Gender & the Rio Conventions

Is the road getting less bumpy?

Nicky Broeckhoven
Outline

- Background gender & Rio Conventions
- Gender in the Rio Conventions
- Cooperation between Rio Conventions
- Conclusion
Intro

- Biodiversity loss, desertification and climate change
  → unrivalled global problems

- Impacts felt by:
  - world’s poor (majority women)
  - everyone on our planet

- But gender-differentiated impacts
Concept of gender

Gender

“A range of socially constructed roles, behaviors, attributes, aptitudes and relative power associated with being female or male in a given society at a particular point in time. Socially constructed means that these are not ‘given’ or ‘natural’ but are constructed or produced by society and as such can be modified or changed” (Bridge 2011)
Concept of gender mainstreaming

- Gender mainstreaming

“...the process of assessing the implications of women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality” (ECOSOC 1997/2)
Some examples

- **Biodiversity**
  - Local level biodiversity maintained through knowledge of both men and women. Gender lens: different but complementary knowledge

- **Desertification**
  - Men and women perform different tasks → different results of desertification on their respective roles

- **Climate change**
  - Extreme weather effects may affect women and men differently, depending on the means at their disposal to ensure their own safety.
Gender & Rio Conventions

- ’92: integration of gender in outcome documents Rio Earth Summit
  - Agenda 21, Chapter 24
  - Rio Declaration, principle 20
  - CBD & UNCCD (≠ UNFCCC)
- Rio Conventions interrelated & gender important recurring theme
UNCBD

- Preamble & Nagoya Protocol: Yes
- Cartagena Protocol: No
- Gender and women in decisions of the COPs:
  - 1992-2002: 8
  - 2002-2012: 45
- COP decisions on:
  - Article 8 (j) CBD
  - Some thematic programmes
UNCBD (Cont’d)

Recent development:
- Decision IX/24 Gender Plan of Action 2008
- Decision X/19 on gender mainstreaming
- Decision IX/8 gender in NBSAPs
- Gender in preamble
- Gender aspects in convention text!
- Various COP decisions reiterated relevance of gender
- Advocacy policy framework on gender (PFG)
UNFCCC

- UNFCCC & Kyoto Protocol: No
- Until 2009: very limited
  - COP 7: 2 decisions
- After 2009
  - COP 15: AWG-LCA: 8 references
  - COP 16: Cancun Agreements + SBs
  - COP 17: AWG-LCA + Green Climate fund + SBs
Short overview

- **CBD**
  - Gender Plan of Action 2008
  - Decision on gender mainstreaming
  - Implementation efforts

- **UNCCD**
  - Advocacy policy framework on gender 2011
  - Implementation efforts
Short overview

- UNFCCC
  - Gender language included
    - Gender missing in mitigation & KP
    - Still focus on vulnerability of women
Cooperation between Conventions

- Joint liaison Group
- Rio Conventions Pavilion
- Harmonization Roadmap
Positive changes in Conventions

- Shift from ‘women’ to ‘gender’
- Stronger mandates in place
- Implementation efforts increased
Ways forward

- The road has become less bumpy but the work is not over
- No regression allowed, keep gender language in place
- Increase efforts on implementation, built on strong mandates
- Amplifying voice of the most vulnerable (both men and women)
Thank you for your attention!