GENDER INCLUSION GUIDE FOR PREPARING THE STATE OF THE COAST REPORTS AND STRATEGIC ACTION FRAMEWORKS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organisations
IDA	Island Diagnostic Analysis
ICM	Integrated Coastal/Catchment Management
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEF	Global Environment Facility
NGO	Non-government organization
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
RPCU	Regional Programme Coordination Unit
SOC	State of the Coast
SAF	Strategic Action Framework
SAP	Strategic Action Plan

GUIDELINES ON GENDER INCLUSION IN THE STATE OF THE COASTS (SOC) REPORTS AND THE STRATEGIC ACTION FRAMEWORKS (SAFS)

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHO WILL USE THIS GUIDE?

This guide has been developed to help the work of policymakers and practitioners who will undertake the State of the Coast and Strategic Action Framework reporting to consider and incorporate Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).

Through the different roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and varied priorities and needs, women and men alike shape the drivers and pressures on environmental resources and systems. It is widely accepted that women and men use natural resources in different ways. Women and men also influence, in different ways and at different levels (global, regional, national & sub-national), markets and policies which impact the health of the global environment. Despite gender inequalities and discriminatory cultural and social practices that may disadvantage women, they play key roles in tackling environmental challenges, as agents of change in resource management.

Why Gender Inclusion?

> To address the needs and priorities of women, youths, and the most vulnerable groups in Society. A gender responsive approach requires examination and addressing of gender norms, roles, and inequalities and to actively promote gender equality.

1.2 THE RATIONALE

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Gender Implementation Strategy identifies three gender gaps most relevant to GEF projects and programs – example, the GEF-7 programming directions. These three gaps are also some of the most common in Pacific Island countries, including:

- **Unequal access to and control of natural resources:**

  In the Pacific Islands region, women continue to be disadvantaged by structural constraints and gender norms related to access to and control of land, water, and other productive assets and biological resources.

- **Unbalanced participation and decision making in environmental planning and governance at all levels**

  Gender norms, availability of time, and other structural constraints continue to prevent women the same opportunities as men to decision-making related to the management and sustainable use of natural resources.

- **Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services**

  In many places women do not have the same access to income-generating opportunities, credit, and technology as men. Women also often face more obstacles than men in accessing financing, training, and information.

Cultural practices may inhibit women's participation and restrict their full participation in many areas of work and social spaces. These norms have been in place for generations and finding entry points or supportive mechanisms within traditional structures is needed to ensure continued positive change to gender relations. Stereotyping of women into specific areas of work are barriers to women accessing opportunities that could be open to women at all levels.

Furthermore, the lack of capacity and resources both at the national government level and the community level also remain one of the main challenges to gender inclusion work. Lack of capacity is linked to lack of access to information, lack of training opportunities and capacity building.

1.3 SCOPE

The Guideline for SOC and SAF outlines the basic requirements for gender mainstreaming as outlined under the Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. The guidelines are not prescriptive but dependent on country situation and different social and cultural context. The guidelines also cover how gender inclusion is addressed, which may have slight variations. For instance, during stakeholder consultations, gender inclusion needs to consider cultural diversity in Pacific Island countries.

Gender inclusion is not only about women but considers men, women, youths and all the different vulnerable groups in communities, including traditional chiefs, landowners, and other specific categorization of hierarchal structures in Society.

1.4 State of Gender Mainstreaming in the R2R work in countries

Gender responsive approaches and implementation had been pursued in all countries. Gender Equality and Social inclusion (GESI) work had been progressed considering the cultural diversity in different Pacific Island countries. Collection of Scio-economic data has been gender and Socially inclusive and sex-disaggregated data collected. Stakeholder consultations and community discussions, training and awareness work are gender inclusive. All countries had worked on gender assessment on projects implemented and have gender action plans developed.

Youth and Women Participation mangrove nursery - ©Fiji STAR R2R

Gender terms to consider[1]

Gender Roles	Refers to what males and females are expected to do (in the household, community, and workplace) in a given Society. E.g., Men are typically expected to do field work while women are expected to take care of domestic work.
Gender Bias	Refers to beliefs about women and men, boys and girls that are passed from generation to generation through the process of socialisation. They change over time and differ in different cultures and populations.
Gender Relations	Refers to social relations between and among women and men that are based on gender norms and roles. Gender relations often create hierarchies between and among groups of men and women that can lead to unequal power relations, disadvantaging one group over another.
Gender Stereotypes	Images, beliefs, attitudes, or assumptions about certain groups of women and men. Stereotypes are usually negative and based on assumed gender norms, roles, and relations.
Gender inequality	Unequal participation in Society due to stereotypes, norms, beliefs, and discrimination based on a person's gender e.g., unequal pay for a male and female employee despite the same qualification and position.
Gender Norms	Shared ideals of how women and men should behave- especially in traditional settings in Pacific Island countries. These usually result in gender stereotypes.
Gender Equality	Refers to equal chances or opportunities for groups of women and men to access and control social, economic, and political resources, including protection under the law (such as health services, education and voting rights). It is also known as equality of opportunity – or formal equality.
Women empowerment	This is about women taking control of their lives by gaining skills, making decisions for themselves, being self-reliant and believing in their own capacity.

2. STATE OF COAST REPORT & STRATEGIC ACTION FRAMEWORK

The State of the Coast Report (SOC) describes the condition of the biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional environments as they relate to the coastal zone. It also describes the current condition as the baseline and uses historical data, where available, to assess changes to the coast over time.

The SOC will identify data and information needs relating to the biological, environmental, and socio-economic status of national coastal sites from the perspective of vulnerabilities associated with disaster risk, climate variability, and extremes in weather. Initially an analysis of existing national and regional data will be undertaken and *in situ* data collection activities conducted where significant gaps in knowledge occur. The process will be fully transparent and comprehensible to all parties, be both technically and politically acceptable, and based as far as possible on objective quantifiable criteria and indicators. The SOC will be gender sensitive and consider the needs and priorities of men, women, youth, and all members of the communities and also assess benefits and impacts of planned community interventions.

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[1]   The gender terms used in this document are sourced from GEF Gender Mainstreaming guidelines, 2017

Examples of gender inclusion statements that can be reflected in SOC Reports

Statements	Gender inclusion
Tonga RAPCA report- Mangrove habitats and shoreline flora would benefit from nature-based solutions rather than more infrastructure. A 10 m buffer is recommended from the high-water tide mark to where coastal development and/ or agriculture lands should be placed. This would allow for the replanting of native coastal plants that bring beneficial nutrients to mangroves within the buffer area.	Engagement on appropriate nature-based solutions to mangrove areas and native coastal plants replanting should include the participation of women and youth as key resource users who mostly fish along mangroves and coastal areas.
Fiji communities, especially resource owners and rights holders are involved, participate, and contribute to management plans for MPAs/LMMAs and Terrestrial catchments.	Local governance mechanisms and stakeholder consultations are inclusive of women and youth participation.
Solomon Islands Mataniko River catchment There is significantly greater participation of both men and women in Fishing Village, so it is a daily occurrence. For those from Renlau, most fish once or twice a week whilst from Lord Howe, the men fish three to five times a week.	Socio-economic uses of coastal resources and how these impact on resource availability and abundance defining the workloads of men and women and also active participation of women in management discussions.
Cook Islands R2R Pilot Activities progress report- Improving catchment management and wastewater management at Muri lagoon through building local capacity for waste management implementation and environmental protection to enable best practice in coastal waters, land, and public health protection.	Building local capacity – does this include men, women, youth, and other members of the communities like chiefs and elders? Has the identification of best practices involved the participation of men and women?

The SOC report provides technical information useful to inform policy making towards managing coastal and water resources. In turn, this helps to safeguard human health whilst maintaining sustainable marine, freshwater and associated terrestrial ecosystems. It is therefore important to quantify and identify the current state and impacts on these environments and how they are changing over time.

The SOC reports are compiled with information collected through the identification and characterization stage, and include stakeholders identified policy or intervention options from the diagnostic and systems analysis stage. This is the transitioning stage from SOC to Strategic Action Frameworks (SAF) where stakeholders discussed, and outcomes documented particularly decisions on priority policy actions and interventions that address priority problems identified through the IDA and SoC processes.

Assessment is supported through model analysis of influence of alternative reform options on a system over time. A typical SAF includes statement of vision, goals, and guiding principles; and priority areas of action and a costed 5- year action plan. These will be approved at the inter-ministerial level. At this stage, the approach would be mainly open policy assessment forums, and with feedback on framework development.

Gender inclusion means having gender data and considerations included at every step of the process in developing the SOC report or SAF. Gender is a critical consideration when assessing and identifying the biological, environmental, and Socio-economic state of priority coastal sites or areas in PICs. Gender is also particularly essential when assessing policy actions and interventions that are gender balanced and realistic to generate results and make an impact on livelihoods and ensure climate resilience.

3. PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING STATE OF THE COAST REPORTS & STRATEGIC ACTION FRAMEWORK

1. The State of the Coasts (SOC)and Strategic Action Framework (SAF) reporting systems are tools for local governments to assess the progress and benefits of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) implementation. The SOC report and SAF allows local governments to document and measure the effectiveness and impacts of policy and management interventions in support of sustainable coastal development, and evaluate progress towards local, national, and international targets for sustainable development.

2. The methodology employed is highly participatory with national stakeholders and is intended to be conducted by national expert consultants and national Project Managers with support from the RPCU, where required. The whole process of developing the SOC reports and SAFs will include extracting relevant data and information from several key areas of the Regional IW R2R Program and National STAR R2R Projects and will be conducted back-to-back with the development of national or Island Diagnostic Reports.

3. Social drivers like socio-economic inequalities between men and women hold back prospects for sustainable livelihoods. This is reflected in the goal of the Regional IW R2R project. The systematic inclusion of gender aspects into national demonstration projects could create positive synergies between improved environmental management and greater gender equality. This means that all components of the R2R program in countries must develop gender-inclusive targets and activities. It is important to keep in mind the diverse cultural backgrounds of Pacific Island countries. There will be local dynamics that has to be understood before starting any community engagement work. Local governance systems, traditional institutions, cultural norms and women's status and roles in these institutions need to be understood. In the Pacific Island countries, culture and social dynamics and norms highly influence gender dynamics and relations.

> The SOC/SAF data collection, community engagement and stakeholder inclusion approach will consider social drivers and the diverse cultural backgrounds of Pacific Island Countries.

4. The SOC/SAF process and reporting system also covers gender inclusion in mobilizing and selecting Project Management Teams and Project Steering Committees or Boards. Gender inclusion ought to be mainstreamed in the institutional governance and processes covering recruitment and mode of operations of Teams and Committees or Boards. The process of developing SOC reports and SAFs `also takes into consideration gender inclusion in Project Management Teams, and in committees set up to provide oversight and undertake related work such as recruitment and decision-making process in approving workplans and budgets. At the community level, gender inclusion will involve the collection of sex-disaggregated data, ensuring stakeholder consultation and community awareness work are gender inclusive and that assessments made highlight gender use of resources, gender benefits and disadvantages and risks.

> Women and youths are expected to be included in Project management teams and committees set up to undertake the SOC/SAF work

5. The SOC/SAF reporting system includes the biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional environments as they relate to the coastal zone of a country. The SOC describes the current condition as the baseline and uses historical, where available, to assess changes to the coast over time. Therefore, the socio-economic and institutional environment are

A new kitchen garden for Buada district, residents planting seedlings of
egg plants, tomatoes, chinese cabbage, banana and coconut dwarfs

expected to be included in SoC reports. The SAF documents priority policy actions and interventions that will deliver on important goals and outcomes affective lives of people, sustainable use of natural resources and safeguard community resilience due to climate change.

> The baseline information is to be gender sensitive, and sex disaggregated data need to be collected. Equally, the gendered use of resources and impacts of activities need to be documented- to assess changes to the coast over time.

6. The State of the Coast reports include information on the current state of resources and resource use, socio-economic and institutional environments. This requires ownership of and participation of PICs[2] in the IDA[3]/SOC process is important, and preferably country driven. The Strategic Action Framework is an action plan for high level policies that improves livelihoods and ensure community and climate resilience.

> The priority outcome for SOC/SAF is capacity building and requiring effective ownership and participation of the people at all governance levels. This mean that men, women, youth and all vulnerable groups in communities are to be included and targeted in capacity building

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2   Pacific Island Countries

3   Island Diagnostic Analysis

4. THE PROCESS- PHASES

4.1 PHASE 1: Planning stage.

At the planning stage, there are Inception workshops to establish SOC/SAF technical teams and develop action plans and more importantly, go through the SOC/SAF ToRs and discuss or agree on the methods, processes, timelines, and related details. SOC/SAF technical teams should be gender inclusive and ensure that where possible women and young people are represented.

Gender Inclusion should be integrated into project activities (e.g., SOC, SAF) from the start and it be used to identify target audiences.

Scoping

Review of existing national environment, marine and coastal reports, and indicators. Identification of gender gaps.

Questions that may be asked are:

- Are women/youth/vulnerable groups part of community meeting?
- Are approaches participatory and allow for free discussion, and do they enable women to speak and question decisions taken relating to resource use and management.
- Are spaces where meetings are held conducive to women, youth, and vulnerable groups participation?
- Etc

4.2 PHASE 2: PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT (Policy, Government level)

Mobilize SOC/SAF development team, which could be the same team used for IDA work. Engage stakeholders, who can include representatives from government and civil society sectors such as the environment, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries. Engagement is critical for capacity building because many sectors contribute to the SOC conditions and policy reforms, and strategic actions required. Data from these other sectors are central to a comprehensive SOC Report and SAF.

Partners to also include the Department of Women Affairs. Department of Social Affairs in some countries. Facilitation of gender work can be undertaken by Department of Women and their partners (NGOs[4], CSOs[5]).

4.2.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS/ STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY LEVEL.

Stakeholders then come together to provide input on why these trends are occurring. Community led ICM/IWRM reform options are identified and debated through organized and facilitated open forums. Assessment is supported through model analysis of influence of alternative reform options on a system over time.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation to be gender inclusive taking the views of all sectors

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[4]   Non-government organisation

[5]   Civil society organisation

of the communities into account. Generally, there had been an increase in tracking participation of stakeholders by recording disaggregated data. There had also been sustained stakeholder engagement underpinned by participatory and gender inclusion Field validation, analysis of results and preparation of draft report.

In addition, SOCs/SAFs are compiled with information collected through the identification and characterization stage, and include stakeholder identifying policy or intervention options from the diagnostic and systems analysis stage.

4.3 PHASE 3: DATA COLLECTION

Collect and extract data from published and non-published reports publicly available, as well as reports and data available in the Ministry responsible for the Environment databases and repositoriess. Datasets need to be cleaned, processed, and analyzed for trends. The results form the basis for identifying and agreeing on indicators, which in turn, enter into the reporting template.

4.3.1 WORKSHOPS

SOC/SAF targeted workshops may be held jointly with the IDA considering a first rough draft SOC and subsequently SAF, is a deliverable of the IDA process. However, if time permits, SOC/SAF workshops can follow that of the IDA process. A SOC workshop typically provides the opportunity to discuss key sections of – pressures affecting the coast, catchment/coastal environments, and governance of the coast. Next, the stakeholders can then priority policy actions. Additional features for discussion would include guidelines for conducting the SOC/SAF process, thematic maps and summary of indictors and status.

SOC/SAF stakeholder workshops need to be gender inclusive in participation and also workshops and training materials should include aspects of gender consideration**.**

4.3.2 SELECTION OF GENDER INDICATORS

Selection of indicators for reporting, compilation of methodologies and identification of synergies with existing projects and activities. Selection of indicators as part of stakeholder consultations to get men, women, youth perceptions of change.

These measurable indicators are used to monitor social, economic, and environmental changes in coastal systems, such as having coastal strategies in place, habitat protection initiatives and the quality of air and water.

4.4 PHASE 4: REPORT DRAFTED

A SOC draft report and SAF are circulated to national stakeholders and partners seeking review and comments. Inclusion of gender in the draft report to be verified by the Project Management Team in country.

4.4.1 Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation of SOC to include gender assessments of participation of women. Measuring participation of women and youth in decision making forums, in capacity building activities, in resource use and management interventions.

5. OUTCOMES

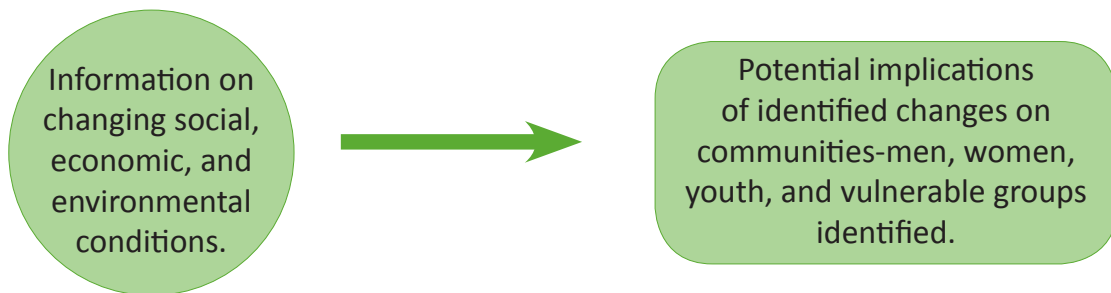Generally, SOC and SAF are monitoring, and reporting instruments designed for use by local governments and stakeholders. SOC/SAF facilitates multi-sectoral participation, interaction, and awareness building in coastal and marine governance, and enhances local government leadership among its constituents.

Multi-sectoral participation in marine governance → Stakeholders: men, women, youth, traditional leaders participate and are part of decision making.
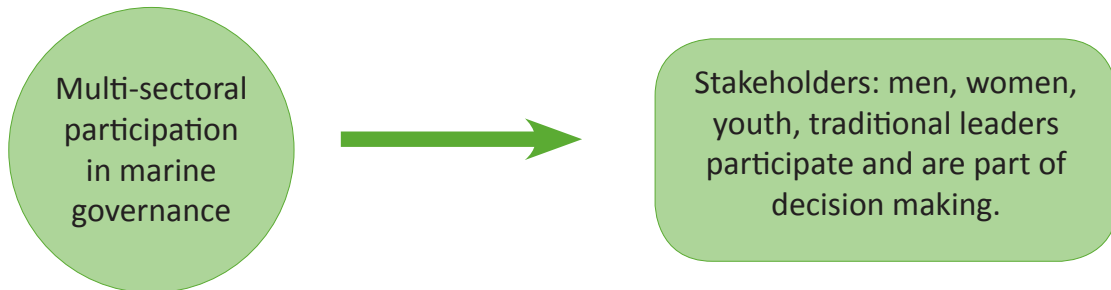
SOC provides local authorities with information on changing social, economic, and environmental conditions in the area, and outlines the potential impacts and implications of such changes. SAF presents priority policy actions and interventions, and if implemented successfully, should address priority problems identified in the IDA/SoC reports.

Information on changing social, economic, and environmental conditions. → Potential implications of identified changes on communities-men, women, youth, and vulnerable groups identified.

SOC/SAF spell out the perspectives of the community on the benefits and challenges in sustainable coastal development, and the effectiveness of the local government's ICM[6] program in deriving benefits.

Community perspectives on costal development → Benefits and challenges to both men, women identified, and alternatives identified

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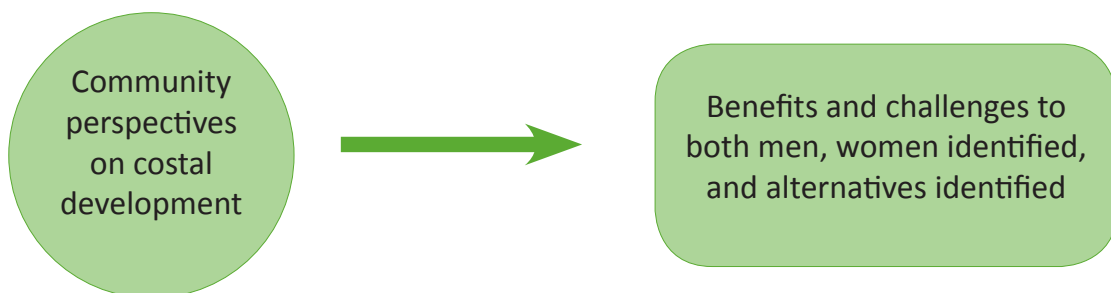
[6]   Integrated Coastal Management

The following are necessary to be included in the development of the SOC and SAF.

6. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

At the planning and initial stage of the development of the SOC/SAF, risks should be considered and dealt with at the planning stage and all other stages of SOC/SAF.

- Cultural practices and customs that define men and women work areas, participation in development and decision making is still strong in Pacific Island countries. These may pose barriers to women, youth, vulnerable groups participation.

- Finding entry points to include women in discussions and decision making should be a focus of the engagement strategy. Use existing institutional set up to talk to women and youth and leveraging what is already known and build on these mechanisms to ensure sustainable gender participation.

- Stakeholders' consultations and community awareness work could be determined by cultural practices in some countries. There are some traditional practices that confine women's areas of participation, or which do not allow young people to take part in discussions. These barriers to be defined early in the project and addressed to ensure gender inclusion.

- In countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati for example, meetings in the *falekaupule/maneaba*[7] or meeting houses are very restrictive and include men only, thus there is a need to ensure that meetings are not conducted in such restrictive spaces. In countries like Palau, the attempt should be in trying to get young men to be part of the discussions- because of the existence of very strong matrilineal culture.

- Ensuring the participation of traditional leaders, landowners in all discussions to ensure transparency and ownership. In some cases, these leaders will be women.

- Any discussions should be with landowners. For example, most land where resources are, are on native land thus the need to get the buy in of communities including men, women, youth to be supportive of the projects.

- Capacity building must be gender inclusive and consider barriers to women participation. Women may not be able to participate in workshops that are long. Opportunities to women and other groups to be in all areas of work to ensure their participation in areas that is conducive to them.

- Times for workshops and training to allow for women participation and cannot be too long as women must attend to their household duties.

- SOC reports and SAFs need to consider continuous development and changes that maybe happening in target sites, and consider any changes that affects women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.
  - The SOC/SAF are expected to be constantly changes in some areas- because there are many changes that take place in the coastal zone and in watershed areas that affect the coastal zone.

- Need to identify other external partners working at targeted sites to ensure that gender work can be built on other work already undertaken.

- In some countries, there is need to find out who is doing work in the target sites already and the work on gender already undertaken. This is to ensure no duplication of efforts and building on knowledge and skills already built.

- COVID 19 will mean that ways of changing, of interacting with communities and other countries by RPCU[8] will be limited, thus new ways of working may have to be employed.

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[7]   Traditional meeting houses in Tuvalu/Kiribati

[8]   Regional Programme Coordination Unit

7. INDICATORS

Some examples of governance, socio-economic and environmental indicators on gender progress that can be considered in SOC reports. The indicators help managers and practitioners to monitor gender progress.

Description	Outputs	Indicators	How information is collected
Demographics	Sex Disaggregated data Gender employment rates, income generation in target sites	Gender comparisons, Migration trends. Gender employment comparative statistics Gendered Income Poverty levels of men and women	Document reviews
Traditional governance	Decision making and gender inclusion	Women in traditional institutions/communities. Women in decision making forums	Documents, surveys, interviews, consultations
Land tenure	Women and land ownership and access	Women ownership of land compared to men	Documents, interviews
Coordination mechanisms	Inclusion of NGOs and CSOs that deal with women/youth.	Women NGOs, CSOs, traditional groups actively involved as partners in interventions implemented	Field work, consultations.
Management Plans	Inclusion of gender considerations in management interventions	Gender benefits and impacts considered in management work.	Consultations Interviews document reviews
	Participation of women/youth in committees	Women and youth in management committees.	Consultations
Stakeholder participation	Existing community practices in coastal care and land care	Women, men, youth, traditional leaders, elders involved in stakeholder engagement	Consultations, interviews
Knowledge and training	Gender inclusion in consultations/training. Capacity building	Capacity building and knowledge management on different men and women knowledge and skills	Consultations
Risk identification and management	Institutional mechanisms for emergency responses	Risks and management mechanisms identified are gender inclusive	Interviews

Description	Outputs	Indicators	How information is collected
Integrated approaches-ICM	Coastal area integrated approaches (ICM/IWRM) introduced and/or scaled up in	These approaches are gender and socially inclusive	Consultations
As above	Training needs assessment conducted and effective mechanisms for transfer of knowledge and skills in integrated approaches in environment and natural resources management	Training needs of women, youth and all other members of the communities addressed.	Interviews and monitoring progress
Human pressures on habitats	Gendered resource use Identified- and adaptation alternatives identified	Women, youth participate in adaptation interventions.	Consultations
Resource Use	Men and Women roles in exploitation of resources- Fishing activities, harvest methods etc. identified	Changes to harvest frequency and fishing patterns of men and women	Interviews
Coastal Protection	Management intervention in place and women/youth involvement	Women, youth part of long-term coastal protection interventions	Interviews

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