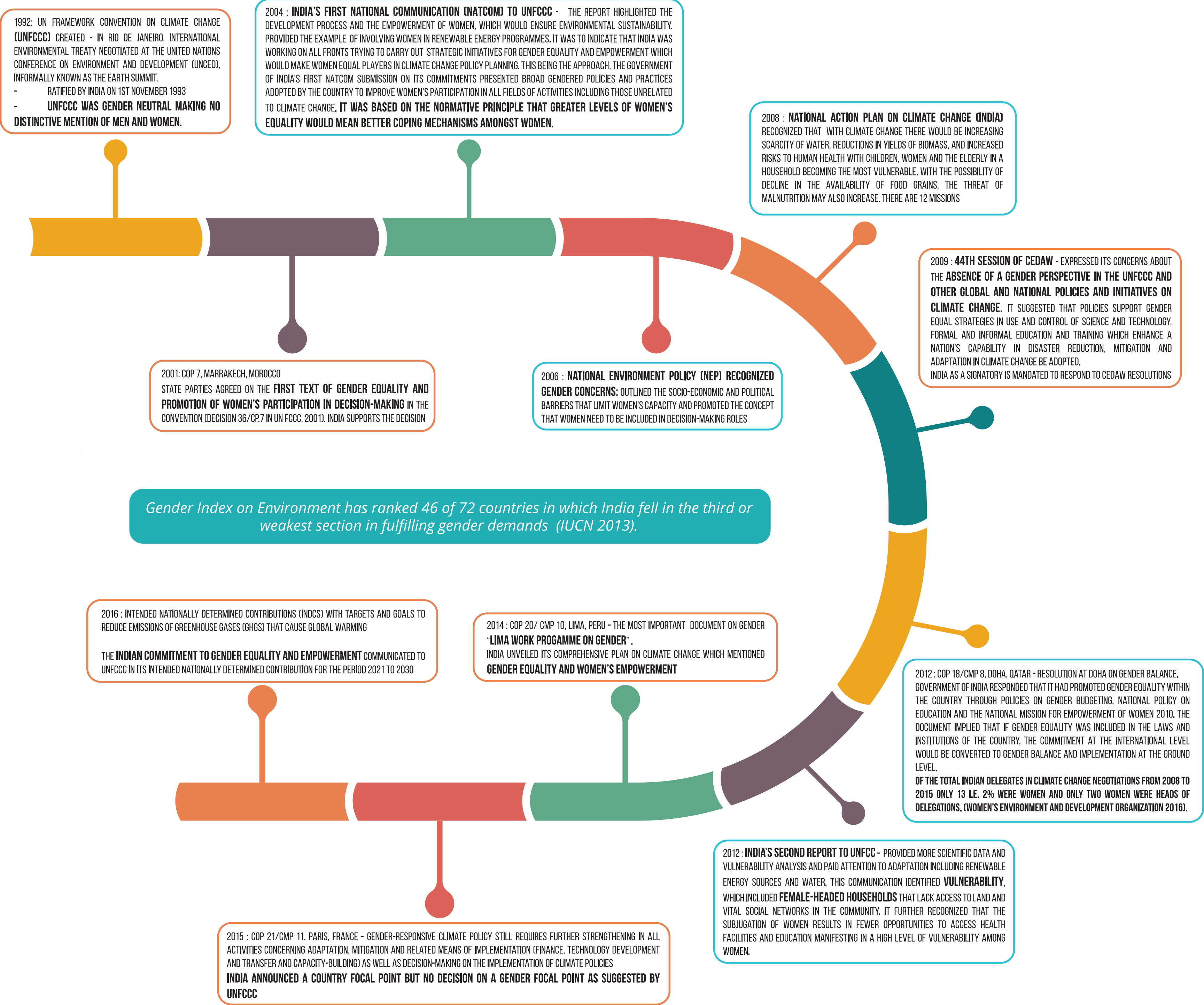
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Enquiry: Contextualize gender within the Indian climate change political system.

Bases: Feminist assumption that a policy must be equal, just and environmentally sustainable.

Study: How the international gender discourse has shaped the political aspects of climate change policy in India.

CLIMATE CHANGE & GENDER – INTERNATIONAL AND INDIA TRAJECTORIES



GENDER DIMENSIONS

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

SOCIO ECONOMIC FACTORS: POVERTY & VULNERABILITY

– INCREASING SCARCITY OF WATER IN SEVERAL PARTS OF ODISHA AND ALSO THE REDUCING YIELD OF BIOMASS, INCREASED RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF PREGNANCY. THERE IS A ROLE OF WOMEN TO AUGMENT SOCIAL CAPITAL AND MAKE THE COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT THROUGH THE SERVICES OF THE WOMEN'S 'SELF HELP GROUPS' (SHG).

SECTORAL ISSUES & PROGRAMME OF KEY PRIORITIES

HEALTH

CAPACITY BUILDING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BOTH ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION ASPECTS:

– ADVOCACY AND SENSITIZATION OF POLICY MAKERS, MASSIVE GENERAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, SENSITIZATION OF THE HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS (ANMS, ASHA, AYUSH, DOCTORS, AWW), STRENGTHENING THE CURRICULUM OF ANMS, HEALTH WORKERS & PARAMEDIC STAFF, RECOGNIZING GENDER ISSUES, PROMOTING HEALTH INSURANCE FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

STRENGTHENING APPROACHES TO DEAL WITH HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS EXACERBATED DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

– ...HEAT WAVES POSE RISK OF DEATHS, DISEASE AND INJURY. THE RISK TO VULNERABLE GROUPS SUCH AS INFANTS, ELDERLY, PREGNANT WOMEN, DISABLED, FARM LABOURERS AND INDUSTRIAL & CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE VERY HIGH...

CONCLUSION

BY THE TURN OF THE THREE DECADES OF GENDER EQUALITY ADVANCEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE, A SHIFT HAS BEEN NOTICED IN THE INDIAN POLICY STANCE. THERE IS RECOGNITION THAT THE FAILURE TO LINK POLICY OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO GENDER COULD PUT WOMEN AT HIGH RISK BUT CONSIDERABLE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IN BOTH CONCEPTUALIZATION AND ALSO ENACTING GENDER SENSITIVE ACTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION:

- I. A BI-DIRECTIONAL APPROACH: A: WOMEN AS EXPERTS AND B: BUILDING THEIR CAPACITY.
- II. A MONITORING MECHANISM TO STREAMLINE GENDER INTEGRATION FROM THE NATIONAL TO LOCAL LEVEL.
- III. INCREASE IN BUDGET ALLOCATION AND BETTER PLANNING TO FOCUS ON GENDER TRANSFORMATION.
- IV. A GENDER FOCAL POINT AT THE NATIONAL (INDIA) AND STATE (WITHIN INDIA) LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT GENDER GOALS ARE IDENTIFIED AND APPLIED ACROSS PROGRAMMES
- V. MINIMUM QUOTAS FOR WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING BODIES SO THAT GENDER BALANCE IS MAINTAINED.
- VI. LIVELIHOOD: AS MOST POOR WOMEN ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN TERMS OF PROVISIONS FOR ENHANCING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AS WELL AS INFORMATION REQUIRES INTENSIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING.

POLICY:

- I. CLEAR GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICY PLANNING SO NOT ONLY WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY BUT ALSO THEIR DECISION MAKING CAPABILITY IS RECOGNIZED.
- II. MIGRATION IS LINKED VERY CLOSELY TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THERE IS A NEED FOR A SPECIFIC POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION INCLUSIVE OF GENDER.

RESEARCH:

THE CONCEPT OF VULNERABILITY HAS CHANGED AS IT IS NO LONGER UNILINEAR, A LIMITED VISION WHERE CHANGE IS IMPOSSIBLE. THIS NEEDS FURTHER RESEARCH. THE POTENTIAL AND CAPACITY OF WOMEN TOWARDS ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE TO BE UNDERSTOOD.

THIS WORK WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COLLABORATIVE ADAPTATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE IN AFRICA AND ASIA (CARIAA), WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE UK GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID) AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC), CANADA. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS WORK ARE THOSE OF THE CREATORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF DFID AND IDRC OR ITS BOARD OF GOVERNORS