



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DRAFT LITERATURE REVIEW REPORT FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

1. BACKGROUND

In 2013 the Department of Environmental Affairs developed the Sector Gender Framework outlining the sector's vision, objectives, guiding principles, a focus program of women empowerment and gender initiatives as well as an implementation and monitoring plan all aimed at achieving women's empowerment and gender equality in the workplace.

In order to support the objectives of the Sector Gender Framework, a Strategy would be developed and implemented through an Action Plan to ensure the achievement of the sector's objectives for women empowerment and gender equality.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report aims to reflect the Literature Review conducted Nationally, Regionally and Internationally from the various South African Public Service documents, and international documents reflecting interventions and challenges identified in order to address, improve and promote gender mainstreaming within the Environment sector.

3. REFLECTION ON THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

The following discussion will outline the reflection of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Nationally, Regionally and Internationally.

3.1 Nationally

Through the Literature Review conducted Nationally from the Strategic Framework document for Gender Mainstreaming it is clear that there is a need to strengthen gender mainstreaming within the Public Sector to ensure the participation of women in decision making so that the needs of woman can move from margins to the centre of development planning and resource allocation.

Policy analysis is also required to examine the effects of gender differences when implementing policies. It is important that both men and woman be equally involved in decision making processes. The South African Policy for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality is implemented through Nationally and Provincially on the status of women. Public participation and developing education through democracy, and skills development are key in order to achieve the sector's objectives.

The Legislative Sector in South Africa has identified the strengths in terms of gender which reflect Legislative mandates that are in place, and are support mechanism that ensure the promotion of gender within the Public Sector which are Legislative bodies. The constitution and the bill of rights also promotes gender equality, and the gender policy framework broad strategies and programmes that support gender equality, the women and men of parliament that have institutional knowledge, competence and commitment to gender mainstreaming.

The Draft Strategic Framework on Gender and Women's Economic Empowerment is aimed at promoting broader participation, equity, redress in order to broaden the base of empowering people. The Framework also provides support in ensuring women participation in the economy and its objectives are focused on challenging the direct and indirect barriers in enterprise, industry and trade which prevents women from equal access and control of economic control.

There is a need to strengthen women's capacity and network to benefit from policies and programmes within the economic sector, and increase the access of finance to women. As well as to conduct research and put in place monitoring systems to measure gender impact. A similar approach was also followed to that of the Legislative Sector document reflecting that there was a need to improve gender mainstreaming within the country and the policies thereof.

3.2 Regionally

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development also illustrates the integration and mainstreaming of gender issues into the Southern African development Community Programme of Action and community building initiatives key to sustainable development. The objective of the Protocol is to provide for empowerment of women to eliminate discrimination and to achieve gender equality and equity through the development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

There would be a need to implement the harmonisation of various instruments which members of State have subscribed to at Regional and Continental and International level. Address emerging gender issues and concerns, to set realistic, measurable targets, time frames and indicators for achieving gender equality and equity. To strengthen, monitor and evaluate the progress made by member of state and the goal indicated within the Protocol document and to strengthen regional integration, attain sustainable development, and strengthen community building.

The SADAC Protocol documents promotes equal participation by both male and females in all electoral processes, decision making through putting in place policies, strategies and programmes through leadership, gender sensitivity training and mentoring. Providing structures for decision making positions, strengthening structures to enhance gender mainstreaming as well as changing discriminatory attitude and norms of decision making structures and procedures.

In terms of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation the State Parties would need to ensure the implementation of the Protocol document at a National Level and there are national action plans with measurable timeframes and evaluation mechanisms developed and implemented. The State parties should collect and analyse baseline data against progress in which through achieving targets it will monitored. Reporting will be done every two years to the secretary of SADAC.

The SADAC also developed the Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development aimed at enhancing the protection of the environment in order to contribute to human health, well-being and poverty alleviation. There would be a need to promote equitable and sustainable utilisation of natural and cultural resources and the protection of the environment for the benefit of the present and future generations. There is a need to promote shared management of trans boundary environment and natural resources as well as effective management and response to climate change and variables.

In order to achieve the said objectives there would also be a need to contribute towards sustainable development through the adoption of sound environmental management principles and procedures. Ensuring equitable access and sharing of benefits that accrues from genetic resources. Ensuring that gender equality and equity is mainstreamed into environmental management for sustainable development. The mainstreaming of sustainable development objectives into trade and socio economic policies, programmes and plans in the region.

Enhance restoration, rehabilitation and remediation of degraded polluted environments. Facilitate the harmonisation of environmental policies, legislation, law enforcement and natural resources governance. Monitor and report on environmental trends and the implementation of trans boundary programmes in the region including development and implementation of early warning systems and environment risk assessments. Facilitate the development, implementation and coordination of environmental assessment procedures, environmental management instruments and standards. Develop and implement coordinated climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and implementation of coordinated environmental disaster management responses.

There would be a need to manage the collection of storage movement, disposal of waste and hazardous chemicals and radioactive materials. The prevention and control of air, water and soil pollution and degradation of regional natural resources. Promote sustainable land management practices to prevent soil erosion, land degradation, deforestation, desertification, overgrazing and bush encroachment and promoting the use of environmental economics and natural resources accounting in development planning.

3.3 Internationally

Mainstreaming Gender in UNEP entails change in attitude and practices and how work is carried out. The vision of UNEP is to develop a gender responsive environment and management programme. UNEP developed the Gender plan of action in 2006 which would focus on ensuring that gender is fully integrated into the work UNEP does internally and at an external level. There would be a need to build capacity of partners in integrating gender into environmental programmes from global to local levels.

The UN fact sheet also highlights that in the development of the gender mainstreaming strategy through the implementation of the Action Plan the first step would be to analysis should be made of the current contributions and responsibilities of both men and women and the potential impacts of planned processes and activities. Mainstreaming does not replace women focused projects and programmes and legislations. Mainstreaming and empowerment for women are complementary strategies. Mainstreaming should be implemented in a way that it facilitates the empowerment of women.

4. Recommendations

It is proposed that the following recommendation from the various sources be noted as they will serve beneficial for the development of the Environment Sector Gender Strategy.

- The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy be implemented through the Action Plan.
- The Review of the appropriate literature for gender mainstreaming be conducted through gender policy framework and international instruments.
- A baseline of Indicators established which will include the definition of minimum standards and ideal standards.
- A common understanding of the gender key components in order to achieve gender mainstreaming.
- Conduct a budget and resource analysis
- Feasible monitoring tools and process to track the progress determined with key stakeholders and application to the Strategic Plan.
- Continuous reporting in order to identify gaps and area which require further intervention.
- The implementation Strategy should include both the political and administration elements in it, as the work performed at a political level will be a reflection of the administration processes implemented.
- Conduct stakeholder engagement provincially and conduct analysis of gender related issues at the grass root areas.
- Task team members to utilise the recommendation stated within the document for the development of the Sector Gender Strategy.

5. Conclusion

The Diagnostic Report will form basis for the development of the Sector Gender Strategy planned within the 2015/16 financial year and will also outline the key focus areas in terms of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality. The Strategy will be developed as per the analysis of the literature review conducted and implemented through the action plan. The analysis conducted has illustrated the importance of Gender mainstreaming in ensuring Women Empowerment and Gender Equality.

6. References

A Strategic Framework for Gender Equality within the Public Service (2006-2015): 2006. Available at www.gov.za/documents/downloads.php?f=126557

Draft Strategic Framework on Gender and Women Economic Empowerment: 2007. Available at www.dti.gov.za/economic_empowerment/draft_strategic_framework.pdf

Guideline for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. 2010. Available at www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-49-en.pdf

The Educator: Mainstreaming Gender in UNEP. 2 (2) available at <http://www.unep.org/training>

Working towards a Strategic Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in the Legislative Sector Available at www.sals.gov.za/research/strategic_framework.pdf