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GENDER EQUALITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OPPORTUNITIES (GECCO)

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WHAT IS GECCO?

The Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO) initiative is a 5-year PIO grant through USAID's E3 Bureau to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to leverage advancements in women's empowerment and gender equality through, and for, the benefit of climate change and development outcomes. The initiative provides an array of support options for national, regional, and global activities that advance women's empowerment and gender equality, and is designed to complement existing or emerging USAID efforts on climate change.

- USAID Missions and regional bureaus may buy in for individual or multiple components of interest to both the Mission and the host country.
- Missions will be able to access technical support from the highly respected IUCN which is a leading provider of national and regional policy development and capacity building on gender and climate change.¹

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Women have an important role to play in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and new studies have uncovered a positive correlation between the level of women's

representation and a country's efforts toward sustainability,² yet gender inequalities persist and many climate change initiatives don't address gender sufficiently. Women's contributions to addressing climate change are frequently overlooked, primarily due to obstructed access to markets, capital, training, and technologies; insecure land and tenure rights; and the double burden of responsibilities inside and outside the household. The result is a lost opportunity to achieve multiple benefits – gender equality and women's empowerment could open the door to greater strides toward better overall development outcomes, including reducing emissions and building resilience to climate change impacts.

¹ See The Art of Implementation: Gender Strategies Transforming National and Regional Climate Change Decision Making: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2012-086.pdf>

² UNDP, 2011 Human Development Report

WHAT IS WORKING?

In partnership with IUCN, 13 countries and regions have developed ccGAPs³ – **climate change gender action plans** – that are anchored in existing national climate change processes. Ministries and regional bodies have chosen to establish ccGAPs when there is limited understanding of gender inequalities in the climate change context and when they need to establish avenues to address these inequalities. Countries with ccGAPs are making greater strides toward equitable climate change responses. Among the many examples of how this momentum is leading to change:

MOZAMBIQUE

The ccGAP was the catalyst for the inclusion of gender equality measures in the development of the country's Investment Program for the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience under the Climate Investment Funds.

JORDAN

In response to the ccGAP, the Jordanian government pledged to make gender a primary consideration in the country's third National Communication.

NEPAL

Components of the ccGAP were slated for implementation within the context of several government programs.

Governments that have prepared ccGAPs state that the plans support coherence and stimulate cooperation between different government departments, sectors, and other stakeholders dealing with gender and climate change. Existing ccGAPs have already attracted interest from bilateral and

multilateral donors and the private sector to invest in specific actions at the intersection of gender and climate change.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR MISSION?

The benefits to Missions include **1)** engagement in a cutting edge approach to climate change policy and planning; **2)** opportunity to build capacity; **3)** progress toward USAID gender-related results and milestones; and **4)** learning from other countries' experiences on this topic and sharing best practices.

IF YOUR COUNTRY DOESN'T HAVE A ccGAP

GECCO may facilitate the development of a climate change gender action plan where host countries and Missions agree it is a priority. Alternatively, GECCO may support your efforts to build capacity or implement other activities best suited for the country.

IF YOUR COUNTRY ALREADY HAS A ccGAP

GECCO may support implementation of existing ccGAP components or other actions to advance the gender and climate change objectives of Missions and regional bureaus.

TIMEFRAME AND BUDGET

Missions may buy in for individual or multiple activities, and will work with E3 and IUCN to facilitate collaboration with the host country, provide guidance on the country's policy framework, assist in the identification of participants, and review drafts of the ccGAP and/or training plans. The following are rough estimates of the timeframe and budget for each activity

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	ESTIMATED COST TO MISSION
Development of ccGAP	3 months	\$130,000
Capacity - building process	4 months	\$236,000
Regional training	1 month	\$146,000

HOW THIS WILL IMPACT YOUR WORK

Governments, donors, and the private sector express tremendous interest in leveraging the untapped potential of women's leadership and entrepreneurship in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, these same institutions often lack a strategy and the know-how to carry this out. GECCO bridges this gap by helping Missions and host countries establish climate change gender action plans that identify specific priorities and actions and implement actions toward women's empowerment and gender equality for the benefit of climate change and development outcomes.

HOW DO YOU LEARN MORE?

To learn more about options for GECCO buy-ins, contact the E3 staff below. IUCN representatives may also be available for meetings in Washington and/or visits to Missions while in country.

3. ccGAPs have been developed in Nepal, Liberia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Jordan, Egypt, Panama, Costa Rica, Haiti, and Cuba, as well as regionally in the Arab States and Central America. In parallel, Gender and REDD+ plans have been developed in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon.

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