

PULSO AMBIENTAL

POLITICAL AND DEBATE JOURNAL

Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales | www.farn.org.ar |      /farnargentina

#16/MARCH 2021

WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The synergy of two movements which, though stemming from different beginnings are based on the same premise: neither women nor the land are territories for conquest.



Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Andrés Nápoli

DIRECTORS

Ana Di Pangrazio

Pía Marchegiani

Jazmín Rocco Predassi

GENERAL EDITING

Estudio REC

COLLABORATORS

Amelia Arreguín Prado

Ana Julia Gómez

Georgina Sticco

Julia Cuadros Falla

Marisol Andrés

Mora Laiño

Río Feminista

Sofía Nemenmann

Tara Daniel

Vivienne Solís Rivera

The content of this publication
does not necessarily reflect
FARN's position.

DESIGN

Cucha Estudio

CONTACT

FARN – Fundación Ambiente y
Recursos Naturales.

Sánchez de Bustamante 27.

Piso 1° (C1173AAA)

CABA – Argentina

www.farn.org.ar

prensa@farn.org.ar

FOLLOW US

ON OUR NETWORKS

[/farnargentina](https://farnargentina.org)



This edition of Pulso Ambiental is possible
thanks to the support of **Fundación Böll**.

This English version is possible thanks to
the support of the Programme Wetlands
Without Borders, funded by **DOB Ecology**
and the Territories, environment and
extractivism Programme of **Fundación Böll**.

CONTENT

04 Considering and Politicizing the Relationship of Women with the Environment, a Key Step towards Gender, Environmental and Social Justice

By **FARN**

08 The Power of Movements: from Pressure to Social Change

By **Georgina Sticco**

10 Approaching the Energy Sector from a Gender Perspective: Challenges to a Fair Transition

By **Mora Laiño**

13 A View of Women and the Environment from Central America

By **Vivienne Solís Rivera**

18 The Glass Ceiling in the World of Science

By **Marisol Andrés**

20 Women in the Convention on Biological Diversity

By **Amelia Arreguín Prado**

22 UNFCCC and Women in the Climate Change Agenda

Por **Tara Daniel**

25 Impacts of Extractivism on Latin American Women

By **Julia Cuadros Falla**

29 Environmental Networks headed by Women

By **Ana Julia Gómez, Río Feminista** and **Sofía Nemenmann**





WOMEN IN ACTION

Vivera Organica is a cooperative comprised of 14 women who work in a nursery garden in Rodrigo Bueno, City of Buenos Aires. They provide the people of their neighbourhood organic vegetables and sell all kinds of plants to the general public. Besides providing quality food they focus on recuperating native flora.

Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).

EDITORIAL FARN

Considering and Politicizing the Relationship of Women with the Environment, a Key Step towards Gender, Environmental and Social Justice

The fact that we live in an unjust world is nothing new. Just to give one example, **Latin America and the Caribbean, despite having undergone strong economic growth in the last decades, continues to be the region with the highest levels of inequality.** What is the explanation? **A model based on intensive exploitation of environmental goods** that negatively impacts the most disadvantaged sectors of society, **while distributing profits among a few privileged hands.**

The appropriation of nature “for export”, a strategy through which the region seeks to enter an increasingly competitive and specialized global market, **not only accelerates climate change, encroaching on biodiversity indispensable for sustaining life itself,** but also **particularly impacts groups that are already in a vulnerable position,** such as indigenous communities and local, peasant, traditional communities, both in rural and urban areas.

Those that have the least resources to face a climate and ecological emergency are the ones who bear the brunt of the impact of the prevailing development model which, besides affecting the environment, **affects their health, their resources and quality of life.**

Added to this, the model’s impacts differ among men and women. This is due to aspects related mostly to

the disadvantaged position the latter, find themselves in, both from a historical and cultural perspective, both inside their family nucleus and in the community they belong to.

Women simultaneously fulfill different roles that society usually does not value nor afford visibility. Among them, we can highlight their role in reproductive tasks and caregiving, in economic or production activities, as well as their social participation in the community, meaning the different instances in which they are publicly involved.

Historically, women have cared for their families and homes, fed and looked after their children as well as the sick and elderly. They have also been responsible for producing food, fetching water and gathering materials to generate energy (Fish, J. et al 2010). **This unpaid work, that currently continues, typically takes up most of their day, a circumstance that nowadays, combined with professional, technical and productive work, results in long daily hours of work.**

Likewise, in any given society, women participate in a variety of economic activities related to the goods and services production model, and in the generation of knowledge. But in doing so they face disadvantages: **they have less access to the land and resources, to credit, to education, to training opportunities and to**



information and technologies (UN, 2019). When they do manage to enter the job market in the same positions as men, their income is lower. **The salary difference stemming from gender is, worldwide, estimated around 23%** (UN Women, 2016).

The insufficient representation of women in decision making processes of different types, particularly environmental, and the paucity of gender disaggregated data (Environment and Gender Information) perpetuate the lack of awareness while keeping certain roles, interests and priorities invisible, concealing women's valuable contributions, and ultimately increasing inequality.

The last part of the 19th century through the 20th Century is a period of fundamental struggles with significant achievements (in political participation, education and work inclusion, access to health, among other), although we cannot rule out attempts to set back those achievements. But with respect to **adopting the gender perspective regarding socioenvironmental issues, not until the seventies, last century**, was significant progress achieved. (Lambrou's & Laub, 2004).

Up till that point in history, when feminist and environmentalist movements began to converge, the agendas and regulations regarding women's rights and environmental protection always moved forward in a parallel manner, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean, but also in the rest of the world.

This convergence was essential in (beginning to) reveal the various points these two movements, feminist and environmentalist, have in common. Despite their differences and their different perspectives, **they seek to lay bare the consequences of the prevailing perspective regarding the economic, social and cultural reproduction system, while, at the same**

The fusion of movements, which had originated and developed in a parallel manner, brought new meaning to the way in which we consider and politicize the relationship between women and the environment. Although it cannot be addressed as a homogeneous issue, it is very closely associated with culture, access to and availability of natural goods and, unfortunately, marked by violence.

time, aim at deconstructing this prevailing focus to allow for other alternative perspectives. Thus, while environmentalism seeks to call our attention to the way humanity encroaches on nature striving for development within ecosystem limits, feminism tries to deconstruct cultural parameters that put women in a disadvantageous position, to the point of putting their lives at risk, in extreme cases.

The aspiration is, in this sense, **to overcome men's narrow, and constricting, perspective as the representation and measure of all things, as the decision maker in all matters concerning the alleged "development" of society, without concern for the bodies and territories that will be sacrificed** in pursuit of the desired "progress" paradigm.

This fusion of movements, which had originated and developed in a parallel manner, **brought new meaning to the way in which we consider and politicize the relationship between women and the environment.** Although it cannot be addressed as a homogeneous is-



WOMEN IN ACTION

Women who work in the Ecopark
of the City of Buenos Aires (former Zoo).

Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).

sue, for it depends on the characteristics and history of the territory where they live, it is in all cases very closely associated with culture, access to and availability of natural goods and, unfortunately, marked by violence.

Recent studies (IUCN, 2020) show that **the destruction of nature often leads to gender-based violence**, which includes sexual assault, domestic violence and forced prostitution. **Competition for increasingly scarce and degraded resources exacerbates this situation, that has been highlighted lately by the COVID-19 pandemic**, the impact of which has been uneven and more severe on vulnerable sectors of society, particularly among women, girls and adolescents.

According to the World Health Organization, **during months of lockdown**, there was an **increase in domestic and sexual violence**, to the extent that women have had to live confined with their batterers and rapists. In fact, **in Argentina alone**, the United Nations and European Union Spotlight initiative registered a **39% increase in requests for help due to gender-based violence** at a national level.

Criminalization of protest is another aspect to examine, in so far as **it targets women activists, who defend the environment and their communities' rights, on account both of their gender** and, latterly, their increasing prominence as leaders of diverse movements. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), **this region is, second to Africa, the most life-threatening in the world for women. And it continues to be the deadliest for environmental defenders**, according to Global Witness data.

The fact that our destruction of the natural world can spawn violence against women, a connection that, for the most part, has been overlooked, **goes to show the importance of addressing these issues jointly**. In short, we must continue to call for structural changes in the current development model in order to attain one with environmental and social justice, that respects human rights – including women's and girls' rights – and is aimed at reverting the prevailing ecologic and climate crisis.

Actions are needed on the social, economic and environmental fronts **to achieve responsible human development**, and women are essential to progress in every area due to their singular experience and perspectives. **Each activist, each specialist and each decision maker, both publicly and privately and at all levels, will have to place these issues on the agenda**, increasing their visibility and sustaining it in the long run, hand in hand with commitment, accountability, as well as continuing education and awareness.

Without a broad, inclusive and interdisciplinary perspective it will not be possible to attain environmental regulations and public policies with a gender perspective that recognize women as individuals capable of proposing mechanisms aimed at making this a more just world in harmony with nature. Thus, in this edition of Pulso Ambiental **we intend to highlight how the current development model increasingly shows its limitations; both from the environmental and the social aspect which includes women's rights agenda**.



The issue includes a series of articles as a diagnosis of the situation, from the rise of the feminist and environmental movements, that first moved forward in a parallel manner but later converged, to the difficulties and challenges in sectors associated with main environmental agendas. The texts also address the famous “glass ceiling” - the barrier for women at work and in other spheres - as well as the encouraging measures recently adopted, besides the strong mobilization of youth in which a majority of participants are women, and the progress and opportunities that arise for women’s rights within the framework of global climate change and biodiversity negotiations.

Finally, we present some of the many women’s networks that have arisen recently at local, national and regional levels. These drive the necessary interlinkages of human rights with environmental and women’s agendas, to evidence the many grievances yet to be settled and provide a much broader and more inclusive perspective: the one the world needs in order to understand that **social justice is not and will not be possible without gender justice, climate justice and environmental justice.**

**Georgina Sticco**

Cofounder and director of Grow – Género y Trabajo.

The Power of Movements: from Pressure to Social Change

We live in a world ridden by structural inequalities which have been ignored and forgotten through the ages. But the increase in social awareness opens the way to new opportunities in which the acquisition of rights leads to their ownership. The convergence of the environmental and feminist agendas broadens these rights enabling a new, fairer and more equitable outlook.

Throughout history women have struggled to make more visible the inequalities they face due to their gender. However, their struggles started to gain momentum towards the end of the 19th Century when the increase in men's rights was conducive to discussion and reflection on the role of women in society. Thousands of years went by until those who hold power began to grant women a shadow of the rights they had forever held. The 20th Century will be remembered as a period of struggles, with progress but also with setbacks, for acquired rights can be lost. Political participation, their inclusion in education and the job market, and women's access to health, represent the main bastions of this struggle for autonomy to define and fulfill their life project.

SYNERGY IN THE STRUGGLE

Between 1960 and 1970, when the second wave of feminism was unfolding (according to other authors it is the third), another movement, that would begin to raise awareness with respect to the environment, was brewing. Inspired mainly by Rachel Carson's work, the ecologist movement (also known as "green" or "environmentalist") arose. In her book *Silent Spring* (1962), the biologist warns about the harmful effects of pesticides on the environment and holds the chemical industry accountable for contamination.

The environmental movement, which since its inception promotes environmental education, conservationist public policies and denounces non-envi-





 Credit: Lucila Bonardi.

mentally responsible initiatives, did not take long to articulate with the feminist movement. Thus, arose different aspects that would discuss the role of women with respect to nature, such as “ecofeminism,” “women and the environment” and “gender, environment and sustainable development”. The theories that analyze the relationship of women with the environment and with men range from an approach that associates them with nature -as caregivers and therefore, essential in the fight against environmental degradation- to another point of view oriented to more social perspectives derived from socialism and Marxism. Under these perspectives, the way gender driven division of labour and of unpaid caregiving work results in unequal access to productive resources and decision making, is examined.

This convergence of the feminist and environmentalist movements has been key to making visible the importance of adding an crosssectional gender approach to environmental issues, overcoming the androcentric perspective that considered men as the measure of all things and a global representation humanity. The way Man interacts with nature depends on gender, class, ethnicity and among other factors, sociocultural standards in each country. Otherwise, it would be impossible to explain why women are the

main victims of climate change and the ones who have less access to land.

Without this perspective, women will continue to be relegated to mere spectators of a change and a conversation to which they have not been invited. In 2021 this cross reading among feminisms and the environmental movement continues to be crucial and relevant, not only because it manifests the wide range of grievances that have yet to be resolved, but also because it provides a more comprehensive view. Both environment and gender issues are within a system of power relations, sustained and legitimized by a group of privileged people, who have access to multiple resources and who decide not to stop to consider these agendas, or if they do, don’t manage to understand them.

Without an interdisciplinary perspective it will be impossible to achieve gender-based environmental public policies and strategies, that recognize women as individuals capable of proposing mechanisms aimed at sustainability and which, ultimately, achieve that purpose. Maintaining this overarching agenda requires commitment and every public and private institution, as well as every specialist or activist, must assume their co-responsibility to promote it and keep it current.



**Mora Laiño**

Bachelor's degree in Communications (UBA), Masters in Environmental Management specializing in Gender.

Approaching the Energy Sector from a Gender Perspective: Challenges to a Fair Transition

Energy transition is at the very centre of political agendas within the framework of the climate crisis issue. Along these lines, various studies explore the sector in terms of gender, from different thematic, conceptual and methodological approaches, under the challenge of recognizing the inequalities in order to transform them.

In spite of the gaps in our knowledge and the limitation of official data sources, research on how the network of structural inequality and gender-based division of labour impacts the way different social groups experience energy poverty (EP) is under way. EP is the impossibility of homes to consume the adequate level of energy necessary to meet their social and material needs, with modern technologies. According to Boardman (1991), if a household spends more than 10% of the monthly family income on energy, that household is considered energy poor.

The analysis undertaken by Duran (2018) in *Apuntes sobre pobreza energética. Estimaciones para Argentina, años 2003-2018* (Notes on energy poverty. Estimates for Argentina 2003-2018) considers that, in this country, the proportion of women in charge of

households that are energy poor, during the period reviewed, was between 50% to 60%. As EP declines, the proportion changes, affecting more households represented by women. This would indicate that the hard core of energy poor households in Argentina is represented mostly by women (Duran, 2018). Other studies, such as Caruana and Mendez's *La pobreza energética desde una perspectiva de género en hogares urbanos en Argentina*, (Energy poverty from the gender perspective in urban households in Argentina), published in 2019, explores the incidence of urban household EP in Argentina on the distribution of time and gender-based division of chores, taking into consideration two key dimensions: access to modern, reliable energy services and to basic economic goods which facilitate energy consumption (Caruana and Mendez, 2019).





Housework and unpaid caregiving have historically been feminized as a result of gender-based unequal distribution and the replication of roles and stereotypes socially constructed in relation to the home and caregiving. In Argentina, on average, women devote almost twice as much time to these chores: 6.4 hours a day compared to 3.4 by the men. Thus, activities derived from EP such as gathering wood and water, washing clothes by hand or cooking are considered typically feminine due to their association with the domestic sphere.

Beyond the fact that EP is considered at the household level and not individual level, by cross-referencing data from different sources – National Census 2010, Annual Survey of Urban Households and National Survey on Social Structure – we can estimate that the higher the EP level, the more hours are put into housework and unpaid caregiving, chores that fall mainly on women. In this sense, Seema Arora-Jonsson (2011) cautions studies on the sector not to fall into the trap of the essential analytic approach that rambles between two positions, exclusively: women as vulnerable victims or virtuous custodians of the environment.



Colonia Dora, Santiago del Estero.

Credit: Ariel García Giménez @arielgarciafotografo.





Activities derived from energy poverty such as gathering wood and water, washing clothes by hand or cooking are typically considered feminine due to their association with the domestic sphere.

GENDER STEREOTYPES AND THEIR IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

Another way to approach the energy sector from the gender perspective is to examine how gender stereotypes work in a traditionally masculine environment and to study their impact on the job market.

In Argentina only 18% of jobs in the generation, transmission and distribution of energy are held by women (ECLAC, 2019). This implies that women are underrepresented in the energy industry. On a global level, the renewable energy subsector employs more women than the oil, gas and coal industry – 32% and 22% respectively. However, 45% work in administrative areas, while only 6% are in technical positions and less than 1% in high management positions (IRENA, 2019). Thus, traditional stereotypes, which associate technical activities and the use of logic thought with the masculine world, are sustained and replicated. Lack of access to, and permanence of women in, science and technology, under the stereotyped belief that these belong to the masculine domain, translates into barriers for women's entry into "green jobs". As an example, in Argentina only 33% of women, as opposed to 67% of men, signed up as students, both in public and private universities, in these fields of study, between 2010 and 2016.

In this regard, the mistake is to consider it enough to direct strategies towards a greater insertion of women in traditionally masculine educational fields of study, without modifying the masculine logic that rules them. In these fields, skills that appear to be "naturally" masculine, such as logical thought rather than reflection and empathy, are prioritized. The same can be said with respect to technical solutions anchored in efficiency rather than cooperation and the common good, leading to mechanisms of segmentation, that undervalue and fail to recognize talents traditionally considered feminine.

These approaches to the energy sector in terms of gender, far from considering it in its merely technical aspects, out of context, or under the guise of neutrality, aim at addressing the issue from the angle of its social implications. This means understanding it within the framework of gender equality and access to rights so that policies guide the way to a fair energy transition which does not turn its back on historic inequities.





Vivienne Solís Rivera

Vivienne Solís Rivera, biologist (Universidad de Costa Rica), Masters in Systems and Ecology (Lawrence University, United States of America), member of CoopeSoliDar R.L. (www.coopesolidar.org).

A View of Women and the Environment from Central America

The contribution of women and their organizations to conservation and sustainable use of environmental and cultural biodiversity is essential. For this reason, it is imperative to acknowledge their contribution and respect their rights when establishing strategies for environmental conservation.

The consequences of environmental degradation in Central America are more evident and salient for poor people – a situation that can be extrapolated to all Latin America – particularly for women in rural and marine-coastal areas. However, in such an environmentally and culturally diverse region, we cannot consider all women homogeneously because the territories they inhabit differ greatly in so far as their characteristics and histories. Therefore, this is the first important element to bear in mind when we review their relationship with environmental matters.

Added to this diversity, the second relevant element is the lack of gender-differentiated information, due to which there is much we do not know about some sectors. For example, we know more about indigenous women or women in agriculture than about fisherwomen, which in turn leads to different levels of exclusion and lack of visibility.

The third element for consideration is that the development model in which they are immersed is exclusive, inequitable and puts economic interest before other interests of a social or cultural nature. It does



not acknowledge the rights of sectors, such as indigenous women, local communities, coastal, marine and riverside territories or forests, among other, which contribute to conservation and development. This has been described in the recent study undertaken by CoopeSoliDar R.L., the ILO and the INAMU on the condition of fisherwomen in Costa Rica (CoopeSoliDar R.L., 2020).

But, despite of their lack of visibility and poverty, the territorial reality and fieldwork clearly evidence that the contribution of women and their organizations to conservation and sustainable use of cultural and environmental biodiversity are essential. Besides, if they were appropriately acknowledged and valued, the region would be more advanced in this respect.

The relationship of women with environmental affairs has evolved over generations and is closely linked to culture, access to and availability of natural resources. For many generations women have been in charge of caring for their families and homes, of



Mollusk gatherers' knowledge fosters conservation of areas for protection and sustainable use of these species which are typical of Latin America's mangroves.

Credit: Poro Studio/CoopeSoliDar R.L., 2020.

feeding them, taking care of the children, the elderly and the sick. They have also been in charge of producing food, working with farm animals, fetching water and, in many cases, of gathering wood for fire. They have fulfilled and continue to fulfill not only their roles in the home but also thanks to their productive, technology and environmental contributions, the majority of women work twice or three times the hours of a normal working day.

On the other hand, women continue to have less access to land, credit, education and technology. Added to this, they work longer hours and their access to resources is restricted because their work is not formally recognized.





In order for women to better contribute to management and sustainable use of biodiversity resources, allowances should be made for developing public policies based on real and concrete experience, under fair and equitable participation conditions.



Women, like this Costa Rican Caribbean fisherwoman, face double and triple working hours.

Credit: Poro Studio / CoopeSoliDar R.L, 2020.



STRATEGIC ACTIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD

Traditional knowledge: Women's knowledge of medicinal properties and sustainable management of resources are vital to progress measures for the conservation of animal and plant species, both at the continental and marine level, and for maintaining the resilience of communities in rural territories and marine coastal areas all over the planet.

Food safety: the COVID-19 pandemic made clear the importance of self-sustaining and highly nutritious food systems. In this sense, women are knowledgeable regarding food and seeds of great value for sustainability and resilience in the mid and long term. Their contribution to measures for adapting to climate change is essential and should be researched and systematized.

Leadership and collective action: Women's competence and organization when acting collectively are essential characteristics for progress at the community and societal level. Their actions in conditions of environmental emergencies, vis a vis climate change or struggles for the common good, have been good examples for collectively building a development model that ensures environmental sustainability.

It is imperative therefore to fairly and equitably distribute profits, acknowledging the contribution of women and girls, throughout the production value chain, in science and in knowledge generation, as well as acknowledging lifestyles that link climate change and food safety, health and wellbeing. Environmental conservation will not be achieved while women's rights are not respected.



ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE FAIR AND EQUITABLE VISIBILITY OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION

In order for women to better contribute to management and sustainable use of biodiversity resources, allowances should be made for developing public policies based on real and concrete experience, under fair and equitable participation conditions.

Women's autonomy over natural resources should take place within the framework of human rights in biodiversity conservation: they should be subjects of land possession rights, of their territorial autonomy - in the case of indigenous women - and have a voice in governance of their territories to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

An agenda that clearly states the need for deep structural changes and transformations in the current development model must be established; one that reminds us of our inescapable obligations to respect human rights and the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, that has comprehensive objectives and indicators which evidence the appropriate balance among economic, social and environmental matters. The unavoidable hard core of this agenda or global agendas should be social and ecologic justice, including the rights and empowerment of women and girls who must be at the centre of the sustainable development of our planet.



Vivienne Solis and Deyanira Rodriguez, a clam gatherer from the Cabuya community, share knowledge in the field.

Credit: Poro Studio/CoopeSoliDar R.L, 2020.

At the end of the road, or rather at the beginning of the same, as stated in the Ministerial Declaration of the II World Water Forum, "the best approach to protect ecosystems of the world is to ensure the involvement of women in the comprehensive planning of Earth's water and land resources" and we should add "as well as in its implementation". More than 20 years later, the same question is raised: what are we waiting for in order to effectively recognize gender equality and women's and girls' rights as fundamental elements of any strategy aimed at environmental conservation?



WOMEN IN ACTION

The Almacoop cooperative takes care of logistics and distribution of agroecological food bags in Buenos Aires city.

Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).

**Marisol Andrés**

Communications Coordinator and Researcher in Grow – Genero y Trabajo.

The Glass Ceiling in the World of Science

The employment inequality that women face means that only a minor percentage of them reach leadership positions. The academic sector is no exception. In Argentina, despite being the majority, female researchers do not tend to hold senior positions, that is to say their professional development has a glass ceiling.

The “glass ceiling” metaphor disseminated by UN Women refers to how the participation of women decreases as one moves up the hierarchical ladder, which in turn goes to evidence they are infrequently present in management, high profile positions and company boards. A few statistics tell of this situation in Argentina:

- Considering the economically active population, 45.8% of wage-earners, 38.7% of the self-employed, 27.4% of those in leadership positions and 33.5% of those in management are women (INDEC, EPH 2nd quarter 2020).
- Only 27% of enterprises in the country have women CEOs (Grant Thornton, 2020).

This can be due, on the one hand, to the low presence of women in certain sectors (construction and transport, among other), a fact that will make it statistically less probable for them to reach positions of

greater responsibility. On the other hand, even when their participation is considerable, they do not attain higher positions owing to structural inequality that has made it more difficult for women to access, remain in and move up in the job market.



Women do not attain senior positions owing to structural inequality that has made it more difficult for women to access, remain in and move up in the job market.





 Credit: Lucila Bonardi.

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD OF RESEARCH?

According to data published by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCyT) only 14% of the authorities of science and technology bodies are women. Added to that, they are underrepresented in all management positions (13% of principals are women and 33% of deputy principals are women).

These statistics are similar when we take a look at the academic career of female researchers. Despite the fact that only 29% of researchers worldwide (UNESCO, 2018) are women, in Argentina there are more women than men in research (59.5% vs. 40.5%). Once again, the problem is in the positions they hold.

In the CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council), for example, 54% of researchers are women, of which 42% reach the level of senior researcher and only 25% reach the highest level. That is to say we can see the glass ceiling as women move up in their academic careers.

The “glass ceiling” is a consequence of current structural inequality in society, in which gender roles, and both our own expectations and those of others, hamper women’s possibilities of promotion.

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

In June 2020 the MINCyT established a National Program for Gender Equality aimed at “guaranteeing real and effective participation of women and the LGTB population in the scientific-technological system”. Among the steps it has taken, it highlights measures adopted by different institutions.

The CONICET, for example, allows research grants to be extended for the same period as adoption and maternity leave (2010), and submittal of annual reports can be extended for the same reasons (2011). Added to this, since 2016 the institution endorses events in which there is gender representation.

Given the current situation of inequality, the different institutions in society must recognize that women have the right to develop professionally, and commit to take measures that increase their possibilities of promotion.

**Amelia Arreguín Prado**

General Director of Eco Maxeí Queretaro A.C.

Women in the Convention on Biological Diversity

The CBD recognizes women and girls for their contribution to biodiversity conservation, but their priorities and contributions are not reflected within the Convention framework. In order to revitalize their role, representatives from different organizations and community networks comprise the CBD Women's Caucus and collectively advocate their rights.

The relationship of women and girls with nature, particularly with biodiversity, is determined, mostly, by gender roles. Typically, the assumption is that their mandate is reproduction and caring for both the human species and the rest of living creatures, as well as the land. However, they are denied access to other activities such as land ownership and decision making, also due to gender-based reasons. In the face of this context, it is imperative to guarantee their full participation in the use, control, and access to biodiversity, as well as their fair share of the benefits it provides humanity, considering gender justice a prerequisite for environmental justice.

THE CBD WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Since 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes the vital role of women in biodiversity conservation, but women's priorities and contributions are not reflected within the Convention framework. However, since 2016 representatives of women's organizations and community networks comprise the CBD Women's Caucus to collectively advocate their rights in the Convention's work. The

Women's Caucus has generated in person and virtual conversations with multiple players and has focused on strengthening women's leadership so they can participate in negotiations and in reviewing biodiversity political instruments, at a national and international level. They do so through concrete instruments such as the CBD Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The GAP integrates gender perspective in CBD work. Publication of tools and directives, support for women to attend official Convention meetings, training workshops with experts and codesign of an online course are some of the results achieved through their implementation.

However, it is important to point out that a long list of obstacles still stands in the way of gender equality in biodiversity management and governance. Thus, since 2018, the commitment and contributions of the Women's Caucus have been unquestionable; we have consistently participated in all virtual and in person proceedings so that the Post 2020 Gender Action Plan and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are developed considering gender justice a cross sectional axis.





CBD Women's Caucus at COP 14 - Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2018.

Credit: Gadir Lavadenz.

IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

By mandate, any decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) must be implemented, by CBD member states, in their domestic policy through Strategies and NBSAPs, but a review undertaken in 2020 revealed that only 76 of 170 NBSAPs referenced gender or women. A closer look at those references evidences the lack of concrete policies to develop gender equality in this sector. In order to revert this reality, the Women's Caucus confers directly with representatives of each country regarding the importance and urgency of articulating women's and girls' needs and contributions in the design of national and local policies concerning biodiversity.

Integrating women's voices in the decision-making process and distribution of profits is the necessary step to build a more equitable society, together with biodiversity management and conservation both culturally and ecologically appropriate, as an alternative to the development model based on extractivism. To



The CBD Women's Caucus has initiated conversations with a variety of actors and strengthened women's leadership so they can participate in negotiations and in reviewing biodiversity policy instruments.

this end, the CBD Women's Caucus works at the international level and bilaterally with some countries for recognition of women and girls as individuals essential for the solution of the biodiversity crisis.





Tara Daniel

Programme Manager at Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO). She supports WEDO through working with the Women Delegates Fund, the Women Demand 'Gender Just' Climate Finance program, and the Women and Gender Constituency.

The UNFCCC and Women in the Climate Agenda

It was only at the beginning of the 21st century that the first steps were taken to include the gender perspective within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with the gradual incorporation of women in their different spheres. But the effective participation of women in decision-making related to the environment remains a debt.

The first mentions of gender in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were in 2001, through a standalone decision promoting the participation of women and guidance that gender equality be incorporated into national adaptation programmes of action. These two inaugural references presaged many decisions dominated by the themes of gender balance in decision-making and women in adaptation.

Though notably the next explicit mention of gender was not until 2009—the same year the Women and Gender Constituency, one of nine observer groups to the UNFCCC, was established—gender featured in the negotiations nearly yearly from then on. Decisions increasingly reflected approaches of gender mainstreaming and the importance of gender equality as a goal, not only the gender balance of decision-making bodies, while the areas of the negotiations in which

gender was recognized as relevant expanded to include mitigation, technology, capacity-building, and others. In 2015, the preamble to the Paris Agreement embedded within it a vital realization of gender equality as integral to climate action.

LIMA WORK PROGRAMME ON GENDER

Now with over 80 gender mandates integrated in UNFCCC decisions, attention has primarily turned to the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) adopted in 2019. Building from the LWPG first adopted in 2014 and the 2017 GAP, this decision both captures an understanding of gender within climate policy and establishes a roadmap of actions that demonstrate the magnitude of the gaps to be addressed.



First, the Parties detail key ways in which gender is vital and relevant to climate action, including referencing the imperative of a just transition, the connection between gender-responsive implementation and climate ambition, and the alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, the Parties recognize “that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals.”

This fundamental assertion is the more powerful for recognizing the ways in which women are not fully and meaningfully participating, which the GAP calls out with various activities, from capacity-building and travel support for women negotiators to engaging women’s groups in climate policymaking and planning. Yet women make up less than 40% of Party delegates to the UNFCCC, with Heads of Delegation lagging even further behind, and the engagement of women’s groups in the first round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) was lacking, considering the lack of articulation of stakeholder engagement processes by many Parties and that only one-third of NDCs even mentioned women or gender. While the new and updated NDCs available at the beginning of December 2020 indicated some progress that could bode well for both the number of Parties that may reference gender in their new submissions and the robustness of that consideration, this integration into planning documents may not reflect realities on-the-ground.

With more than 80 gender mandates incorporated into UNFCCC decisions, the focus shifted to the improved version of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Plan of Action.

For effective and sustainable climate solutions to be enacted, they must center the voices and experiences of grassroots and Indigenous women; recognize intersecting identities and marginalization based on age, race, ethnicity, caste, education, geography, and disability, among others; and ensure gender equality is advanced. Yet less than 10% of climate finance flows to the local level, 1% of gender equality funding flows to local women’s organizations, and women’s groups are without direct access pathways to the major public climate funds. While the UNFCCC may establish a foundation that recognizes the importance of gender equality, Parties must create inclusive processes and pathways for engagement, leadership, and finance, and ensure policies and plans reach beyond a mention of women to designing, monitoring, and evaluating progress based on gender equality.

LIMA WORK PROGRAMME ON GENDER AND ITS PLAN OF ACTION AVAILABLE AT:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf#page=6



WOMEN IN ACTION

The cooperative “Nuevamente” participates in “Morón Verde”, a programme for the differentiated collection of recyclable waste in the municipality.

Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).



Julia Cuadros Falla

CooperAcción.

Impacts of Extractivism on Latin American Women

Throughout the region, extractive industries impact women and men differently, especially in indigenous communities. Throughout the different stages of mining projects, restrictions on participation of the feminine gender are evident as well as the lack of attention to their needs.

In an extractivist model, the economy of a country is highly dependent on intensive extraction of natural resources, mainly for export purposes. This implies a very low level of processing and, therefore, generates little added value. At the same time, intensive extraction of resources such as minerals and hydrocarbons has an alarming impact on the environment and directly affects the livelihood of communities that depend on those goods, deteriorating their quality of life and violating their rights. Thus, economic growth of Latin American and Caribbean countries, based on this model, generates exclusion, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

This is the context in which the COVID-19 pandemic broke out forcing our governments to take sanitary, productive, economic and fiscal measures that have

impacted the most vulnerable sectors of society, particularly women, girls and adolescents. During lockdown domestic and sexual violence increased and women were forced to live side by side with their batterers and rapists.

On the other hand, workers for companies that provide services to mining enterprises and oil and gas companies stayed, during their shifts, in the rural towns or settlements near mines or drilling fields, which led to the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases among residents and the ensuing collapse of local healthcare systems.



EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR DIFFERENT IMPACTS ACCORDING TO GENDER

The impact of extractive activities on men of indigenous communities in the areas of influence is different from the impact on the women and this difference varies according to the stage of the project's cycle. If the locals are consulted prior to granting concessions, only the men will be summoned as they, exclusively, are considered qualified representatives of the indigenous communities, (with the right to express an opinion and vote). Only with rare exceptions are indigenous peasant women landowners and, therefore, their opinion, needs, problems and interests are not considered.

When communities coexist with extractive activities, companies seek a "social permit" (which does not entail a legal permit but only seeks acceptance by the local community), and their patronage, based exclusively on economic profit generates a serious distortion in rural economies. Inequality gaps arise between communities as do conflicts within families, between families and different communities. Women are the big losers, for on entering this circle their workload increases.

Later, during the prospecting and construction stages, growth of local economies accelerates. Those who have more resources invest to produce goods and services that are purchased by extractivist industries and contractors: hotels and restaurants are built, laundries, pharmacies, hair salons, tailor's shops, are opened and banks open branches. This dynamic lasts two to three years. Women have more job opportunities but their salaries are lower than men's. Finally, in the production stage, there is a dramatic reduction in the number of workers employed by extractive companies, particularly unskilled labour, while highly specialized workers are hired. There is a considerable decrease in the number of women hired.



During the prospecting stage of mining there are more job opportunities for women, but their salaries are lower than men's; later during the production stage less women are hired.

WOMEN IN PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Prior consultation processes are flawed. First, more than 90 percent of women are not considered "qualified partners" and have no right to express an opinion or vote. Added to this structural problem, the consultation is with respect to irrelevant administrative acts after all licenses have been approved, at the beginning of operations.

In the citizen participation process, in information workshops and hearings, women do not participate based on the false assumption regarding their lack of information or experience to be able to voice their opinion in traditionally "masculine" matters. Neither the State nor enterprises promote their participation based on gender equality.

In the case of women from indigenous communities we must add other asymmetries, as technical information is provided in a standard Western format inappropriate for people from a different culture or whose culture is oral, with little schooling or who struggle to understand Spanish.



SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS AND CRIMINALIZATION OF PROTEST

Both in contexts of opposition to and of coexistence with extractive activities, socio-environmental conflicts arise. In response, States implement different strategies whose common denominator is criminalization of protest. Leaders, both masculine and feminine, are investigated, judicial proceedings in which companies become interested parties, are initiated against them.

Legislators allow formal agreements through which the police provide security to companies. The unfortunate outcome of this policy has been a number of

assassinations by the police, leaving women and their families totally unprotected. Social protest is also met with states of emergency that restrict people's rights such as the right to assemble, or freely circulate throughout the country.

In this context women are targeted by gender violence, both by the state and by companies. Staff members from the Community Relations departments threaten the lives of women leaders, directly or underhandedly, and unfortunately many defenders have been assassinated on commission, such as we saw in the case of Berta Caceres in Honduras.

OTHER POINTS FOR REFLECTION

1. Economic growth in countries dependent on extractive activities has not resulted in significant changes or in the decrease of poverty. In this context women continue to be poorer.
2. Social programs implemented by States, aimed at women through direct transfers, focus on regions where extractive activities have been planned, and have become a new factor for domination. Men violently seize women's resources by force.
3. Monetization of peasant economies has a perverse effect. The consumption of alcohol has increased as well as domestic and sexual violence.
4. Agricultural and farming activities are continuously abandoned resulting in food insecurity; only women tend to these needs. In areas where extractivism prevails chronic malnutrition and infantile anemia have increased.
5. Alongside extractive activities, populations grow in a disorderly fashion, basic services collapse, insecurity in cities, violence against women, alcoholism and sexual exploitation increase.
6. Public investment in mining is not aimed at solving development strategies but at meeting populist and patronage demands.
7. Income from extractivist activities is invested without a sustainable development outlook or long-term vision.
8. No public fiscal policies in the sector incorporate the gender approach, tax the better off or invest equitably, prioritizing women's needs and interests.
9. Extractive income distribution policies generate inequalities between territories that produce and those that do not. There is no equitable redistribution public policy with respect to those resources.



WOMEN IN ACTION

Women who work in the Ecopark of the City of Buenos Aires (former Zoo).

Credit: Bárbara Ciminari (@bciminari_ph).



Ana Julia Gómez

Environmental adviser. Professional in Strategic Education & Communication for Wellbeing. Specialist in collaborative processes to implement inclusive and transforming initiatives. Member of the LAC Women's Conservation Network.



Río Feminista

A network of women from the Parana Delta, united by their landscape, who fight for their territory and to build their communities. It is a part of Taller Flotante.



Sofía Nemenmann

Environmental activist. Co-founder of Río Santa Cruz Sin Represas (No Dams on the Santa Cruz River).

Environmental Networks headed by Women

Three examples of organizations comprised or headed by women which were established to protect the environment, are presented in this article. The first, Red de Mujeres en Conservación LAC (LAC Women's Conservation Network) is regional and in less than a year managed to recruit 900 members. On the other hand, Río Feminista is a project that drives Taller Flotante from Victoria, Entre Ríos, together with other organizations and people in the southern Parana river basin. Finally, Río Santa Cruz Sin Represas (No Dams on the Santa Cruz River) is an organization aimed at preventing construction of two major hydroelectric dams on the Santa Cruz River.

This issue of our journal focuses on women fully dedicated to defending the environment, who are involved in local, regional and global matters. Accordingly, in this article we present three organizations comprised and headed by women who make it quite clear that the

current development model is coming up against its own limitations. These limitations are not only ecological, but also social, and the gender issue is always at the forefront of the structural inequalities that have the greatest impact.

A NETWORK TO MATERIALIZE WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN CONSERVATION

By **Ana Julia Gómez.**
Red de Mujeres en Conservación, LAC.

On the 12th and 13th October 2019 I participated in the "Meeting of Women in Conservation" which took place prior to the III Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas (CAPLAC Lima, 2019). I am passionate about the importance of conservation for wellbeing, and its promotion through education and strategic communication. Up till that meeting I had not had the opportunity to interact with women strongly concerned about training and capacity building; production, reproduction and caregiving activities; violence, safety and validation and finally the enabling social context regarding conservation. All these issues were the focal points of our strategic Agenda as a network.

The strength of this process, which has been ongoing since 2015, brought about the consolidation of needs and voices in the powerful Joint Declaration of Women in Conservation at the closing of III CAPLAC, in the Governance Agreement and in the Agenda for Women in Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These documents are supported by specific participation spaces, in which the promoters have striven to be transparent and integrative through messages and calls that consolidated the LAC Network of Women in Conservation as a valid option in a violent regional scenario hit by the pandemic. In under a year, we obtained the support of one thousand signatures for the Declaration and we are now 900 formal members in what we define as a "network of diverse women, who have undertaken a serious commitment to enthusiastically collaborate in order to achieve gender equality within the sphere of nature conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean".

I am not naive. Roles, safety guarantees in protected areas, leadership positions or current rights to access in conservation circles, are defined by and for men of certain segments, in line with dominant stereotypes.

• Declaración Conjunta de Mujeres en Conservación •



Infographic with 4 key points of the Declaration of Women in Conservation (Lima, 2019).

Meanwhile, violence still confronts women and the diverse groups that seek to transform and innovate.

You are all invited to make a choice. For my part, I strongly foster concrete initiatives such as Celebrating Protected Areas (www.celebracionareasprotegidas.org), implemented through inclusion and equality, in which women are leaders, proving that we have always been there and that our outlook on conservation is essential.



WHEN THE RIVER RUNS FEMINIST

By **Río Feminista.**

Taller Flotante, the civil organization to which Río Feminista belongs, is a platform of projects related to the Islas (islands) territory. Its headquarters is in Victoria, Entre Ríos, and it combines work throughout the territory with project activation. As we tour the area encouraging gatherings and narratives, we promote performances about a collective emotional space which give new meaning to the territories. Along the way we bring onboard country women, teachers, cooks, artisans, fisherwomen, housewives, students, artists, vegetable growers, jam makers, who fill the feminine space with the river's voice.

We are organized, we produce, discuss, and validate delta women's place in society. Social constructs with respect to our roles and the fact that our chores and ideas are rendered invisible in a territory which, typically, is men's, underscored our need to dive into this Feminist River. We give things, places, moments and feelings new meanings, and politicize everything that accosts or mistreats our "pacha" (mother earth), 'the estuary.' Thus, we wove a feminist, antipatriarchal and antiextractive network. In Río Feminista, gender

identifications are the ways in which each one finds herself and tells her story. We collectively belong to a territory of mixed racial ancestry that spans 14,000 Km2. We inhabit this area, build the community and create relationships from the soul of the wetland.

During 2020 our "liquid territory" hit the news and that strengthened the action-thought-debate-creation that summon and entangle us. Río Feminista became stronger and the voices of the land were echoed outside, reaching the streets. From that strongpoint we asked who is stealing our river? and we organized a network of conversations. We used to hold meetings to draw up maps of our area, defend ourselves when our lands were scorched, and from predatory tourism, colonization of public lands and real estate developments, which trampled the island communities. We struggled to push the Wetlands Act through Parliament. We campaigned for ourselves, for all of us, before Parliament and the media. We analyze what is heading our way, and raise one united voice to speak out for the water lands. Striving, celebrating that the land-the river-the wetland and ourselves are but one same matter.



One of the Río Feministas's actions on public streets of Victoria, in the province of Entre Ríos. **Credit:** Lucía Affranchino.



UNITED FOR THE CONTINUED FREEDOM OF THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER

By **Sofía Nemenmann.**
No Dams on the Santa Cruz River.

In the province of Santa Cruz, a group under the leadership of women, is fighting to halt the construction of two mayor hydroelectric dams on the last unencumbered river of Patagonia in Argentina. This is the Santa Cruz River, which for years has been under the magnifying glass of extractivism and has generated the organization of ecofeminists, indigenous communities and leaders who have come together in a fight to stave off this new ecocide.

Rio Santa Cruz Sin Represas (No Dams on the Santa Cruz River) is a movement born out of urgency, established in 2013, with the aim of avoiding the destruction of the Santa Cruz River. One of its inspirations was the triumph of Patagonia Sin Represas (Chile) (No Dams in Patagonia), which managed to stop the construction of five mayor hydroelectric dams on the Chilean Baker and Cochrane rivers.

 Credit: Gastón Luna.



 Credit: Ignacio Otero.





As usual, with movements such as ours, when we started out there were very few of us, we used to meet in local bars that used to close specially to provide us the space, and we organized small meetings and tours. But, as the project progressed, people began to awaken and those six women who initially met in a café have now become a solid organization.

Our last intervention was at the Public Hearing which took place on the 2nd October 2020, on account of the electric wiring extension to connect two dams with the National Interconnection Argentine System (Sistema Argentino de Interconexion Nacional). The complex organization prior to the hearing required articulation among indigenous communities, political parties, NGOs and independent activists. It was a long, productive day which made quite clear the crushing opposition of civil society vis a vis this technologically obsolete hydroelectric project that threatens our territory. Not one single person, individually, had the initiative to protest against this ecocide.



26 activists crossing the Santa Cruz river in kayaks, within the framework of the International Fight for Rivers Day
Credit: Gastón Luna.

Energy demand in our country, job creation and the urgent need for foreign capital are some of the assumptions that underpin this project. These are the arguments put forward to sell us the most antiquated technology in energy matters under the guise of progress.






The Santa Cruz River continues to face threats. Despite the fact that both dams promoted by the National Government and financed by Chinese capital are already being built, the Santa Cruz river continues to fight this great battle, and as our song says "If the river is alive, the struggle will go on and on".

Let the rivers be free!





Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Sánchez de Bustamante 27. Piso 1° (C1173AAA) CABA – Argentina
www.farn.org.ar | prensa@farn.org.ar      /farnargentina