



THEME: MAKING GENDER AND NATURAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORK

TOPIC: ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
THROUGH INCLUSIVE
NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

START>>

Presentation by
Mrs. Bernadette Deka- Zulu
Executive Director-Policy Monitoring and Research Centre

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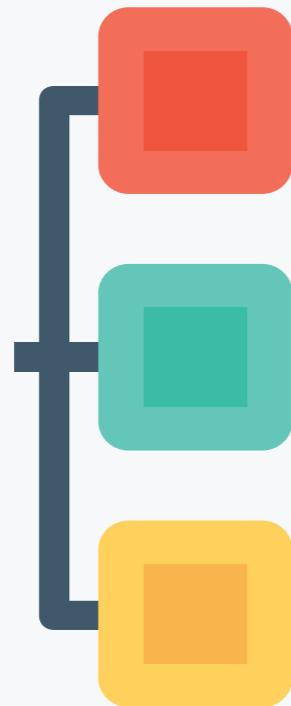
OUTLINE

Introduction

Factors/ challenges that deter women from natural resource management a case of land and mineral resources

Strategies to enhance women's natural resource management

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



I. Introduction

II. **Factors/ challenges** that deter women from natural resource management a case of land and mineral resources

III. **Strategies** to enhance women's natural resource management

OUTLINE

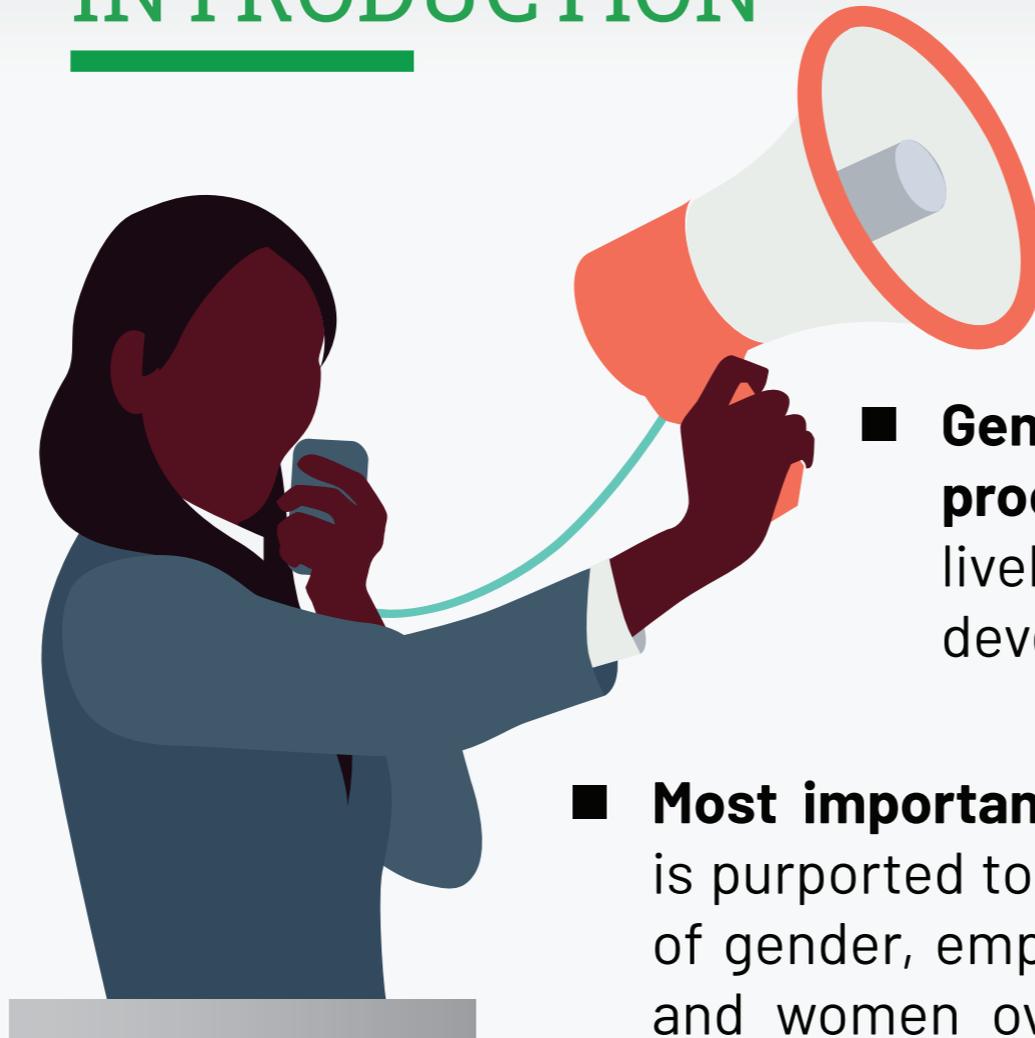
Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

INTRODUCTION



- **Gender is a critical variable in shaping processes of ecological change**, viable livelihoods and the prospects for sustainable development.
- **Most importantly relational perspectives on gender** is purported to give greater emphasis to the dynamics of gender, emphasizing power relations between men and women over resource access and control, and their concrete expressions in conflict, cooperation and coexistence over environmental goods and livelihoods.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

INTRODUCTION



- **Men and women hold gender-differentiated interests in natural resource management** through their distinctive roles, responsibilities and knowledge. Rights and access to land, and control over it, are often different for men and women. For instance, women usually lack tenure rights. The same goes for resources, such as trees and forests. So, for example, there's little benefit to women being involved in environmental conservation and tree planting schemes when only a small percentage of women have control over land.
-

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

INTRODUCTION



- In this regards it is necessary to bring to the fore the **gender profile** of all those who own, access, and benefit from the exploitation of water and forest resources, as well as non-timber forest products, under existing customary and national policies.
 - **Women play a critical role in the management of natural resources** at family and community levels and are most affected by environmental degradation. In communities and around the world, women manage water, sources for fuel, and food.
-

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

INTRODUCTION



- **Women also manage both forests and agricultural land.** Women's workload is often centred on managing natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems; as such their experiences and perspectives are essential to sustainable development. Because of women's relationship with the environment, they are critical agents of environmental conservation.
- **Studies have shown that when women have control over their own income or family earnings,** they reinvest in their families, children and communities, increasing the well-being and the sustainability of communities where extraction activities take place.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

INTRODUCTION



- **Women understand the meaning of natural resources conservation** but their participation in natural resource conservation programmes is not adequate.
- **Women's rights and importance for natural resource management**, is becoming a growing international recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and of the positive inter-linkage of indigenous knowledge, traditional practices, and nature conservation leading to an increased interest in indigenous community-based in conservation and natural resource management.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

>>Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT- LAND



- **Constitutional Bias** -In recent times an increasing number of countries have recognized women's equal rights in their Constitutions, thus complying with international human rights standards and obligations. However, some Constitutions are neutral while others such as those of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Lesotho have discriminatory provision in customary and personal law matters such as inheritance

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

>> **Factors/
challenges that
deter women from
natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources**

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

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- **Despite being a signatory**, Zambia does not fully adhere to some international rights treaties such as the SADC Gender Protocol. Ninety percent (90%) of Zambian land falls under traditional designation and only 10 percent under state. This means that the vast land that women should benefit from is still controlled by traditional leaders who maintain cultural practices that bar women from acquiring land which is essential for economic productivity and sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction among women.
- **Stereotype** - The patriarchal setting on the African continent whereby male dominate on matters concerning land makes it difficult if not impossible for women to access and own land in their own right. They are allocated land by male forks within their clan or through their male spouses.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

>> **Factors/
challenges that
deter women from
natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources**

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

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- **Lack of awareness on legal provision** - Although most countries in Africa have constitutions which ascribe to equality between male and female and land laws which are either gender-neutral or affirmative on women's land rights, generally the general public is not aware or conversant with such provisions. This is because once the land policies are adopted and land laws passed, there is no deliberate efforts made by the State to sensitize the general public on what these documents say about peoples' land rights in general and women land rights in particular

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

>> **Factors/
challenges that
deter women from
natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources**

Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management

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- **The gap between high-level commitments and implementation practice** - Most African Governments have ratified the international Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and made commitments to the Constitutive Act (Article 4 (I)) to gender equality and AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. Implementation of these high-level commitments remains a challenge because ***“the principle is not prioritized as a policy objective, nor serious attention is paid to how to carry through these commitments in practice, outside of a small number of dedicated projects”*** (Walker, 2002)

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

STRATEGIES OF ENHANCING WOMEN'S NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In most cases, gender neglect in natural resources has resulted in sustained conflict between resource managers and users and has led to failure of well-intentioned efforts towards sustainable management of natural resources. The following are some of the strategies for enhancing women's participation in natural resource management:

A. Engagement of women in natural resource management efforts

- Men and women have different roles and responsibilities within their communities that are influenced by cultural and social factors. Natural Resource Management programmes must recognise these different roles if they are to consider communities as a whole, and the needs of all the stakeholders. Sustainable natural resource management (NRM) is improved when women are engaged in resource management decisions because they interact most with the environment for livelihoods and food to sustain households and families

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

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- Conservation efforts would only succeed if government and non-governmental conservation bodies targeted rural women in several ways, among them education, empowerment, and inclusion. Therefore, Government must increase women's participation in decision-making to ensure success and sustainability of conservation projects. This would promote the sustainable utilisation of natural resources in the country



B. Recognizing the role women play in wealth creation through natural resources

- Too often women are unrecognized and undervalued while their labor makes significant contributions to the extractive industries, which is under increasing demand.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

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- **Both women and men use natural resources and influence the condition of the environment.** However, women's roles are often less visible than men's, and aren't formally recognised.
- **For example; women frequently carry out labour on land over which they hold no formal tenure rights;** women spend a great deal of time collecting water, fuel wood and fodder for family subsistence, which is not considered 'work'; women fishers are responsible for mending nets, and gutting and marketing fish, but they're often not considered 'fishers'.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

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C. Women must drive the development and implementation of sustainable natural resource management policies and procedures

- It is essential that policies surrounding gender, climate change and natural resource management continue to create conditions that facilitate effective involvement of both men and women.
 - **Given the current traditional gender role practices and division of labour in many developing countries**, women are critical both as agents and as victims of natural resource exploitation and management. Gender mainstreaming constitutes a fulcrum for development planning and an entry point for successful management of natural resources in developing countries.
-

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

STRATEGIES OF ENHANCING WOMEN'S NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

D. The need for timely collection of relevant information on natural resource management programmes:

- Routinely collect relevant information on how men and women interact differently with resources – for baseline, monitoring, and evaluation purposes is essential in ensuring full participation of women in natural resource management.



- For instance if it's about setting up a mine, other than conducting an environmental impact assessment, there is need to undertake a social impact assessment which will assess how the mining activities in the area may impact critical issues such as health, access to water, food sources and the possible implications for women and girls in that case since their role is to feed and sustain

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

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households while men could be the only ones directly benefiting from the mining activities therefore mining activities may have more effects on women than men.

E. Harmonization of legislation governing access to the utilization and ownership to natural resources.

- Men in Zambia still have more access to, control over, and ownership of land in comparison to women. The few women who access, control, and own land still face many challenges. This is more so when the land is controlled by traditional leaders who apply customary practices.
- The policy entitles women to be allocated *30% of all advertised Council or state land. Women can then compete with men for the remaining 70%*. The question is now whether the policy is truly benefiting women.

OUTLINE

Outline of
Presentation

Introduction

Factors/ challenges
that deter women
from natural resource
management a case
of land and mineral
resources

>> **Strategies to
enhance women's
natural resource
management**

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- This calls for Ensuring that women have legal rights to own, inherit and transfer land through support of legal aid clinics for women and education to local land administrations on women's land rights.
- F. Women education on resource ownership rights**
- Enhancing women's decision-making capabilities on land they use, regardless of whether they are a named owner of the land or if their names appear on legal documents through education on their rights to own land and other natural resources.

THANK YOU...

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info@pmrczambia.net

Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC)
Ministry of National Development Complex,
Corner of John Mbita and Nationalist Roads, Ridgeway, | Private Bag KL 10
Tel: +260 211 269 717 | +260 979 015 660

www.pmrczambia.com

