



GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice e.V.
Anklamer Str. 38
D-10115 Berlin, Germany
Phone +49.30.21980088
www.gendercc.net
info@gendercc.net

GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice

Annual Report 2012 / 2013 and Financial Report 2012

Membership & Governance

Currently the organisation has 72 members, including 41 individuals from developing countries and 17 from developed countries; and 9 organisations from developing countries and 5 from developed countries.

The Board comprises of:

Dorah Marema, South Africa (chair),
Patricia (Trish) Glazebrook, USA (vice chair),
Gotelind Alber, Germany (treasurer),
Tereza Perez Rocha, Uruguay.

The Steering group is made up of:

Sharminde Neelormi (Bangladesh), Andrea Isabel Guzmán Arroyo (Bolivia), Claudia Gimena Roa Avendano (Colombia), Kuini Rabo / Koin Etuati (Fiji), Ulrike Röhr (Germany), Annabell Waititu / Eunice Warue (Kenya), Maira Zahur (Pakistan), Nina Somera (Philippines), Yvette Abrahams (South Africa), Felicia Davis (USA).

We have a small office space in Berlin which is currently hosting our project coordinator Conny van Heemstra (part time), our assistant Kate Cahoon (10 hrs per week), and an intern (Ellen Billiet for the first half of 2013, and Alexandra Arntsen for the second). We have no GenderCC coordinator at this moment.

GenderCC's Activities in 2012 / 2013

Electronic GenderCC Newsletter about GenderCC activities, current developments, new publications and events dealing with gender and climate

Updates of the website, in particular News, UNFCCC process, and literature data base

Facebook presence

Global Learning Platform on gender sensitive adaptation and low carbon development

Projects

The small project "Organisation of a Grassroots Women's Conference in the Run-up to Durban" funded by GIZ has been concluded by the end of 2011 and has provided us with the opportunity to bring grassroots women, in particular partners of GenderCC South Africa, to COP17 in Durban after a meeting to build capacity, share experience with international guests and develop inputs to the COP.

The project "Gender and Climate Change: Raising Awareness, Building Capacity, and Influencing Policy in South Africa" funded by the German Ministry for Development Cooperation has been concluded by 7/2012. Here is a summary of the final report to the Ministry:

This project has been very successful and exceeded its original goals and expectations. It has been a landmark achievement for GenderCC Southern Africa (GenderCCSA) within both the gender and the climate change movements because for the first time there is a platform which came about as a result of the establishment of a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), GenderCCSA that joins the issues of gender and climate change and provided grassroots women with a voice to raise their own issues in the climate and environment discourse, especially during the climate response policy process.

The project has also made a huge contribution in raising awareness of issues of gender and climate change in South Africa at a critical time where the country was developing its National Climate Change Response Policy and also hosting the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban at the end of 2011. These developments provided the project with an unusual opportunity to be part of many initiatives that were key in developing a national policy and also to ensure that all South Africans, particularly those mostly affected by climate change are aware of climate change and how it will impact them.

The project focused on awareness raising and the provision of information on gender and climate change through capacity building and awareness-raising workshops at the grassroots level which has been implemented in partnership with various partners including grassroots organisations. It also focused on lobbying and advocacy around integrating gender in the climate change response policy. Since 2010, a total number of workshops have conducted in the provinces of Limpopo, North West, Gauteng and Western Cape. Some of the key lessons we have learned include the following:
To sustain capacity building of grassroots women, accessible climate change information (in terms of language, form of material and platform being used to distribute it) has to be made available to those that need it the most, in this case rural communities including women. To this effect, GenderCCSA has produced information on gender and climate change in the form of radio clips and factsheets which have been translated into Zulu, SeSotho and Afrikaans to distribute to communities.

One of the challenges that the project faced is around the fact that the policy environment in South Africa has yet to fully recognize the gender-specific characteristics of vulnerability and adaptive capacity. For example, the climate change response policy making process has been treated as being gender-neutral at the beginning. This called for GenderCCSA to build alliances and partnerships with key organisations and institutions to be able to influence climate change response

policy process and ensure that gender is taken into consideration. Still, with the inclusion of some of GenderCCSA's recommendations for the National Climate Change White paper, GenderCCSA could already make a difference in current debates.

Another important dimension is that climate change is often been considered as a technical problem requiring a technical solution and the current debates on climate change in South Africa by and large neglect the dimension of gender and up until the establishment of GenderCCSA not much has been done to include a gender sensitive perspective. As a result, GenderCCSA has to work hard to defend and sustain the interventions made during the period of the project as part of the national climate change response white paper to ensure that they are being implemented.

Over the years, it has been difficult to lobby the South African UNFCCC delegation to consider gender in their positions during the COPs and we have since realised that when lobbied at home during the National Climate Change Response Policy process, they are responsive to gender considerations. As a result, we think it is important not to wait until COPs to lobby climate negotiators but to do this work within the country using national platforms to ensure that country positions integrate gender in their positions before they reach the COP. GenderCCSA through this project, continues to lobby for gender to be considered in both national climate change response programmes and on the international level, and at the same time to empower women to participate in the policy processes themselves.

The project "Integration of Gender into Climate Change Adaptation and Low Carbon Development: Raising Awareness, Building Capacity, Supporting National and International Policy Processes" funded by the German International Climate Initiative, and carried out in Bangladesh with Sharmin Neelormi, CGC, and in the Pacific region with Kuini Rabo, SPC, will be finalised by the end of January 2014.

The activities at national levels have almost been concluded with some publications still to be finalised. At the international level, the Global Learning Platform is in place and working, and can be substantially enhanced in terms of contents and interaction. After the conclusion of the pilot phase, everybody who is interested in learning about gender and climate change, sharing experience and take part in discussions on certain core topics is now invited to register.

Perspectives

We have not been able to secure subsequent funding, so after January 2014, there won't be staff and travel costs available, as our income from membership fees is very small and several funding proposals we submitted have not yet been accepted. One proposal is underway, prepared by Trish, which would as an accompanying measure staff our office with a post-doc, if successful. Just these days, we have been invited to partner in proposal in the EU research programme. But further efforts have to be made and members are welcome to closely work with us on ideas and funding proposals.

So, inevitably, we will have a phase of reflections during the months to come, which might be useful after great advancements in terms of gender in the UNFCCC process on the one hand, and a stagnation or even deterioration of the overall process on the other hand.