

Critical Approaches to Gender in Mountain Ecosystems

Deadline for abstracts – JUL 15

Deadline for case study submissions – NOV 1



Photograph courtesy of Omer Aijazi (Neelum valley, Pakistan administered Kashmir)

The Mountain Ecosystems Specialists Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management (CEM) invites submissions of case studies on gender specific knowledge for ecosystem management in mountain regions. While critical feminist literature has deepened our understanding of gender in significant ways, the policy sphere is slow on the uptake of these contributions. To rectify this lack, we are seeking to collate nuanced and innovative approaches to gender concerning mountain ecosystems which push beyond existing tropes of “gender inclusivity” and “gender sensitivity.” We intend to reinvigorate the analytical category of “gender” outside its static and universalistic understandings in favor of those that capture its fluid, contextual, and relational nature, and which seek to address issues of power urgently. We are interested in recent initiatives from around the world which take on a fresh perspective to gender in mountain ecosystems. This includes but is not limited to biodiversity conservation, natural resource governance, protection of essential ecosystem services, knowledge management, traditional knowledge initiatives, capacity building, management of heritage and/or spiritual sites, disaster risk reduction, displacement and migration, resource conflict, conflict resolution, land-grabbing, climate change adaptation, the financialization of nature (natural capital discourse), mining and resource extraction, and diverse approaches to nature stewardship and values assigned to the environment.

We invite case studies showcasing successful as well as unsuccessful attempts at integrating critical feminist approaches to gender within ecosystem management practices. The case studies may depict diverse knowledges and learnings at the international, regional, national, sub-national, or local level. Preference will be given to studies that demonstrate interactions (contestation or synergy) of local knowledges with international and/or domestic policy systems. Also of interest are case studies which document gaps between how gender is lived and embodied in mountain ecosystems versus how it is operationalized and understood within policy and programming.

Some guiding questions to assist in the framing of the case studies include:

- What makes an initiative “gender inclusive” or “gender sensitive,” beyond the reductionisms implied in participation and consultation?
- How is capacity building and decision making changed with the inclusion and participation of women and other gendered bodies?
- How are conflict and migration affecting gender dynamics and what impact does this have on climate adaptation?
- What examples exist of ecosystem-based livelihoods that show resilient attributes and in what ways are they gender-inclusive?
- In what ways can ecosystem governance contribute to gender-equality?
- How is gender conceptualized in mountain livelihoods?
- How is gender conceptualized, operationalized, and understood within policy, programming and, conservation projects and how does this contrast with the ways gender is lived and embodied in mountain ecosystems?

These are sample guidance questions. Other ideas are equally welcome.

The Mountain Ecosystems Specialist Group regularly documents, and shares case studies and lessons learned drawing from the diverse and vibrant regional experiences of its membership. The compendium of case studies will contribute towards IUCN knowledge resources to influence critical global, regional, and local decisions and actions on ecosystem conservation and governance. The proposed publication seeks to bridge knowledge gaps and inspire new solutions by placing critical feminist approaches at the forefront. All case studies will be peer-reviewed by a panel of experts and mentorship will be provided to selected authors in the preparation of final manuscripts.

Submission procedure: Please submit abstracts (500-750 words) by July 15th, 2018. Selected applicants will be notified by July 31st. Full length case studies (3000 words) will be due November 1st.

Submissions and queries should be sent to:

Omer Aijazi and Sejuti Basu
IUCN CEM Mountain Ecosystems Specialist Group

E: mountainecosystemssg@gmail.com

Please mark the subject line as “Gender Abstract”

Suggested readings:

Kaijser, A., & Kronsell, A. (2014). Climate change through the lens of intersectionality. *Environmental Politics*, 23(3), 417-433.

Sundberg, J. (2004). Identities in the making: Conservation, gender and race in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 11(1), 43-66.

Rudaz, G., & Debarbieux, B. (2012). 'Mountain women': Silent contributors to the global agenda for sustainable mountain development. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 19(5), 615-634.