

CHAPTER 11

Gender, climate change and sustainable development



Makgadikgadi salt pans in Botswana.

Photo: Vincent Onthusitse

KEY POINTS

- Climate change will affect all countries but its impacts will be spread differently among different regions and different groups of people.
- Botswana is prone to severe and prolonged drought.
- Women will be worst affected by climate change.
- The SADC Gender Protocol Alliance has embarked on a regional campaign to lobby and advocate for the adoption of an Addendum to the SADC Gender Protocol to address climate change and sustainable development.
- Budgeting for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies remains a challenge.
- The Government ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 27 January, 1994.
- Botswana approved in 1966 a national policy on disaster management.
- Women are not in decision-making positions that influence the national response to climate change.

Peace begins @ home



The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance, coordinated by Gender Links, launched a petition campaign calling on SADC governments to adopt the principle of an Addendum or amendments to the 2008 Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development

to include provisions on climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk management.

Climate change can be said to be global changes due to extreme weather patterns which in most cases have negative impacts causing disasters. Botswana is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts posed by climate change across many of its ecological zones and economic sectors. Climate change effects include deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water resource and ozone depletion, pollution etc. There is need to mainstream climate change considerations into national macroeconomic policies and sectoral policies as well as planning and budgeting of development initiatives. Women are the most affected by climate change as they are responsible for providing food, shelter and firewood.

Botswana has no policy on climate change, but there are strategies to address the issues:

- The Forestry Policy was approved by Parliament in August 2011. This instrument shall assist in creating awareness that guard against unsustainable utilisation of the forest resources.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act of 2005 has been repealed and replaced by the Environmental Assessment Act No 10 of 2011. To facilitate the administration of the new Act, Environmental Assessment Regulations of 2012 have also been developed. Both instruments came into force as from 29th June 2012.

- The National Meteorological Services Act was approved in 2009 while the Mines and Minerals Act of 1999 is being reviewed to address issues of illegal mining.
- The Government of Botswana ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 27 January, 1994, which came into force on 27 April, 1994.

Botswana's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC in December 2011, states that 'the UNDP/ Government of Botswana Environmental Support Programme project, trained officers from different institutions on climate mitigation and vulnerability and adaptation assessments. The University of Botswana Environmental Science Department provides training on environmental issues, including mitigation and vulnerability assessments.

Following RIO + 20, the Botswana Government committed to green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste. The case study that follows illustrates how waste management can economically empower women.



Leah Kahimbi Mapulanga and Olerile Margaret Mosweu in Chobe, Botswana recycle paper.

Photo: Gender Links

Economic empowerment through waste management

Chobe, as a fishing area, provides fishing as a source of income for the community especially women, since they are the ones mostly involved in small business. Chobe, unlike most areas in our country, is not a farming area due to the high number of wildlife, and the community relies mostly on the fishing business for income. However, because of the regulations on fishing (e.g. no fish can be caught for selling during the breeding season) which came as a response to climate change, the women are usually left with no source of income. This project provides an alternative to the fishing business during this season. The project also addresses the issue of waste management.

This is where different decorative antiques and ornaments are made using dry wood from the forest, and paper pastry made from newspapers, flour and cooking oil. This practise is good because it reduces the amount of waste that has to be taken to the landfill and compacted into the ground. It also reduces the amount of waste that could be burnt in households that do not pay for refuse collection, therefore reducing the amount of gases being emitted into the atmosphere that pollute the air and damage the ozone layer. The project also reduces the amount of paper waste that could be all over the streets, on trees and other plants, affecting their growth by reducing their amount of air intake. Through this project we all benefit.

The project is set to reduce the amount of gas emitted into the atmosphere due to the burning of the waste paper and wood. It also reduces the amount of paper that goes out into the stream due to lack of collection, sometimes because the council does not have resources. The wildlife is a often a challenge because animals overturn the rubbish bins and some people do not want to pay for their waste to be collected, resorting to burning.

The process was set up to empower women who are unskilled and unemployed so that they continue

providing for their families. The project aims to reduce the rate of economic gender-based violence by economically empowering the women and sex workers.

The project has come as a learning curve to the council on the issue of waste management, requiring revision of waste management policies which are in progress, taking into consideration issues of climate change and its effects on gender and gender development. The council has since employed the environmental police persons to bring to law on anyone who burns household waste, and households that create dumping sites in their backyards instead of using refuse collection.

The beneficiaries believe the project has brought to them a sense of independence which they never thought they could have, and this has brought hope into their lives. The facilitators of the project, who had been beneficiaries of the "train the trainer" sessions have since grown confidence in themselves and now believe that they can proceed to training other members of their communities who will become beneficiaries. The process also involved some lessons on reading and writing which the beneficiaries say helps them to assist their children who go to school.

We learnt that it is important to teach environmental studies and practices to people at an early age, because many of our practices come from what we learnt during those periods. Environmental competitions will be introduced to the primary schools, involving the community as well. Most waste items are useful in their own ways. A study needs to be made to find out how other waste items can be reused to reduce the effects of climate change and create a sustainable development.

The project can be replicated both in the country and in the region because it addresses the issue of creating a sustainable environment using paper and wood, the most available items all over the globe, to sustain the economy for the less privileged in our communities.

The government drives these programmes; the office of the president is responsible for national disaster management; the deputy permanent secretary in the President's office is the coordinator of disaster management in Botswana; and the deputy permanent secretary is responsible for convening and chairing at regular intervals the national committee on Disaster preparedness. The Ministry of Wildlife, Environment and Tourism has the main responsibility for environmental management in Botswana.

Organisations such as the World Bank have funded some climate change projects through international

World Bank Carbon Finance Assist Programme in 2005, totally US\$60,000 and the UNEP/Risoe in 2010 to USD78,000.

SADC frameworks for climate change

SADC States are committed to addressing climate change. Botswana, Namibia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa have identifiable adaptation and mitigation programmes. Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, and Seychelles have national action programme(s) for adaptation in line with the UNFCCC.



Backyard garden of a beneficiary in Bobirwa sub-district council visited during the Protocol@Work COE verification exercise in 2013.
Photo: Vincent Onthusitse

SADC Ministers responsible for environment and natural resources management approved the “SADC Support Programme on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)” at a meeting held in Windhoek, on 26 May 2011. This groundbreaking initiative to support member states in their efforts to combat climate change and achieve their development goals through reduced emissions in the forestry sector is the first of its kind by a regional organisation in Africa.

SADC has many mitigation options, especially sustainable forest management, agriculture, energy and infrastructure, given the fact that a large part of Africa's emissions result from high levels of biomass and are related to land-use. The SADC support programme on REDD is designed to provide a comprehensive framework

for the region to actively participate in and benefit from the carbon market, and will contribute to the social and economic development in the member states.

For REDD+ to be successful, the SADC region will have to create the right conditions and acquire both financial and technological resources to prepare adequately. SADC is committed to support REDD+ preparations and to promote co-operation on shared forest ecosystems through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, as well as to address regional issues arising from the implementation of REDD+ such as leakage and monitoring, reporting and verification, throughout the four-year process.

DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia have submitted proposals, while Tanzania has earmarked several activities to be piloted. The REDD+ proposals and strategy documents of Mozambique and Madagascar clearly outline the need for gender considerations in implementing REDD+.

Climate change and the SADC Gender Protocol

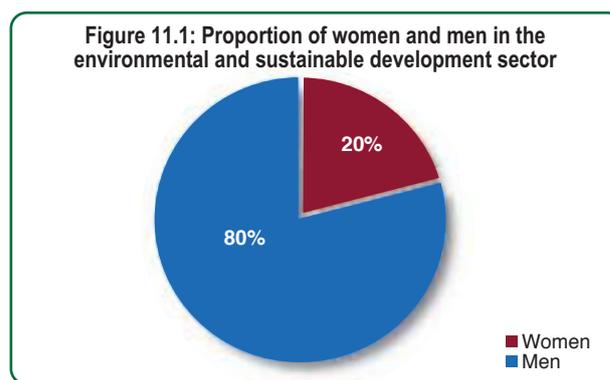
The Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance gave technical inputs at the gender and women's affairs ministers' and senior officials' meetings in November, on the SADC Regional Strategy for the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 17). Gender ministers have accepted the principle of an Addendum to the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender and Climate Change (see Chapter Ten). Although the Addendum is still in draft form, Alliance networks have started gathering evidence of government performance against these provisions. This led to the introduction of this chapter in the Barometer in 2012.

Women and men in decision-making in environment and agriculture



It is proposed that the Addendum on Gender and Climate Change makes reference to ensuring women and men equal participation in all decisions related to climate change at all levels by 2015 as specified in Article 12-13 of 2008 SADC Gender Protocol.

Women account for only 20% of representation in key environmental affairs and sustainable development ministries. As illustrated in Figure 11.1, men make up 80% of key environmental affairs and sustainable development decision-makers, including ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, heads of departments and other key persons.



Source: 2013 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer.

Table 11.1: Representation of women and men in key decision-making positions in environment and agriculture

Name		MALE	FEMALE
Minister of Environment Wildlife and Tourism	Hon Kitso Mokaila	✓	
Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism		✓	
Ministry of Agriculture	Hon C De Graaff	✓	
Deputy Minister of Agriculture	Hon O Molebatsi	✓	
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture	Dr Micus Chimbombi	✓	

Table 11.1 shows women are not in decision-making positions that influence the national response to climate change.

Botswana has developed integrated activities aimed at providing effective drought- warning and response. Approved through a Presidential Directive in response to a number of natural disasters in 1996, the country has established a national policy on disaster management.

The objectives of the national policy on Disaster Management are:

- To establish and maintain optimum systems for dealing with disasters other than drought/famine in Botswana and to integrate these systems into normal ongoing development activities at national, district and local levels. These should be achieved, as far as possible, using national resources;
- To create a framework which facilitates the preparation of plans and legislation for the effective implementation of disaster management in Botswana and its legitimacy;
- To outline the responsibilities of different personnel at different levels in the implementation of disaster management programme;
- To establish a set of working definitions for the disaster management programme in Botswana;
- To ensure that the disaster management policy is consistent with policies from other sectors and the objectives of the National Development Plan.

Disaster risk reduction

Research has shown that more women than men die from the impacts of disasters primarily as a result of women's unequal socio-economic status in society. Disaster Risk Reduction needs to be gender sensitive when taking into account preparedness and management strategies. No gender-disaggregated data has been published yet to be able to establish the impact of climate change on men and women.

2012/2013 declared a drought year

Drastic shifts in climate patterns and seasons has continuously manifested in prolonged dry spells and delayed rainfall in Botswana. At the end of July 2012 the Government of Botswana declared the year 2012/2013 a partial drought year. This drought has had an effect on the physical environment as well as on the humanitarian situation in the country. Livestock survival is under threat as available grazing land cannot sustain current herds until the next grazing season. At the same time, there is a real threat of overgrazing owing to increase in herd size.

Water levels in the dams supplying central areas have significantly decreased. Botswana's food security situation has significantly deteriorated - only 34% of national staple food requirements will be met with certainty. Children under 5 years of age are at risk of malnutrition and being underweight. Prevalence in

children has increased from 3.6% in 2010 to 4.7% in the first quarter of 2012.

The government of Botswana has announced several measures to mitigate the drought including drought

resistant seed distribution and subsidies on agricultural inputs. Humanitarian support includes priority in food provision for vulnerable groups such as: orphan and vulnerable children, children under 5 years of age, lactating mothers and TB outpatients.²⁴

Making Lobatse Green

The started off with the objective was only to promote self-reliance by creating a source of income for ourselves (the shareholders). However, as time went on, we realised that a lot of youths around our community were faced with the same challenges, and that brought about our good practise.

Speaking at the SADC Protocol@Work Summit, Neo Babopeng said that having discovered at the march that these challenges tend to increase the rate of criminal actions in the community (based on the statistics shared by the representative from Botswana Police Services), Lema Landscape and Gardening Services then broadened its objective, aiming to give back to the community by empowering people (mostly youth) on climate-related matters, linking these issues with poverty and gender-based violence.

Here is the real inspiration behind Lema's discovery:

One morning in November 2011, we attended the 16 Days of Activism against gender violence gathering. What really motivated us to attend was the fact that there were free T-shirts, and rumours that some snacks and drinks were to be given to attendants. Now that was a real catch for someone who had been smoking marijuana on an empty stomach.

Little did we know that this was the day that we would sign up for a better future. A day later my friend's father came home unexpectedly to find a bunch of youth doing drugs in his house. He was furious and started lashing us with facts, which were in fact a repetition of what was said the day before at the gathering. It was then that we realised that we needed to get our act together and start building ourselves a future.

We sat down the following day to brainstorm on projects that we could go into together as a group. We decided to do a project that we could start right away, without having to go around trying to source capital. We then started to do general cleaning-up, house-to-house. We

provided gardening services, and were paid on a monthly basis.

Things took an even better turn when we realised from the customers' demand that we could extend our services by also providing landscape services. We decided to do something that would serve the whole community, and the opportunity came to establish Making Lobatse Green. That's when we approached the Lobatse Town Council, where we got an impressive response and assistance from the youth officer. Two of our company partners were attached in the parks department to gain expertise and to familiarise them about the landscaping and gardening industry.

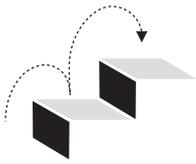
With their great gardening services, Lema has committed itself to produce herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Not only does Lema construct these gardens for their clientele, they also empower them to maintain these gardens.

We managed to acquire 16 homes to clean on a contract basis, and within the second month of the contract, we employed four men to keep these homes clean daily. We also acquired a job to clear a farm of 20 hectares in Musi, a village in Borolong for which we were able to temporarily employ three men and seven women. We initiated a march to make the community aware of our Make Lobatse Green initiative.

Lema as a company has played its part in fulfilling pledges set by a couple governmental and non-governmental institutions. We have acted on some issues elaborated by the SADC Protocol and the national Vision 2016 committee. We have fulfilled the aims of job creation and reduction of poverty, and hence the reduction of gender-based violence in the community. After acquiring 16 homes to clean on a contract basis, we were able to employ four men to keep these homes clean.

The initiative has grown, from realising the need to raise funds from other sources to carrying out promotions to market the services they provide.

²⁴ Botswana Information Ministry Press Release, July 2012.



Next steps



- Increase women in sustainable development decision making through partnerships with the women already occupying strategic positions, for example in agriculture and rural development.
- Map climate change effects on women through an initial qualitative study that can be developed into a country specific quantitative framework.
- Intensify public awareness campaigns.
- Build capacity of women from different contexts on climate change issues; and together with women from communities, develop adaptation and mitigation programmes that are replicable.
- Governments to commit to gender concerns in national budgets with specific regard to climate change and environmental affairs.
- Set clear short and long-term targets for reducing carbon emission that keep average global temperature increases well below 1.5°C, and support a shared vision that enables gender equality and avoids adverse effects on vulnerable groups - especially women.