

GEM of the Month for December 2009



White tailed deer and early winter snow, near Basswood, Manitoba, Canada. Photo courtesy of Cindy Murray.

Greetings to GEM Committee Members:

In the interests of sending less frequent messages so that I don't flood your mail box, and in creating a bit of a library for resources, we are proposing to continue with this new communication tool. We'll try to stick to one communication a month in what Tom Beach of AIC has named "The GEM of the Month" informational e-mail.

If you have information or articles to share about gender equality mainstreaming within organizations, gender and climate change, or gender equality and agriculture/rural development, please send them to Dinah Ceplis at Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and she will compile them to re-distribute.

Best wishes,
Dinah Ceplis
GEM Committee Member

This Month's Articles:

How should the world respond to climate change? [Note that this is a live webcast on December 1, 2009.]

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) Radio, "The Current", Podcast on Women and Climate Change

Climate change: Are women the solution?

Climate Change Connections

Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change

Climate Lite

Board Games 2009, Women on Board

Canada in need of consistently strong, powerful female public policy voice

Gender and Economic Growth in Tanzania: Creating Opportunities for Women

Gendered Patterns of Time Use in Tanzania: Public Investment in Infrastructure Can Help

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How should the world respond to climate change?

Join the live webcasts with Bjorn Lomborg and George Monbiot as they attempt to answer one of the great public policy questions of our time.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/how-should-the-world-respond-to-climate-change/article1380513/>

Bjorn Lomborg and George Monbiot will be answering your questions in separate video interviews ahead of tonight's Munk Debates on climate change.

- Against: Bjorn Lomborg, 11 a.m. ET, December 1, 2009
- For: George Monbiot, 1 p.m. ET, December 1, 2009

“About the Munk Debates

CO2 levels in the atmosphere are climbing steadily higher. Some believe this is having a devastating effect on humans and nature, while others argue that the threat has been overstated. Is this the moment for a bold international treaty to curb carbon emissions? Or are the social and economic costs of reducing CO2 emissions too high in world where a billion people live on \$1 or less a day?

Just days before the United Nation’s historic Copenhagen summit, the fourth semi-annual Munk Debates tackle one of the great public policy questions of our time: How should the world respond to climate change?”

Resolution: "Climate change is mankind's defining crisis, and demands a commensurate response."

The case for: [Elizabeth May](#) and [George Monbiot](#)
The case against: [Bjørn Lomborg](#) and [Nigel Lawson](#)

THE MUNK DEBATES: Dec. 1, 2009, 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., The Royal Conservatory, 273 Bloor St. West, Toronto

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[Canadian Broadcasting Corporation \(CBC\) Radio, “The Current”](#) [Podcast](#)

Women & Climate Change

“We [CBC Radio] started this segment with a clip of Connie Hedegaard, Denmark's Minister for Climate and Energy. She's the incoming President of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference. She'll be playing a major role at the talks that begin in Copenhagen next week.

In the past, there haven't been many [women at the table for those high-level negotiations](#). And according to Joanna Kerr, that's a problem because she says around the world, it's [women who suffer the most from the effects of climate change](#). Joanna Kerr is the Director of Policy and Outreach with [Oxfam Canada](#). She was in Amsterdam.

Women & Climate Change - Panel

At the last UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, a year ago, 15 per cent of the parties' delegations were headed by women. Critics say it's not surprising that gender equity isn't mentioned in climate change agreements or final documents.

But this year, a group of activists have won the recognition of [“women and gender”](#) as an official constituency. And they're lobbying to have the word [“gender” included](#) in whatever [agreement emerges from Copenhagen](#). For their thoughts on this, we were joined by three people. Rebecca Pearl is the Coordinator of the [Global Gender and Climate Alliance](#) and she was in New York City. [Elizabeth May](#) is the leader of the [Green Party of Canada](#) and she was in

Ottawa. And Cheryl Maloney is the Director of Environment for the [Native Women's Association of Canada](#). She was in Halifax.

And here at The Current, we believe that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. So when our producers were putting together this segment, they checked our own record on women and climate change. And what did they find? Out of all the guests we've interviewed about climate change this season ... only a third were women.”

Listen to Part One: <http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/2009/200911/20091130.html>

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Climate change: Are women the solution?

A new UN report says that women are the key to helping countries prepare for climate change and mitigating the damage.

By Scott Baldauf | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

from the November 24, 2009 edition

“JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA - It is often asserted that climate change will affect women the most in the developing world. That's because most women will have to walk farther for drinking water, work harder to grow food, pull daughters out of school to help with family chores, and fuss more about family hygiene as the world – and particularly the developing world – becomes a hotter, drier place to live.

But women could also be the key agents of change that help countries to do a better job of preparing for climate change, and mitigating the damage.

That is the intriguing idea that comes out of a new report, issued Tuesday by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at an Arab League summit held in Cairo this week. “

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1124/p06s10-woaf.html>

[This is a news story about the UN report.]

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Climate Change Connections

[This is the link to the UN report itself.]

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/4028>

“UNFPA and WEDO have developed a comprehensive resource kit on gender, population and climate change. Learn how gender equality can reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and how women are uniquely positioned to help curb the harmful consequences of a changing climate.

Climate change is already impacting populations and ecosystems around the globe. Exacerbating poverty and leading to infrastructural breakdown, it threatens to set back development efforts by decades, profoundly affecting all of us.

But the impact won't be felt equally. Those with the fewest resources will be most susceptible to its negative effects – particularly women, the majority of the world's poor. At the same time, women's vulnerability can obscure the fact that they are an untapped resource in efforts to cope with the effects of climate change and reduce the emissions that cause it. As innovators, organizers, leaders, educators and caregivers, women are uniquely positioned to help curb the harmful consequences of a changing climate. Incorporating a gender perspective into climate change policies, projects and funds is crucial in ensuring that women contribute to and benefit from equitable climate solutions.”

A Resource Kit on Climate, Population and Gender

Author: UNFPA, WEDO

No. of pages: 39

Publication date: 2009

Publisher: UNFPA, WEDO

Available languages: English, Français

Available formats: electronic only

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/4028>



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[Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change](#)

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/climate-change&id=45069&type=Document>

Direct link to the pdf http://www.un.org/womenwatch/downloads/Resource_Guide_English_FINAL.pdf

151 pages

Including women's voices in climate change policy and programming

Authors: L. Aguilar Revelo; I. Castañeda Camey; V. Chao Rebolledo; et al.; Gender Team in the Bureau of Development Policy; UNDP Country Office Mexico

Publisher: United Nations Development Programme, 2009

“Poor women’s limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and muted voice in shaping decisions make them highly vulnerable to climate change. This guide aims to inform practitioners and policy makers of the linkages between gender equality and climate change and their importance in relation to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It makes the case for why it is necessary to include women's voices, needs and expertise in climate change policy and programming.

The guide looks at:

- The definition and principle causes of climate change
- gender equality and MDGs in the context of climate change
- the lack of explicit recognition of gender considerations in international instruments
- prospects for gender equality in adaptation and mitigation strategies

The guide stresses the need to act and makes the following recommendations:

- improving understanding of gender and climate change by analyzing gender relations when examining the causes and consequences of climate change
- gather, document and produce information on the differentiated impact of climate change on men and women
- invest in effective communication to disseminate information to women and other marginalised members of society
- influence international and national policies to explicitly include gender equality considerations”

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[Climate Lite](#)

“Climate Lite has been created especially for policymakers and field practitioners who are not climate change experts but need to understand the key issues.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt by people across the developing world. Climate Lite is a series of short briefings and videos on the latest key issues that link climate change with international development.”

See 8. *Community as Agents & Shapers of Adaptation* by Petra Tschaker which has a focus on Ghana and Senegal.

From Institute of Development Studies

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/climate-lite/>

International experts from across the climate change field are contributing to Climate Lite. If you would like to become a contributor, please contact m.khamis@ids.ac.uk.

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[Board Games 2009, Women on Board](#)

The Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/board-games/women-on-board/article1375949/>

"Everyone, it seems, has a story to tell about how the glacial pace of advancement for women on boards in Canada seems to be accelerating. And while much of the evidence is anecdotal, a growing number of experts believe the country is at last reaching a tipping point – one at which women are taking bigger role in shaping Canadian business from the boardroom.

The early statistics appear to support the theory. The annual Report on Business Board Games survey of corporate governance practices in Canada shows 59 per cent of companies in the benchmark stock index now have at least one woman on their boards, up from 53 per cent last year and 50 per cent in 2006."

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[Canada in need of consistently strong, powerful female public policy voice](#)

Dr. Roger Gibbins is President and CEO of Canada West Foundation.

http://www.cwf.ca/V2/cnt/commentaries_200910191019.php

“While there is great cause to celebrate 80 years since the Persons’ Case, and the Honourary Senator title bestowed this week upon the Famous Five, the celebration merely covers up the crude reality in current Canadian public life: We are not making progress in female representation and any steps forward are followed by two steps back. Where is the consistently strong, powerful female public policy voice?”

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[Gender and Economic Growth in Tanzania: Creating Opportunities for Women](#)

The World Bank, 2007

[http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/rep_GenderTools_GGATanzania/\\$FILE/GGA+Tanzania.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/rep_GenderTools_GGATanzania/$FILE/GGA+Tanzania.pdf)

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Gendered Patterns of Time Use in Tanzania: Public Investment in Infrastructure Can Help

Authors: Marzia Fontana and Luisa Natali

Published December 2008

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/download.cfm?downloadfile=3900A146-5056-8171-7B10021472D68726&typename=dmFile&fieldname=filename>

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