GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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2021
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1. Environmental Justice and Gender Equality

Are you a feminist?

Some people think twice before answering this question. However, if you agree that:

- Women have more obstacles in life and fewer rights than men.
- This inequality is not natural, divine or desirable condition, but rather results from the social order.
- And finally, if you want this inequality to be eliminated and men and women to enjoy fair redistribution of goods, congrats! You must be a feminist!

According to such a broad definition, a lot of struggles go under the umbrella of feminist ideology. People often speak about feminisms that accentuate different kinds of oppression. For example, socialist feminism mostly addressed economic inequality, while radical feminists fought against sexuality control. The branch of feminism that first concentrated on ecology in the 1970s is known as ecofeminism. This approach considered the connection between women and nature as something special, which later turned out to be an insufficient explanation. With time other directions emerged. They emphasized the intersection of different kinds of oppression and saw this relationship in terms of structure and social order. The expansion of ideology resulted in more diverse terms like “Gender and Environmental Justice”, “Critical Ecological Feminism”, “Feminist Environmentalism”, “Queer Environmentalism”, etc.

Feminists interest in environmental justice was no coincidence. One of the main reasons was dependence of the world economy on never ending growth. The existing economic order aims full exploitation of earth’s limited resources. Projects often destroy the environment in the name of economic development. A mining industry or large hydro are good examples as it destroys people’s houses and living environment, increases poverty, worsens people’s health, affects air and water quality, etc.

Climate change, environmental pollution and destruction of biodiversity (e.g., deforestation) affect the most vulnerable groups like the poor, women, children, elderly - in a disproportionate manner. The environmental destruction is entwined with the other forms of oppression such as the lack of resources, unfair redistribution, marginalization and violence.

Furthermore, in case of Climate Change, low income countries that contribute least to the destructive exploitation of earth resources, face greater danger. The environmental diseases associated with pollution account for over 9 million human deaths annually. At same time low- and medium-income countries make up the 92% of these fatalities. People, least involved in the decision-making process and bearing responsibility, suffer from the consequences most.

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1 ცხადაძე გ., 2014, ანტიფემინიზმი: უმეცრება, უპასუხისმგებლობა თუ ბრძოლა პრივილეგიების შენარჩუნებისთვის?
2 Margarita Estévez-Sá & María Jesús Lorenzo-Modia (2018) The Ethics and Aesthetics of Eco-caring: Contemporary Debates on Ecofeminism(s), Women's Studies, 47:2, 123-146
Ultimately, the children and future generations of the so-called developing world will confront the results of destruction\(^3\). Girls will suffer in this regard more. E.g., During the environmental hardships (natural disasters, scarcity of resources, epidemics) girls are more often forced to leave school than boys\(^4\). Therefore, it should not be surprising that schoolchildren and youth all over the world attribute more and more importance to environmental protection.

**Environmental justice exposes the environmental degradation and unfair distribution of the resources. It struggles for better present and future, for welfare and harmony with nature for all groups and generations.** This ideology recognizes that the earth’s resources and its ability to renew are limited. Therefore, it seeks environmental and social justice.

**Nowadays most feminists agree that the environmental destruction affects oppressed groups differently - brings more destruction and makes the struggle for justice harder.** Women make up one of the largest oppressed groups. In this handbook, we will speak about the intersection of environmental justice and feminism. This handbook addresses the intersection of environmental justice and feminism.

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2. Why and How Environmental Justice Intersects with Gender Equality

Figure 1 Intersection of gender equality and environmental justice
2.1. **Resources and the Rights to Ownership**

The relationship between environmental justice and gender equality is not so straightforward. It mainly stems from uneven access to resources. For example, women have less opportunities of ownership, education, healthcare, or political participation than men.

Many countries still prohibit women from owning, managing and inheriting land and house by law. According to the 2018 World Bank research in 39 countries out of 189 daughters cannot exercise the same inheritance rights as their male counterparts. In Georgia women can inherit by law, however, in the mountainous areas the 50% of population considers the property as male inheritance. Similarly, in Georgia women possess only the half of the real estate than men.

Abovementioned problem represents a significant factor during implementation and elaboration of different policies and projects. For example, when people are physically or economically resettled due to infrastructure projects or natural disasters, men are usually compensated for as property owners. In such cases women might lose the land and also the source of income e.g., during the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline men received land compensation which gave them a number of possibilities, for example allowing them to start the business. However, it created no opportunities for women. Moreover, it often devalued the unpaid work (food provision, house care) compared to male monetary income, even when the need for the housework increased.

Studies show that hydropower plants construction might lead to changes in family dynamics, increase alcoholism and domestic violence. Husband and family members might pressure a female owner of land or a female family member if they refuse to give up the property.

In case of forced displacement, it is harder for women to move far and migrate than for men. For example, in the 1980s people from the villages of Svaneti mountains were moved to the village Udabno due to the high avalanche risks. Although the economic situation got very bad since the 1990s, women have less possibilities to leave the village than their male relatives. Moreover, women suffer more from the lack of water and absence of recreational spaces due to their gender role. Since carework is considered as their responsibility and because of cultural expectations (e.g., they do not have cars, or cannot drive) they are unable to leave the village. Meanwhile men sometimes go back to their ancestors’ houses in Svaneti or/and seek jobs in

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6 Fidanka Bacheva, Manana Kochladze, Suzanna Dennis, 2006, Boom Times Blues, Big Oil’s gender Impacts in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Sakhalin, CEE Bankwatch Network Gender Action
the cities and regional centers. The right to property plays an important role as well. The land in Svaneti as well as the properties in Udabno belong to men.

Obviously, not all kinds of gender-specific environmental injustice is connected to access to resources. Another important problem is women’s limited participation in politics and decision-making process.

2.2. Female participation in Decision-Making Processes on Environmental Matters

As one of the Aarhus Convention signatories, Georgia is obliged by law to involve the public in the decision-making processes. According to the law of Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia, the decision should balance the environmental, social and economic interests of the State and the public during decision-making process regarding the strategic documents or activities which may have significant effects on the environment.

Public and private activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, human life and/or health, cannot be set in motion without mandatory environment impact assessment (EIA) and environmental decision. The decision issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture’s might allow the implementation of the planned project with certain conditions.

During strategic document’s (laws, policies, strategies) elaboration process so called strategic environmental assessment (SEA) should be drawn up. The procedure examines and generally forecasts potential impacts on the environment and human health arising from applying those strategic documents.

The Code of Environmental Assessment requires public involvement on early stages of the decision-making process on environmental matters.

Such regulations allow us to predict and reduce environmental and social risks and consequences of strategic document and/or project. However, when the environmental assessment is carried out insufficiently and inefficiently, disregarding people's complaints, the results can be devastating. This is especially evident in the sectors and projects that bear

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8 ტაბიძე ო. ო. ოხართულიშვილ გ. მღებრიშვილი ო. თბილიშვილი ო., 2019 ეკომიგრაციის გენდერული ასპექტები, საქართველოს ახალგაზრდული მწვანეები: თბილიში:


higher environmental and social risks (like extraction, power engineering, manufacturing industries, etc.)

**Meaningful public participation in EIA process is crucial. It provides the possibilities to understand activity impacts on vulnerable groups, including women, and reduce negative consequences and avoid risks.** Besides, EIA allows every person to exercise their rights and participate in environmental decision-making.

In Georgia, women often are excluded from the above-mentioned processes. This problem is largely determined by gender inequality and barriers women experience in politics. Women who carry the double burden of housework and jobs outside home often have no time to participate in public hearings. As a result, women are deprived of their right to environmental decision-making but have to bear the consequences more.

However, more female participation in the decision-making process does not ultimately mean they will fight for more environmental and women friendly policies. Moreover, in Georgia environmental justice is often seen as a topic “forced upon” top-down rather than the problem of the poor and deprived\(^1\). In most cases the interested parties (like business) intentionally disregard environmental issues. One of such examples is negligence of gender in EIA. In the next section we will discuss these problems.

### 2.3. Gender Assessment and Violence in Development Projects

**Gender assessment and risk prevention in extractive, infrastructure and development projects is not required by Georgian law.** One of the main challenges in these projects is the inflow of a large number of male workers. The work migration management is problematic and creates difficulties, especially for small or indigenous communities. As the practice proves, the implementation of such projects increases gender-based violence. In impoverished communities, it increases trafficking and prostitution. Monitoring of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project reveals the growth of prostitution in the cities like Tetritskaro and Akhaltsike, in some regions of Azerbaijan there are confirmed cases of trafficking. When a large number of men migrate in a region for work or transit, there is no social connection between local communities and the workers. The concentration of manpower, combined with poverty, creates solid grounds for the increasing prostitution and trafficking.

To avoid above described challenges women need to be involved in the decision-making processes, including environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). Overall, it is vital to strengthen the gender assessment component in EIA and define it at the legislative level.

\(^1\) Women Fund in Georgia (2017) Situation Analysis and Recommendations on Environmental Justice and Women’s Rights in Georgia (Phase I), Tbilisi, Retrieved November 13, 2020
http://womenfundgeorgia.org/Files/WF-Final-report_GE.pdf
**Real Life Facts**

In Adjara due to the local traditions and social and cultural context, women participation in the decision making processes, village programs planning and/or community meetings are limited. During Shuakhevi Hydropower plant construction process, this issue was not addressed as a part of ESIA. Consequently, the majority of women from affected communities did not participate in project public hearings. Men explained the lack of female participation due to “women’s inability to express their opinions freely”.

The project developer did not take any measures to ensure female participation in decision making. Shuakhevi hydropower plant project was funded by three international financial institutes (EBRD, IFC, ADB\(^\text{12}\)). Their safeguard policies require active female participation in ESIA process and gender impact assessment and risks reduction study.

Shuakhevi hydropower plant ESIA report briefly mentions women’s rights and gender equality problems in the region. Potential risk assessment never been prepared, that would also include the women’s access to property, water and other natural resources.

Meanwhile, during the Shuakhevi hydro construction women were inflicted. Their workload increased due to the problems in communities. The drilling and explosion without notice in landslide-prone Adjara, combined heavy machineries with uncontrolled movement, increased women’s worries. They had to take their children to and from school themselves.

The numerous water springs dried out because of the drilling and explosion. As a result, some villages do not have clean drinking water until now and women are forced to bring it from long distances.

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### 2.4. Healthcare

Healthcare is another sector where inequalities between men and women, rich and poor easily to be observed. Access to health care for women, especially in the Georgia’s periphery and the poor, is limited due to lack of infrastructure and high cost. Moreover, the Universal Healthcare system of Georgia does not cover women’s reproductive and sexual health costs. As a result, the needs of the female body are excluded from the healthcare system.

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\(^{12}\) EBRD - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, ADB - The Asian Development Bank, EIB - The European Investment Bank.
Obviously, it is not just women’s health and welfare that is threatened by the weakness of environmental regulations. Air pollution poses health problems in people of all races, ages and genders. However, the risks of pollution are different for women and men due to physiological differences and social causes. In case of environmental pollution, physiological differences make a woman more vulnerable. For example, in general, women have more fat in the body, which in itself is a risk factor, since environmental pollutants accumulate in adipose tissue.

A number of studies show that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and dioxins make women more prone to cardiovascular diseases, and specifically cervical diseases and breast cancer. Chemicals can damage the liver which leads to problems in the whole-body functions. **Almost all existing research underlines that chemical pollution impacts sex, and gender factors should be taken into account during studies.** There is a need for further research on this topic as well. Such studies are important to define safe standards for pollution.

Poverty constitutes an additional risk factor. **Poor women often do not have access to hygiene, proper nutrition, fresh air and water, safe fuels, medical services and housing. Consequently, poor women become more vulnerable to environmental pollution.**

**Real Life Facts**

The textile industry is one of the primary pollutants of the environment in the world. 80% of the people employed in the field are women. The production generates a lot of waste, fumes; it pollutes air, soil and water with various toxic substances. People employed in these factories are affected by pollution, be it microfiber, paints or chemical substances, most not even regulated by Georgian legislation.

The study of female employees in the sweatshops of Adjara has shown that women earn very little income (80-100 Euros a month) while working in tough conditions in terms of the workload, overtime and healthcare risks. The labour and environmental standards are weak, which, combined with limited access to healthcare creates extremely difficult lives for people employed or living in the area.

Other industries can cause pollution as well. One such example is Rustavi where the air pollution exceeds the country’s legal standards 3-4 times. Most of the pollution is caused by tiny particles PM2.5 and PM10. Within January-September 2020 there were 73 days when

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the air pollution in Rustavi exceeded the daily norm for PM10 (50mg/km3). Legislation, on the other hand, allows only 35 of such days during a year.

It is not surprising that the population of Rustavi relates to the deterioration of health to air pollution of the city by leading factories. Women have been actively involved in the civil activism platform “Gavigude” (“I can’t breathe”) that fights for improving the air quality of the city. A large share of women emphasizes the damage that air pollution causes to their health. “They often suffer from burning sensation in eyes, dry cough and lack of air. They fear the rise of oncologic illnesses and relate these problems to the factories. Majority of respondents complain about weak immune systems and allergies”15.

2.5. Domestic Labour

Apart from the physiological and healthcare related problems, environmental justice and gender equality are mediated by social factors and gender roles. Domestic labour constitutes an integral part of it. Despite their employment status outside of home, women are responsible for much larger share of domestic work than men. Due to their social role during domestic chores women require more water. Their communication with other people is more connected to their home and the surrounding area (like parks).

Meanwhile, society turns a blind eye to care work and domestic labour. Such invisibility turns it into women’s unpaid work. As women transform raw materials into for example food, they are more affected by the immediate damage. Since women take care of the elderly, children and sick they see the results of pollution on health, surroundings and oppressed groups much faster. However, it does not necessarily mean that they connect the burden of care work to environmental injustice.

Indoors air pollution is also related to domestic labour. It is mainly caused by using woods and manure for cooking and heating. Use of solid fuels for cooking and heating in Georgia is the leading risk factor for health especially for women and children. The problem is more prominent in the villages where 84% of the population use firewood as the main form of fuel. In general Georgia has the highest number of firewood and manure (46%), which is higher than the respective regional number (<5%) or global average (41%)16.

According to the World Health Organization 2018 report, 1.5 million people have died worldwide due to the indoors air pollution\textsuperscript{17}. The majority of these people were women and children as they cook food and spend more time at home. Respectively, as the examples of indoors air pollution show housework related gender roles bring together issues of healthcare, environment and gender equality.

2.6. Other Oppressed Groups

Aside from women, other oppressed groups such as ethnic minorities, refugees, eco migrants etc. are also vulnerable to environmental pollution. Similarly, due to the limited access to resources and decision-making process, living conditions, natural and human disasters the oppressed groups bear environmental damage more.

It is usually easier to see the relationship between environmental justice and oppressed groups like ethnic minorities, eco migrants, homeless when they live in places with scarce biodiversity, water and resources, and environmental pollution, where these linkages become more prominent.

In Georgia, the social-economic conditions, employment opportunities and environmental conditions vary dramatically between the village and the city. In addition, environmental justice challenges differ along the country e.g., it might be landslide in mountainous areas, air/water pollution in industrial towns. Similarly, various types of industry affect the environment and health in specific ways.

Since women do not live in segregated territories and are presented in different economic sectors, it is tricky to see the connection between environmental justice and gender equality at one glance. To understand interconnections, the women’s needs and status should be specified in accordance with circumstances. The questions should be set, and initiatives should respond the needs and interests of concrete women groups.

In the next chapter we will discuss women’s role in environmental activism. To make it simple, we can divide the struggle for gender equality and environmental justice in four sections: individual, community, civil and state levels.

\textsuperscript{17}World Health Organisation, 2018, Indoor air pollution, FactSheet, წლის დღეებში 17 გვარი დღე, 2020 https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health
3. The Struggles

3.1. The Individual struggles

At the individual level, women use traditional knowledge, innovations, practices daily, formulate collective initiatives for nature conservation, and at the same time resist prevailing profit-oriented practices, especially in the field of agriculture. These fights are often overlooked and not perceived as a fight. For example, in the regions, women are a significant force in ensuring food security locally, both through the cultivation of agricultural products (vegetables, orchards) and in the widespread use of non-timber (fruits, berries, grasses) products. The females collect seeds, bulbs, etc. of local varieties. Today, 70% of the world’s poorest people live in rural areas, while 40% of those employed in agriculture are women. It is interesting that this routine daily life of millions of rural women around the globe, is one of the major forces for preservation of local biodiversity and agrobiodiversity and leading directions towards sustainable development.
3.2. **The Community Struggles**

The community work involves initiatives to empower particular groups. For example, it could be the exchanging of any information, knowledge, experiences and skills within the community; such as making compost, and/or supply of some needed resources directly. e.g., an avalanche-affected village may need material and human resources to assist. Community work means discussing certain issues in a particular group, such as the environment and gender equality. Solutions may be different depending on the specific needs of the group. Training may be required in some areas, in many cases providing direct resources or assistance to access them.

During the community work, risks towards women should be assessed. The promotion of the stereotypes about the women’s role frequently deepens violence. According to a study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), threats, intimidation, and sexual violence (rape) are often used against environmental activist women to undermine their status within the community, increase family conflicts, and intimidate other women.

Despite that thousands of local women activists are fighting both in Georgia and worldwide for environmental protection. For example, in Svaneti, Magda Guledani, a pregnant woman, lay on the ground to stop heavy machinery movement used for construction a hydropower plant in the Mestia chala gorge. The construction posed threat to local environment and was the subject of litigation. The local activist halted it in such a radical way to prevent further confrontation between the local community and the police, and not to escalate violence.\(^\text{18}\)

3.3. **The Civic Struggles**

The struggles against problem at the community level can turn into a civil movement. Or, issues that affect the whole society in various degrees could create the basis for larger-scale activism. There is a close historical connection between the environmental protection and women in terms of civic activism. Women play most active roles in environmental movements around the world, including Georgia.

The struggles on civil society level include mobilisation of community groups, individuals and institutions with capacities to solve the problem. It can be the media, celebrities, activists, NGOs, associations, entrepreneurs, etc. For example, suppose particular threat arose in the community (land and traditional practices, including agriculture) and mobilized citizens, it could turn into a civic movement. The clear example is fight of local women around Namakhvani hydro to preserve traditional agricultural and local grape varieties. land clearing, agribusiness and big food estates, monocropping and heavy chemical input in agriculture not only ignore traditional crops and land use practices, it also requires high doses of pesticides and chemicals that have a negative impact on health and the environment. Therefore, it should

\(^{18}\) ნეტგაზეთი, გაიცანით 8 თვის იუნიურთ ლაით, რომელზეც ქალები ასაშენებლად მიიტანენ მეფის არ განსაზღვრა, 2 აპრილი, 2020, მოძიებულია 15 დეკემბერი, 2020 https://netgazeti.ge/life/264390/
not be surprising that farmer women are leading campaigns against large agribusiness companies, worldwide. E.g., the women in Europe and South America mobilising to achieve a ban on pesticide Roundup (Glyphosate), product of Monsanto. According to WHO, even small dose of it is carcinogenic, increases precedence of Parkinson disease, causing the defects of foetus among vertebrates. Glyphosate drastically impacts bees and increases their mortality, which is the major challenge for biodiversity protection and food security. 19.

In Georgia Glyphosate trade is not regulated. According to Friends of the Earth International report, glyphosate has been found in human urine tests across Europe, including in ones of Georgian citizens. The use of the glyphosate is allowed in EU till the end of 2022, despite initial decision to ban it fully by 2016.

The resistance movement against glyphosate has brought to the forehead significance of traditional cultures and farming practices, especially in women’s initiatives. In different countries of the world, including Georgia, women are the driving force offering and restoring traditional crops and organic products to local markets.

Women from different regions, are sharing knowledge and experience through informal connections and social networks in organic farming, establishing cooperatives. Such initiatives protect the environment, preserve traditional knowledge and practices related to agrobiodiversity. Involvement of women and highlighting the importance of such initiatives is essential to achieve sustainable development goals.

Although women usually are majority within environmental movements, it is still possible that men speak on behalf of this movement, including in Georgia. The women can also face a problem during employment in environmental structures. e.g., There are only five female rangers in Georgia. According to Salome Idoidze, the first female ranger, when she applied to the Agency for Protected Areas in 2012, they did not believe it. They thought that her application was a joke.

3.4. State and Gender Mainstreaming

The problem solution through legislative and state policy initiatives represents the best options for long term and systemic transformations. The local municipality represents the most critical mediator for political problems solutions. It brings community voices and needs to the government. Raising the issue on to the municipal level and finding allies in formal politics are first steps dealing with the problem on the legislative level. Incorporating a gender component into state or local political initiatives represents gender mainstreaming process. Feminists call for gender mainstreaming in various projects. Unfortunately, it is rarely integrated during the elaboration of legislative policies,

laws, strategies, programs or projects in Georgia. However, with support of different donor’s programs, some documents are assessed from gender prism both in case of policy/legislation documents, and planned infrastructural or other types of projects. The gender assessment tools should be established widely, as it enhances women’s political participation. E.g. Local civic groups need to be more proactive in mobilizing women for participation in case of planning or budgeting urban or rural initiatives. E.g. At rural meetings, women are often active, raising and prioritizing issues they need – renovation of kindergartens, water supply systems and etc.

An excellent example of successful gender mainstreaming in urban planning is the Austrian capital Vienna. It has been pursuing a gender-sensitive policy-making policy since 2000, striving for "positive socio-political change for all citizens". With this regards, it is essential to set gender goals within mobility policy, including the prevention of sexual harassment and violence in public transport by different means (cameras, driver training, etc.), as well as pavements for women in wheelchairs, shopping, etc., the establishment of infrastructure for elderly women on cemeteries, gender planning of new houses (shared storages for strollers, bicycles, indoor storage for washing machine and dryer, etc.), organizing kindergartens, grocery shops and etc. close with residential complexes, arranging grocery store spaces, etc. All of the initiatives implemented through extensive public hearing processes. Annually, citizens evaluate the City Hall public services’ performance from gender, social, ethnic and health perspectives.

Thus, individual, community, civic activism and practices influence state policy and vice versa. State decisions on regulations, laws and development projects directly or indirectly affect different settlements and society in general. In Georgia, as a rule, the state puts the interest of profit of the business above societal needs.

To change this position there should be permanent demand for research and gender assessment, as well as women and local public involvement in the decision-making processes regarding any initiative. Civic activism also has the function of raising awareness. Campaigns, meetings, protests, performances can be carried out at this stage. When working at the community and civic level, it is crucial to engage the media and collaborate with various actors (other movements, activists, celebrities).

Making connections between environmental and women's rights organizations and activists is essential for linking these two issues. The chances of success increases under the principle of "strength in unity" in addition to exchange of the resources, knowledge and experiences among and organizations. Many organizations may find this to be unnecessary headache, as coalition work requires more effort, but the resources invested can bring more long-term results.
To prevent the activists motivation often there are attempts of intimidation and use of stereotypes. Below you can found few common myths and arguments for contradiction.

**Some Myths:**

“No Need” - Environmental and women's organizations do not see the importance of gender inequality and environmental justice linkage. It could be considered as an unnecessary burden. Or to suppose that application of the efforts in another struggles is more needed.

"Too Late" - Gender equality or environmental protection projects may not be planned from the beginning with understanding linkages between those two. Connections between organizations and activists can be formed at any stage. **As long as it is not too late for the environment, it is not too late to introduce gender equality in environmental issues.**

"There is no time " - Incorporating environmental issues into women's rights initiatives or highlighting the issue of women in environmental projects complicates projects. Due to the lack of resources, this connection may not be possible. Therefore, allocating resources for linkages is necessary and important from the very beginning. This may include funding for additional projects, activities, hiring new staff, but it is especially important to connect with other organizations, activists, actors.

"Personal responsibility" - a feminist project focused on the environment should not become a personal and unnecessary responsibility of women. For example, waste distribution mainly affects women. When we teach them the distribution of waste or talk about less harmful distribution to the environment, we must take into account: That problem is not simply caused by the ignorance of women, nor will be solved simply by changing their behaviour. If the nearest dust bin is miles away, addressing this issue at the municipal level should be the first priority.

General cultural and social characteristics of a particular community play important role as well. E.g., the problem of water supply is more severe for women, as they do a large part of the domestic work. However, solving the water problem independently will not produce any results if the issue of redistribution of labour has not become a problem.
Figure 3 Levels of struggle

**Individual**

Daily labor and actions that challenge profit oriented practices.

**Community**

Empowering specific group, addressing their needs.

**Societal**

Civil movements address problems of the society. Historically, women are very active in environmental movements.

**Governmental**

Solving problems at legislative and governmental level allows more systematic approach.
Key Questions to be asked when setting goals

The fight for environmental justice should not become an unnecessary burden and responsibility for women, that only increases their workload without changing inequal position. It requires a thorough study of local needs and the search for appropriate solutions. When certain infrastructural or development projects are being implemented in the community or when local or central governments are making decisions that may have an impact on society or women, it would be good to ask different questions to identify the problem and the purpose:

1. What type of impacts can a particular problem (e.g., hydroelectric power plant) have on women and men?
2. What’s the situation with the accessibility to resources (land, water, forest, etc.) and to whom do these resources belong?
3. Do women participate in the decision-making process, both formally and informally?
4. Are women's rights and / or situation deteriorating on the ground as a result of environmental degradation / climate change (e.g., access to land and other resources, public services, increase domestic violence, sexual harassment and / or violence?)
5. Do activities planned for women's economic empowerment contribute to eliminating of the effects of environmental degradation or climate change?
6. Are the constraints that women face on the ground due to environmental degradation and / or climate change (e.g., Reduction of water or land resources)? How does it affect gender roles?
7. Do women raise these issues locally and nationally? If not, why?
8. What kind of political solution can these problems have? Are the solutions reflected in the relevant policy documents?
9. Who makes the decisions and to what extent the perspective of women is taken into account?
10. To what extent does the adopted environmental legislation contribute to the strengthening of women's rights - do women receive benefits?
11. Who is responsible for solving this problem? Problem-solving usually does not depend on just one person or agency (The Municipality, City Hall, State, Local Community, Specific People, Ministries and etc.)
12. Do women voice these problems locally and nationally? If not, why?

The Conclusion

In this handbook, we tried to present interconnections between environmental and gender equality struggles and link it with other oppressions. The topic is comprehensive. Therefore, we focused only on the main aspects and most important experiences for Georgia. Arguments provided will help you to set goals tailored to the local context and persuade different actors (communities, politicians, media, donors, etc.) to cross-reference environmental protection and women's rights.
We can explore the issue from numerous points of view, such as a generational issue and/or from the perspective of economic inequality. While there are women that have to do housework, have less access to land and require more water due to their role, while women are excluded from decision making processes, there will be the need for analyzing environmental protection from women’s perspective.

References

- Itzá Castañeda Camey, Laura Sabater, Cate Owren and A. Emmett Boyer
Abbreviations

- EIA - Environment impact assessment
- SEA - Strategic Environmental Assessment
- EBRD - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- ADB - The Asian Development Bank
- EIB - The European Investment Bank.
Annex

Sector specific issues and their impact on environment from Gender perspective, with few recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Impact</th>
<th>Gender Impact</th>
<th>What Can be Done</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil , gas and coal extraction, mining industry, line infrastructure (pipelines, highways, etc), hydropower, construction materials production and etc.</td>
<td>reducing accessibility to land and forestry products for women.</td>
<td>Women’s wide participation in decision-making processes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>involuntary physical and economic resettlement, loss of livelihood, reducing accessibility to water</td>
<td>Social and Gender baseline and risks assessments during Environmental Impact Assessment process. Define mitigation measures.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Male workers inflow may cause increase of sexual violence, prostitution and trafficking.</td>
<td>Preparation of Land acquisition and livelihood restoration plans in line with the guidelines of UN Special Rapporteur on Right to adequate housing. Measures against sexual violence and trafficking</td>
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<td>Changes of family dynamics, raise of economic and gender violence.</td>
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<td>Environmental pollution impact on health</td>
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Heavy industry/energy sector, oil and gas refinery,

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Environmental Impact</th>
<th>Gender impact</th>
<th>What can be done</th>
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Ambient air, water and soil pollution.  
Impact on Ecosystems: emission of greenhouse gases and acceleration of climate change, different chemical pollutants.  

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</table>
| · reducing accessibility to land and natural resources, including forest timber and non-timber products.  
· water, air and soil pollution with pesticides and different chemical substances  
Involuntary physical and economic resettlement | Women spend more labor and time for collection of natural resources; Potential impact on food safety; Chemical pollution negatively impacts women and children health. Reducing children’s accessibility to education. Increased cases of violence. Women and children often work on plantations without any reimbursement as support to mans, that receive high objectives from the companies | women’s wide participation in decision-making process related to land ownership, including community lands.  
2) full risk assessment for women and children.  
3) guarantee accessibility to education for children  
4) environmental pollution monitoring and pollution reduction action plans, including full remediation schemes  
5) Preparation of Land acquisition and livelihood restoration plans in line with the guidelines of UN Special Rapporteur on Right to adequate housing |

Large scale monocultural plantations (cotton, palm oil plantations and etc), intense agriculture  

Climate Change
<table>
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<th>What can be done</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequent climate events as increased fires, floods, dries, mudflows and etc. negatively impacts ecosystems. Climate Change has Impact on biodiversity water resources. Ambient air quality</td>
<td>More women than men die during natural disasters. Women have different needs after natural disasters (sanitary, security, needs related to children care) The migration rates, mainly mans, increasing, that raise women workload on the spot.</td>
<td>1) Integration of gender aspects in climate change mitigation and adaptation action plans, as well natural disasters response plans. 2) Increase women participation in adaptation and mitigation actions, including scientific ones 3) Increase accessibility of women to climate change funds and technologies</td>
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</table>

**Genderly blind Public Transport Sector**

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<th>What could be done</th>
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<td>Ambient Air pollution</td>
<td>The high risks of sexual harassment in public transport</td>
<td>1) wide participation of public in during public transport sector concept and schemes design 2) Use of digital technologies (cameras, face recognition). 3) training of public transport sector staff on issues of security and gender 4) Public awareness raising campaigns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>