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Fund

# Mainstreaming Gender into Ecosystem-based Adaptation:

#GlobalEbAFund - How to effectively bring together  
people and ecosystems in climate adaptation

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# Agenda



- Welcome
- Introduction and background to the Fund
- Gender and EbA
- Gender Analysis tool
- Good practices from EbA grantees: **NDRI & HelpAge**
- Question and answer (Q&A) session



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# Introductions



**Moderator**  
Wendy C. Atieno

Fund Manager –  
Global EbA Fund

IUCN



**Speaker 1**  
Jackie Siles

Senior Gender  
Programme Manager

IUCN



**Speaker 2**  
Dr. Manjeshwori Singh

General Secretary -  
GESI Expert

NDRI



**Speaker 3**  
Marcela Bustamante

Regional Representative,  
Latin America and the  
Caribbean

HelpAge



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- **Implemented by:** UNEP and IUCN
- **Funded by:** International Climate Initiative (IKI) under the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
- **Duration:** 2021 – 2028



**UN**  
environment  
programme

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# What is EbA?



**Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change (CBD, 2009 & 2010)**



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# Purpose of the Fund



**The Global EbA Fund is a catalytic funding mechanism for supporting innovative approaches to EbA to create enabling environment for its mainstreaming and scaling up.**



**The Fund helps to overcome barriers to upscaling EbA, address knowledge gaps, pilot innovative EbA approaches, engage in strategic EbA policy mainstreaming, and incentivise innovative finance mechanisms and private sector EbA investment.**



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# Let's do an intake on what we think when we hear "Gender"



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**Jackie Siles**

**Senior Gender  
Programme Manager**

**IUCN**

# Why Gender matters in EbA



- Gendered roles and responsibilities influence people's vulnerability to climate change and their capacity to adapt
- Gender differences in access to and control over natural resources
- Gender-specific indigenous and traditional knowledge makes it important to harness knowledge from people of all genders.
- Imbalances exist in decision making power related to adaptation and ecosystem services
- Benefits from ecosystem restoration, conservation and management are not equitably distributed
- International policy mandates linked to gender action plans: CBC, UNFCCC, UNCCD.



*Photo Credit: RECOFTC*

# What are the benefits of a gender-responsive approach?



- **Gender- responsive approach**

The proactive identification of gender gaps, discriminations and biases and then the coordinated development and implementation of actions to address and overcome them.

- Increase effectiveness and sustainability
- Right-based approaches can achieve synergies with other objectives (reducing GBV, food security, etc)
- More inclusive governance, especially through engaging men and boys
- Increase equity in benefits from investment in EbA



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# Why is the gender analysis important for EbA projects?



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- Better understanding of the social context.
- It can help create a baseline for M&E, Theory of Change and indicators.
- It can help in **safely** identifying risks of gender-based violence within programming, by identifying gendered inequalities and barriers that can pose a safety risk in relation to accessing, using, benefiting and making decisions over natural resources



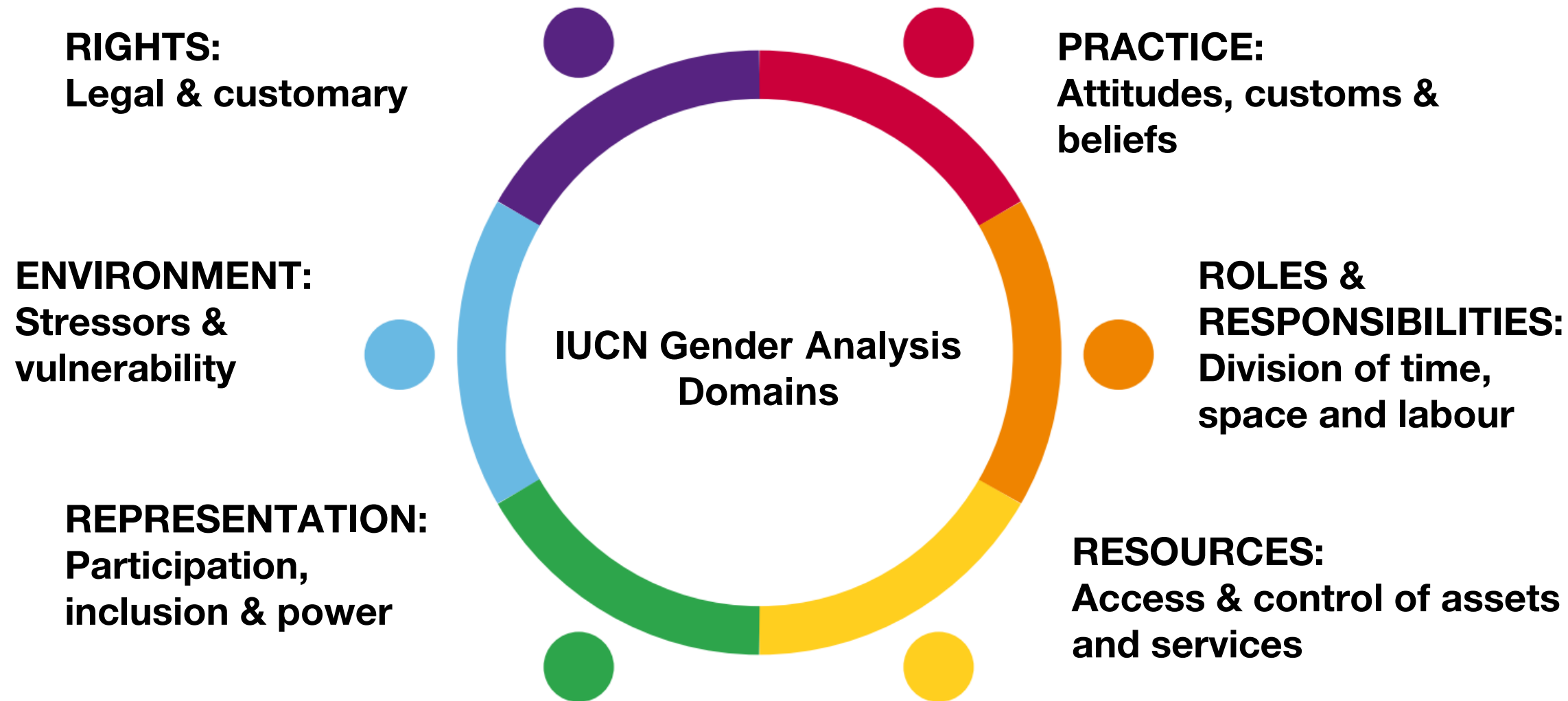
## [Gender Analysis Guide](#)

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# Gender Analysis Domains





# RIGHTS: Legal & Customary

- This domain includes statutory and customary laws, as well as formal and informal: laws, policies, regulations, and institutional practices.
- Identifies explicit or implicit gender biases within these laws, policies, regulations, and institutional practices.
- It should also identify when key gender-related legislation (e.g., laws on non-discrimination, gender equality, gender-based violence, sexual harassment) is absent.





# PRACTICE:

## Attitudes, Customs & Beliefs



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- This domain includes cultural norms and beliefs about what is perceived to be the appropriate qualities, life goals, and aspirations for women and men.
- Build an understanding of gender dynamics and norms, including harmful attitudes and beliefs that can perpetuate gender discrimination, exclusion and inequities.
- Gender norms and beliefs are influenced by perceptions of gender identity and expression, and are often supported by and embedded in laws, policies and institutional practices.





# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Division of time, space and labour

- This domain includes how women and men contribute to 'productive' (market) and 'reproductive' (household) activities, including their roles, responsibilities, and how time is used during paid, unpaid (including care and household work), and community service work.
- Identifies and anticipates potential constraints to participation in programs/activities.
- Should reflect how changing roles can impact power dynamics and risk of gender-based violence.



## ● **RESOURCES: Access & Control of Assets and Services**

- This domain includes the differences in diverse women's and men's access to and control over assets, income, social benefits, public services, technology and information that are necessary to being a fully active and productive participant in society.
- Identified attitudes, customs and beliefs can affect the rights to access and control of these resources.
- Gender-based violence can be used to prevent access and control, so safety concerns and risks when challenging barriers and inequalities in the access and control should be identified.



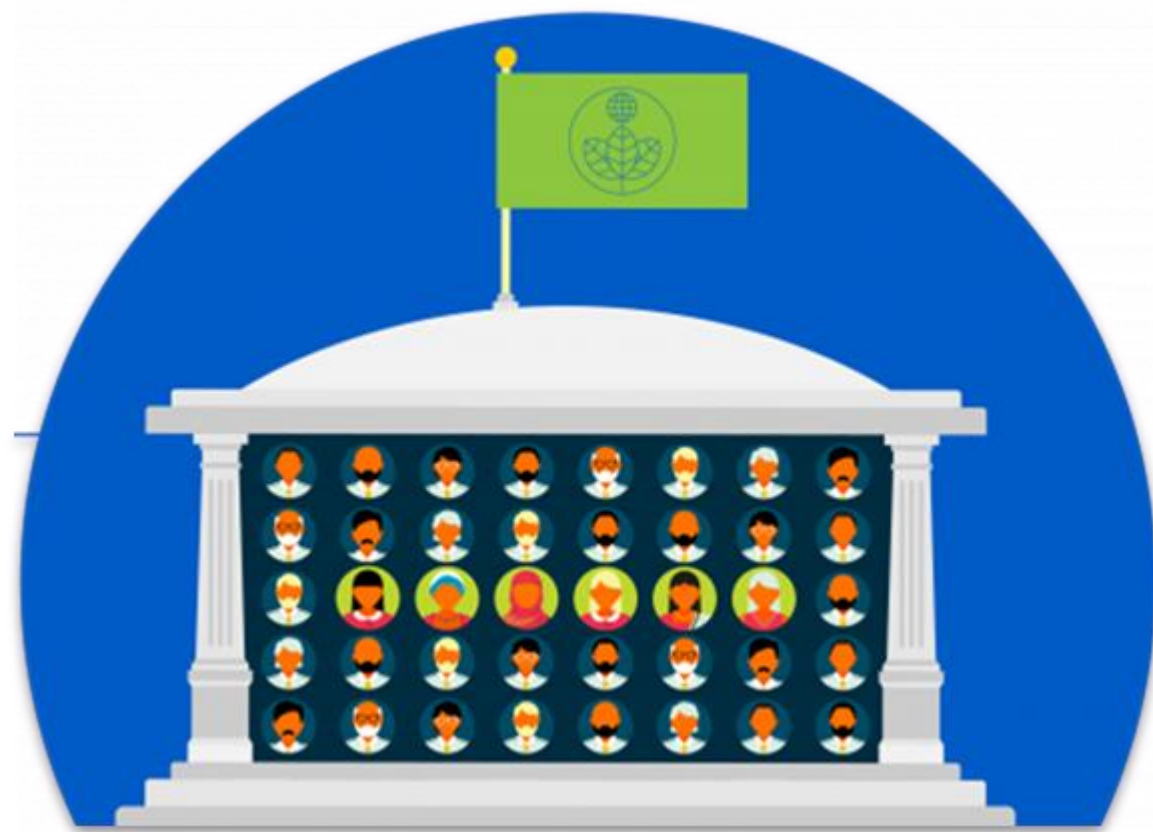


# REPRESENTATION: Participation, Inclusion & Power



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- This domain includes women and men ability to be involved in the processes of decision making and planning at the household and communal levels, their involvement in the value chain and in organisations and in governance processes; including the ability to vote and run for office at all government levels.
- As well as the constraints they face to fully and actively participate.
- Documenting barriers and safety concerns in these decision-making spaces will help identify risks to safety.



# ENVIRONMENT:

## Stressors and Vulnerability

- This domain includes the gendered impact of environmental stressors, including the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural resource scarcity for women and men.
- Identifies coping mechanisms and risk mitigation strategies, including harmful ones



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# Gender Analysis - Gender Gaps



Domains of analysis	Guiding questions for analysis	Gender gaps identified
<b>Rights: Legal, political and customary laws</b>	<p>Do women and men in the communities know their rights?</p> <p>Are there customary practices that restrict women's access to or control over natural resources?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older women are unaware of their rights</li> <li>• Women and daughters do not have the right to own or inherit land</li> </ul>
<b>Resources: Use, access, control, benefits of resources and services</b>	<p>Who has access to which resources, who controls which resources, how do women and men use the resources?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women have less access to productive resources than men</li> <li>• Women benefit less from projects in the community</li> </ul>
<b>Roles and responsibilities: Division of time, space and work</b>	<p>Who does what productive, reproductive and community activities? How much time on average do they spend on these activities? What are the main sources of income for women and men?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overburdening women and girls with reproductive work</li> </ul>
<b>Practices: Attitudes, Customs and Beliefs</b>	<p>What are the beliefs, attitudes and customs that limit women's participation in productive and environmental projects? What are the beliefs, attitudes and customs that limit or control women's access to land and natural resources?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The space assigned to women is the home</li> <li>• It is not equally appreciated that women have more knowledge about plants related to food security than men</li> <li>• Women are not allowed to speak in public spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Representation: participation, inclusion and power</b>	<p>Who/whom are the main decision makers in family affairs? What are the percentages of women's participation in community boards or traditional governance structures?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low representation of women in decision-making positions in the community</li> <li>• Women do not have decision-making power over natural resources</li> </ul>
<b>Environment: Stressors and vulnerability factors</b>	<p>What are the main environmental issues facing communities? Do women, men and youth have different views on the problems arising from changes in climate? How do climate change, environmental degradation and resource scarcity affect income, health and well-being differently for women and men?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration of young people and men and women stay with the farm work</li> <li>• Early girls marriage as cope strategy</li> </ul>

# Gender Analysis- Addressing Identified Gaps



Domains of analysis	Gender gaps identified	Addressing Identified Gaps
<b>Rights: Legal, political and customary laws</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older women are unaware of their rights</li> <li>• Women and daughters do not have the right to own or inherit land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop capacities of women all ages in the community about women's rights</li> <li>• Sensitize men and traditional leaders about the importance of women access to land</li> </ul>
<b>Resources: Use, access, control, benefits of resources and services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women have less access to productive resources than men</li> <li>• Women benefit less from projects in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure equal participation of women and men in project services and benefits</li> <li>• Ensure increase participation of women on value chain</li> </ul>
<b>Roles and responsibilities: Division of time, space and work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overburdening women and girls with reproductive work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSLA's and Alternative Livelihoods</li> <li>• Access to technology that reduce women workload</li> <li>• Develop a male engagement strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Practices: Attitudes, Customs and Beliefs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The space assigned to women is the home</li> <li>• It is not equally appreciated that women have more knowledge about plants related to food security than men</li> <li>• Women are not allowed to speak in public spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum Discussion Groups</li> <li>• Develop women leadership skills and capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Representation: participation, inclusion and power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low representation of women in decision-making positions in the community</li> <li>• Women do not have decision-making power over natural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging Community Leaders</li> <li>• Develop women leadership skills and capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Environment: Stressors and vulnerability factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration of young people and men and women stay with the farm work</li> <li>• Early girl marriage as cope strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods</li> <li>• Strategy alliances with organizations working on GBV and youth</li> </ul>



**Dr. Manjeshwori Singh**

**General Secretary -  
GESI Expert**

**NDRI**



# Mitigating flood risks through women's leadership in EbA interventions

*Project period: Oct 2023-Oct 2025*

By Manjeshwori Singh (PhD), NDRI

3 April 2025



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# Project Goal

To manage flood risk through integration of gender-responsive EbA measures into Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) or any other relevant climate change/DRR policies of Mohana-Khutiya river basin.

**Output 1: Evidence base:**  
Identification of success stories and strong evidence base of gender-responsive EbA interventions across Nepal for replication or scaling up for flood risk management.

**Output 2: Application:**  
Integration of **gender responsive EbA** into LAPA (or other relevant policies) through watershed restoration plan

**Output 3: Outreach:** Build the capacities of relevant stakeholders to adopt EbA approaches and better respond to flood risks; and facilitate cross-country learning, dissemination and knowledge sharing on EbA approaches.



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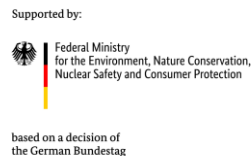
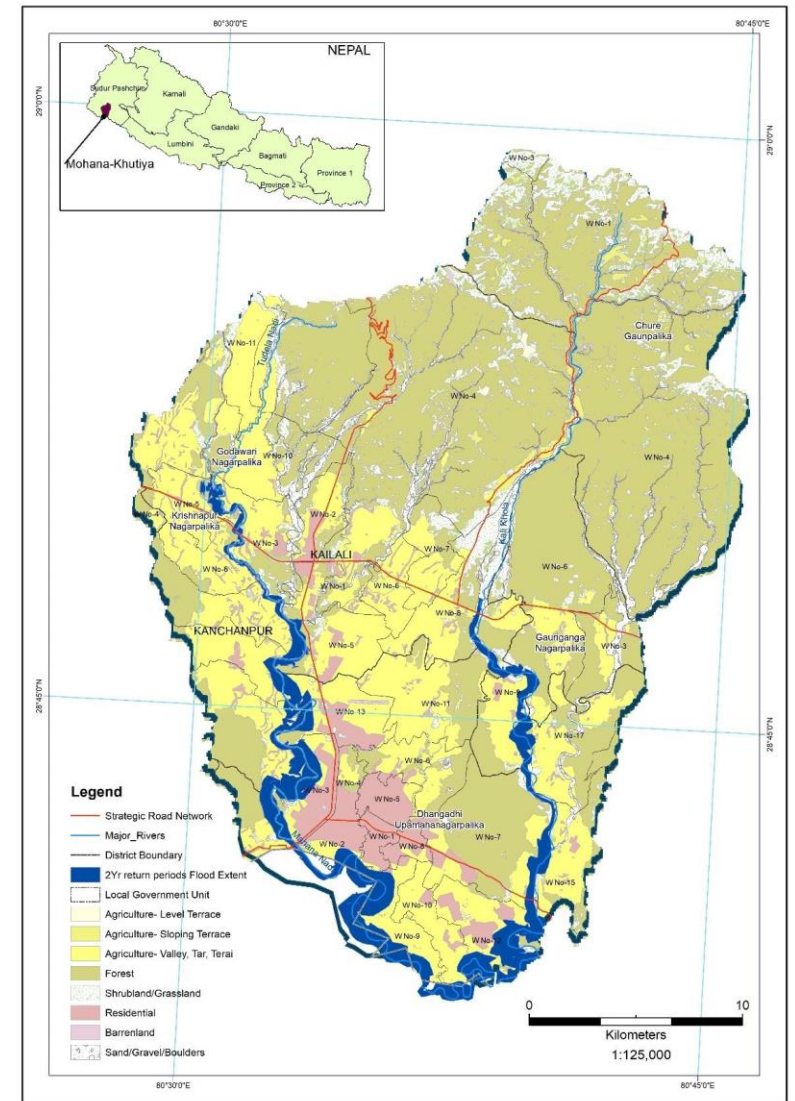


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# Project area

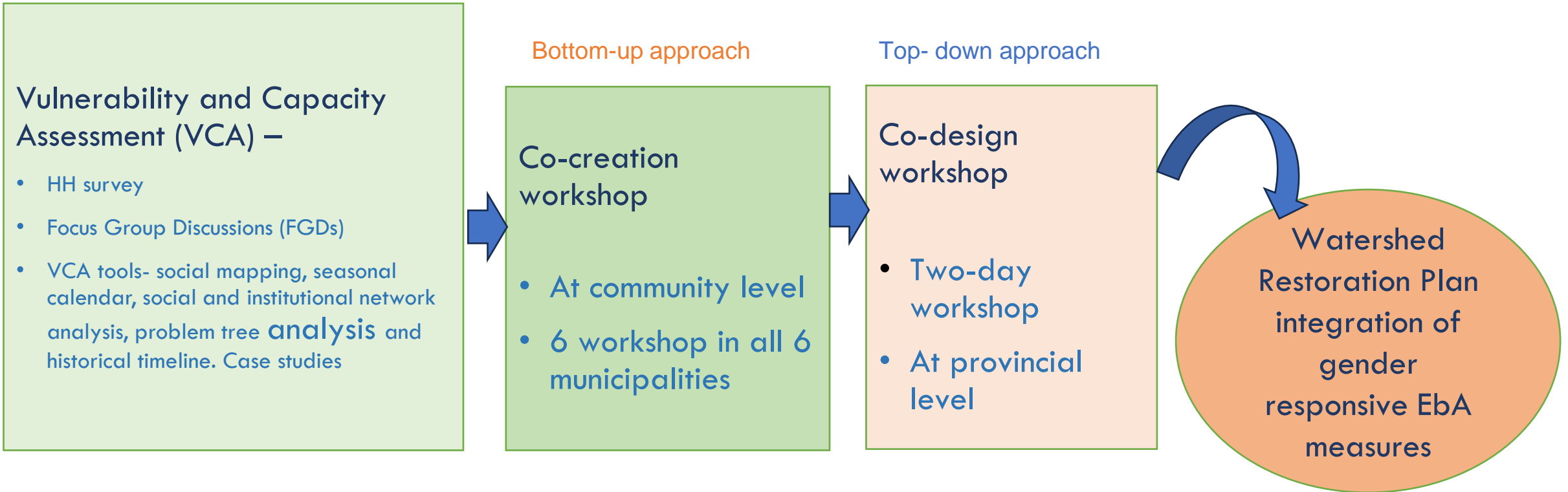
- Mohana-Khutiya River Basin (702.4 sq.km.)
- Originate from Chure hills and flows through Terai
- Sudurpaschim Province (Far-west), and has 6 municipalities
- Agriculture and forest: two most important ecosystems
- The basin is highly vulnerable to flood
- Part of priority river basins for flood risk management by Government of Nepal
- Flood forecasting, EW System, and Flood Protection Structural Measures are currently under implementation



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# Methodology



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# Preliminary Findings:

## Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Watershed Planning and EbA



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Bamboo Bio-dykes

Vegetation –Bamboo, Napier, Lemongrass, Broomgrass, etc

Dodha River (Sukhaphata -12),

Muktakamaiya (Rajapur-4)

**Practical  
ACTION**



Sugarcane and Khar Kans (Napier Grass) Plantation  
Ganesh Basti, Punarbas – 1  
Dodha River



## Conservation and/or Restoration of Ponds (Pond Rehabilitation)

Panchase, Pokhara-23





Plantation of Broom Grass (Amlisho)



Conservation of native species



Plantation and Reforestation



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Restoration of degraded rangelands and forests  
mid-hills of Achham and Salyan and high mountains of Dolakha



# Gender Analysis:

- Differential impact of flood
- Women's participation in EbA activities
- Role and responsibilities in EbA activities
- Decision-making limitations EbA measures
- Economic empowerment
- Access to and control over resources (land/house/finance)



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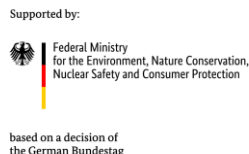
Women

# Differential impact of flood

- Women, especially pregnant women, elderly women, and those with young children, differently able person, face challenges in evacuating quickly.
- Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and those with chronic illnesses struggle to access proper medical care.
- The impact in community forests is making hardship in access to firewood and fodder. Women face greater risks of exploitation, gender-based violence.
- Limited access to relief aid, health services, and sanitation.
- Mobility restriction is due to caregiving role.
- Impact on children's education due to school closed creates extra stress to mother

Men

- Losing employment/income.
- More likely to be involved in rescue and recovery efforts, exposing them to physical risks.



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# Women's participation in EbA activities

Barriers	Strategies to address barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household responsibilities</li> <li>• Lack of meaningful participation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male dominance Society perceives outgoing and vocal women negatively.</li> <li>• Men will prioritize non-speaking women for membership in any group.</li> <li>• Lack of confidence among women while addressing mass.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family support for women empowerment</li> <li>• Distribution of household responsibilities. (shared responsibilities)</li> <li>• Training and awareness programs for both men and women to challenge and change the mindset of male dominance.</li> </ul>



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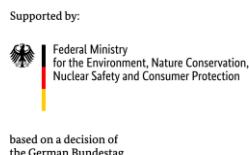


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# Women's role and responsibilities in EbA activities

Gaps/Barriers	Strategies to address barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Household Roles:</b> Women's primarily engagement in domestic chores limits participation in community activities.</li> <li>• Women's role is confined only to labor job-<i>Land preparation, plantation and caring of plants</i>, while what to be planted is decided by men.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awareness &amp; Training:</b> Awareness/Capacity-building programs to shift gender norms. (<i>Couple training</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Family Support:</b> Encourage <b>shared household duties</b></li> <li>• <b>Policy Reforms:</b> Revise policies and promote equitable responsibility-sharing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A significant role of women in disaster mitigation due to high male migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote women-friendly adaptation measures.</li> <li>• Provision of necessary training/capacity/skill building programs</li> <li>• Acknowledge women's indigenous knowledge.</li> </ul>



# Gender Analysis: Decision-making limitations EbA measures

Gaps	Strategies for Addressing Barriers:
Participation of women in decision making is very limited due to dominance of male voices while decision making.	<b>Community Engagement:</b> Foster platforms for women's voices in decision-making. Provide opportunity for engagement in community activities.
Societal Biases: Deep-rooted gender bias and patriarchal norms restrict women's decision-making. Lack of family support	<b>Conduct awareness programs</b> to shift societal norms that confine women to household roles. Organize community discussions to educate families about the benefits of women's community engagement.
Limited economic empowerment/leadership capacity	Provision of income generating opportunities Capacity building (digital literacy...) and provide leadership training.



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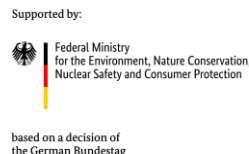


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# Economic empowerment

Gaps/Barriers	Strategies for Addressing Barriers:
Undiscovered income opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link women to income opportunities (e.g., provision of low-interest loans, technical training...).</li> <li>Provide adaptation measures that contribute both to climate resilience and income generation.</li> </ul>
Lack of opportunities	Skill training, entrepreneurship development
Less proactiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education, awareness raising</li> <li>Social Security- Insurance and honor provisions to boost women's visibility and confidence.</li> </ul>



# Access to and control over resources (land/house/finance)

## Barriers

- Women have less access to and control over productive resources land/house than men.
- Due to the provision of a 25% discount for transferring property in a woman's name, such transfers are increasing; however, control remains in men's hands.
- Lack of access to finance (loan)

## To address

- Improve access to financial resources (grant/soft loan, incentive)
- Policies update



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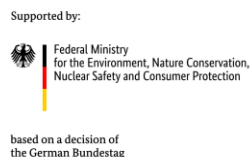
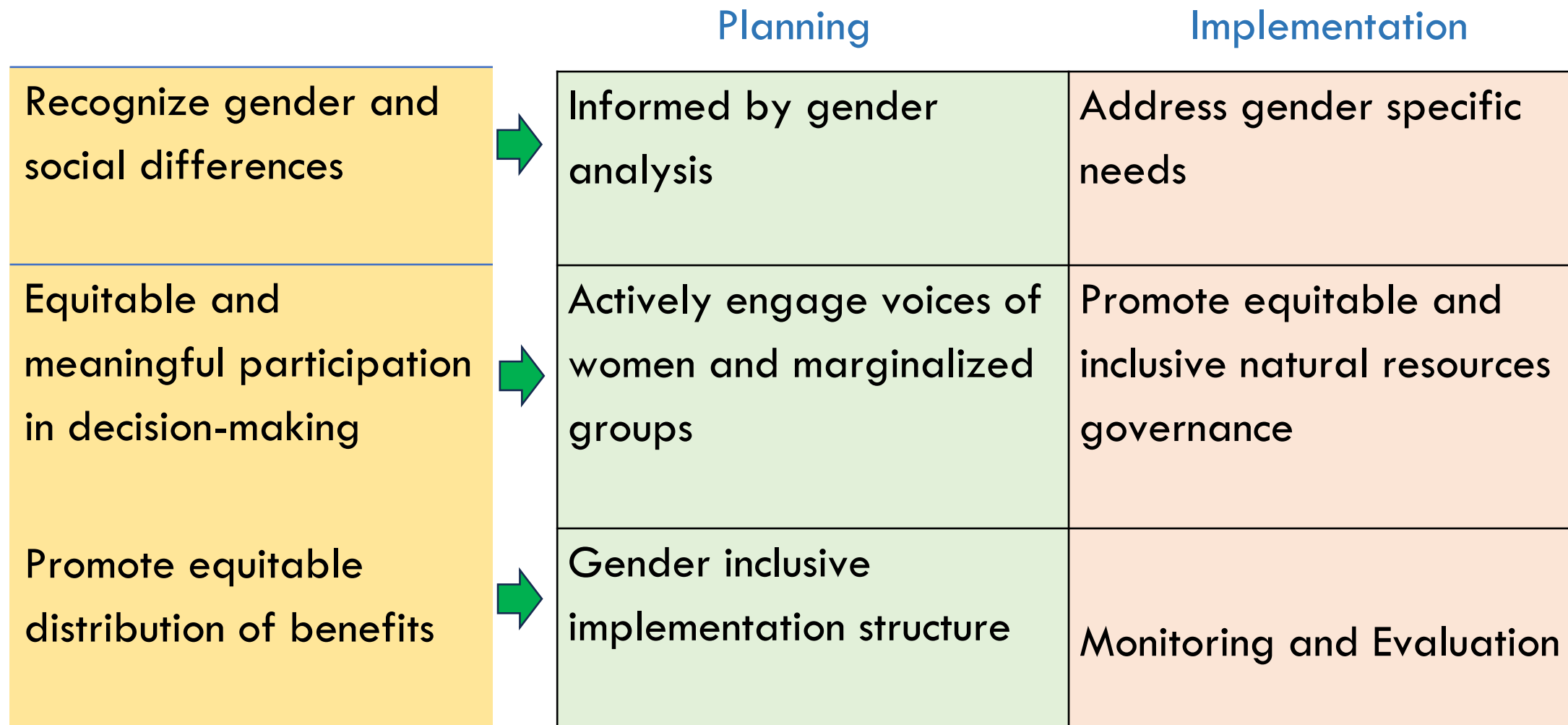
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# Fundamental elements for gender-responsive, disability-inclusive EbA



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**Marcela Bustamente**

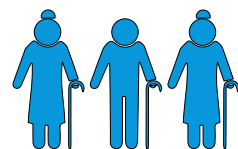
Regional Representative,  
Latin America and the  
Caribbean

HelpAge

# Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Ageing and Gender in Latin America



# Why Ageing Matters



- The population aged 60 years and over will increase **from 1 billion in 2020 to 1.4 billion in 2030**
- Between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population over 60 years will nearly **double from 12% to 22%**.
- By 2050, **one in five people will be over 60** in the world. In Latin America it will be **one in four people**.
- In 2050, **80% of older people** will be living in **low- and middle-income** countries.

Latin America

# Why is the intersection of Ageing and EbA important?

- The consequences of climate change will be **experienced by a growing older population**. (By 2050, One in five people will be over 60 in the world) Age-inclusive approaches are **under-sighted** in public policy agendas
- Older people **are at-risk of the effects of climate change due to physical and mental fragility**: heatwaves, air pollution, water scarcity, flooding.\*
- **Key role**: As custodians of indigenous or traditional knowledge, skills, and understanding of their contexts, their experience **is** critical for mitigating and adapting to climate change. **There is a lot we can learn from them.**



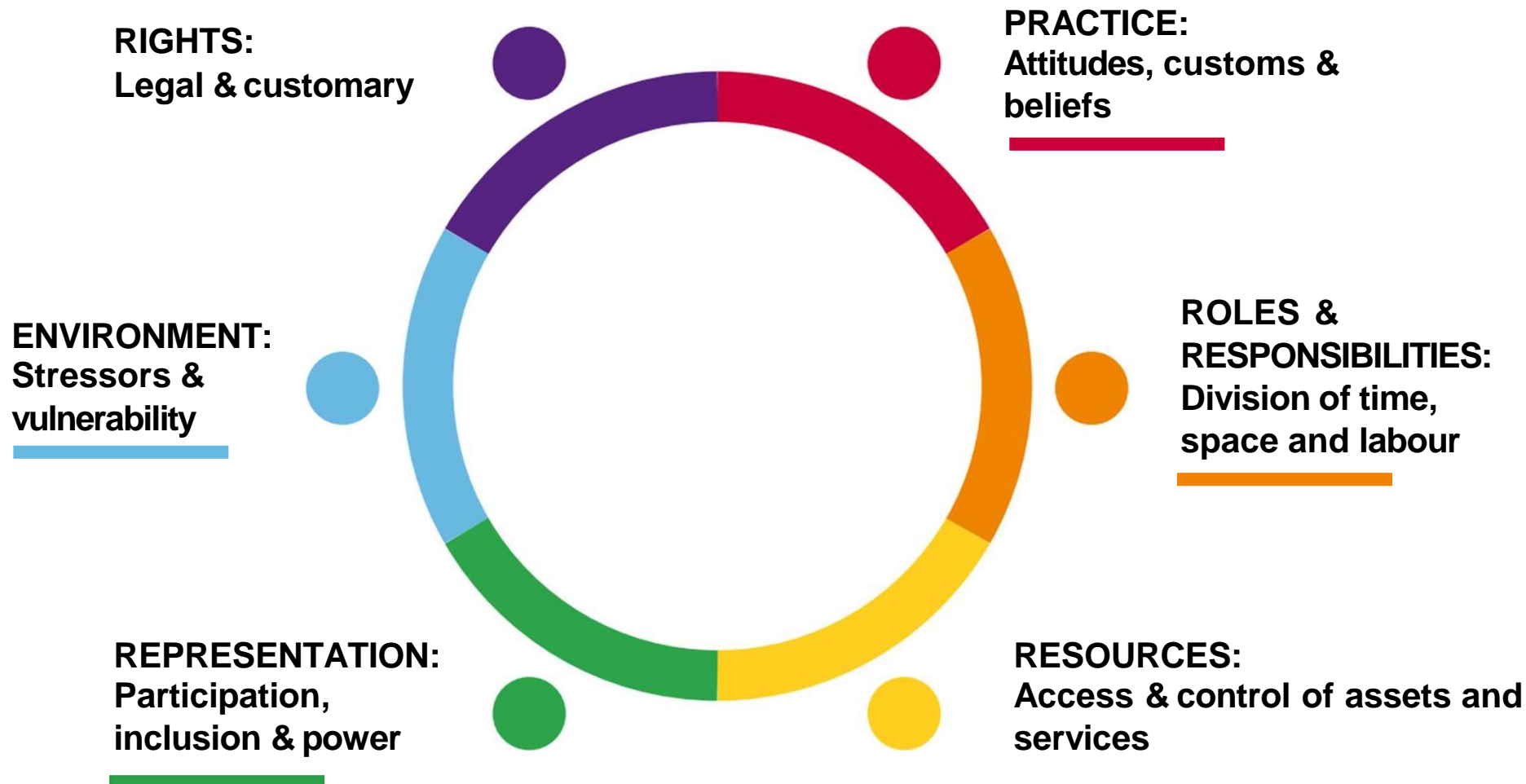
*Indigenous older women from the Wayuu community in La Guajira desert, north of Colombia. Photo HelpAge*

# Mainstreaming Urban EbA in Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Latin America



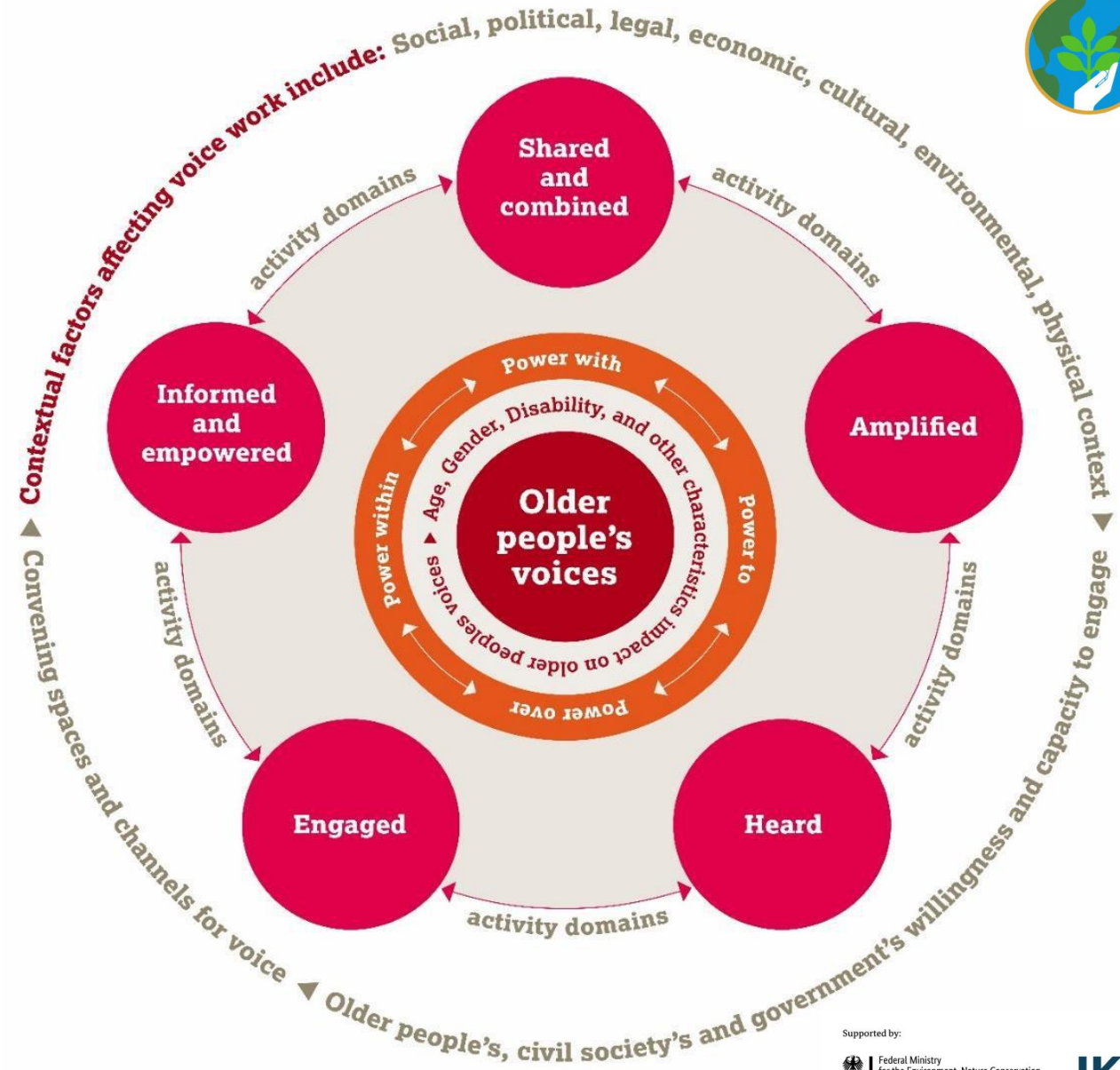
- We will intervene **two urban gardens** in **Bogotá**, Colombia, and **public parks** in **Mexico City** by **designing and implementing** Ecosystem-based Adaptation initiatives
- The project aims to **strengthen climate resilience in the communities, fostering older people participation with a strong intergenerational component.**
- Based on these EbA pilot at the community level, we will focus on **advocating for support** of similar initiatives at national and regional levels within the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCC) framework.
- The goal is for these **EbA initiatives in urban gardens** and green spaces to be recognised as **age-friendly initiatives** and promote changes in public policies.

# Gender Analysis Domains



## ● REPRESENTATION: Participation, Inclusion & Power

Our **Voice Framework** focus on creating **safe spaces** for older people representation. The framework includes a comprehensive **gender perspective**.





# PRACTICE: Attitudes, Customs & Beliefs

Fighting ageism (stereotypes, prejudice and age-based stigmatisation) is essential to build safe, age-friendly cities and communities. Ageism intersects and exacerbates other forms of disadvantage including those related to sex, race and disability.

According with the **WHO Ageism Scale**, implemented by HelpAge in Colombia, **older people with lower education, lower income, and disabilities face higher levels of ageism.**

Tackling ageism is a prerequisite to building age-friendly cities and communities based on EbA.





# PRACTICE: Attitudes, Customs & Beliefs

In this project, we aim to both promote EbA approaches and tackle ageism through:

1. **Promoting and supporting intergenerational participation** in EbA-based urban gardens and green spaces design and use.
2. **Empowering older people's voices** within their communities, helping to dismantle ageist practices.
3. **Highlighting the role of older people** as key contributors to climate resilience.
4. **Advocating for local authorities** to integrate an age-inclusive approach in policies and practices to combat institutional ageism and foster climate resilience using EbA-approches.
5. **Strengthening social ties** through urban gardens, fostering intergenerational connections and challenging ageist stereotypes.





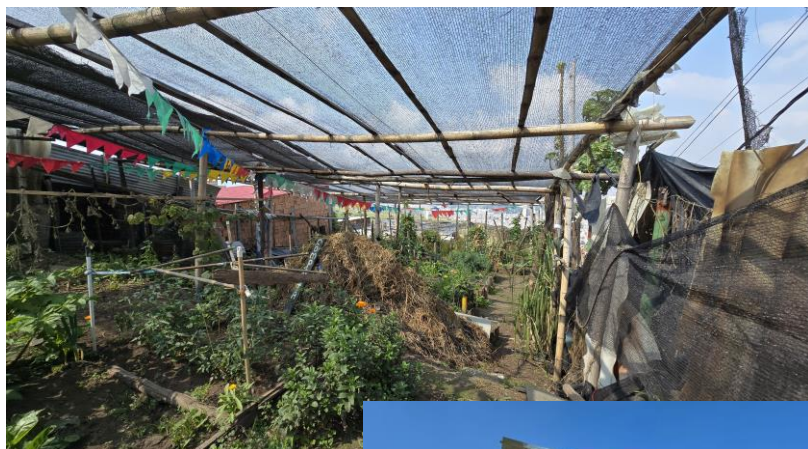
# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Division of time, space and labour

- We have identified about **3000 urban gardens** in Bogotá, all of them have different dynamics and situations, in those lead by older people, we noticed significant relevance of **older women's role**.
- **Community care networks** have been identified around urban gardens, where **older women caregivers** bring their grandchildren or people with disabilities. In these spaces, they receive **support from other community** members in their caregiving roles. Participation in urban gardening can foster **a more gender-balanced distribution of care work through strengthening this community-based care models**.
- Urban gardens as communities' spaces can provide older women with opportunities to **engage in leadership**, decision-making, and knowledge-sharing, **challenging traditional gender roles in their localities**.





# ENVIRONMENT: Stressors and Vulnerability



- **Mapping tool for urban gardens/public spaces in Bogotá and Mexico City**, which includes **gender-specific criteria**, prioritizing gardens with strong participation from older women. At this stage we have preselected 6.

- **Age-Friendly Community and Ecosystem Risk Assessment** tool is being designed, which integrates both **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and community factors**. A gender perspective will be included in this tool to identify how the social and environmental risks affect older women and older men differently.

- This assessment will be carried out through a participatory methodology, ensuring a gender balance in representation.  
It also provides **specific guidance on working with older women and men**

Domains of analysis	Guiding questions for analysis/ Gender gaps identified	Addressing Identified Gaps
<b>Roles and responsibilities: Division of time, space and work</b>	<p>Who does what productive, reproductive and community activities?</p> <p>Older women assume the traditional role of caregivers for other older people, their grandchildren, or family members with disabilities.</p> <p>Most older women do not have a pension or their own income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening urban gardens in their agricultural capacity and diversity, it can generate income by selling their products.</li> <li>Supporting urban gardens, community care models are also strengthened, better distributing the caregiver role among other members of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Practices: Attitudes, Customs and Beliefs</b>	<p>What are the beliefs, attitudes and customs that limit women's participation in productive and environmental projects? What are the beliefs, attitudes and customs that limit or control women's access to land and natural resources?</p> <p>Age discrimination, stereotypes, and stigmatisation towards age limit the participation and inclusion of older people, especially older women, in decision-making processes and economic activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combating ageism by highlighting the role of older people, and especially older women, in their community as active subjects and agents of change through their knowledge, experience, and resilience.</li> <li>Promote intergenerational activities around the urban gardens and green spaces to tackle the ageism.</li> </ul>
<b>Representation: participation, inclusion and power</b>	<p>What are the percentages of women's participation in community boards or traditional governance structures?</p> <p>The greatest vulnerability of older women is that they are not represented in decision-making arenas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the leadership of older women leveraged by other age groups of women, participating in the urban gardens/green spaces</li> <li>Raising awareness among political authorities about this gap and facilitate spaces for this interaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment: Stressors and vulnerability factors</b>	<p>How do climate change, environmental degradation and resource scarcity affect income, health and well-being differently for women and men?</p> <p>Older people are more exposed to the effects of the climate due to their physical and mental fragility, and in the case of women, the caregiving burden also increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting urban gardens and green spaces led by older women to strengthen their resilience.</li> <li>Raising awareness among authorities to include the needs of older women in risk management.</li> </ul>

## Some resources produced by HelpAge

- [Let's Go Guide – for small-scale](#) / low-cost AFCC designs for use in low-income communities and informal settlements
- [Voice training](#) – including Voice & AFCCs module and audio-guide for older trainees:
- [Ageing and Gender Equality training and learning toolkit](#)
- [Age-inclusion Handbook](#)
- [Intergenerational Approaches Guide](#)

# Thank you!



## Upcoming Event:

Gender-Climate  
Symposium

10 - 12 June 2025

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