



GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT IN COASTAL AND FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

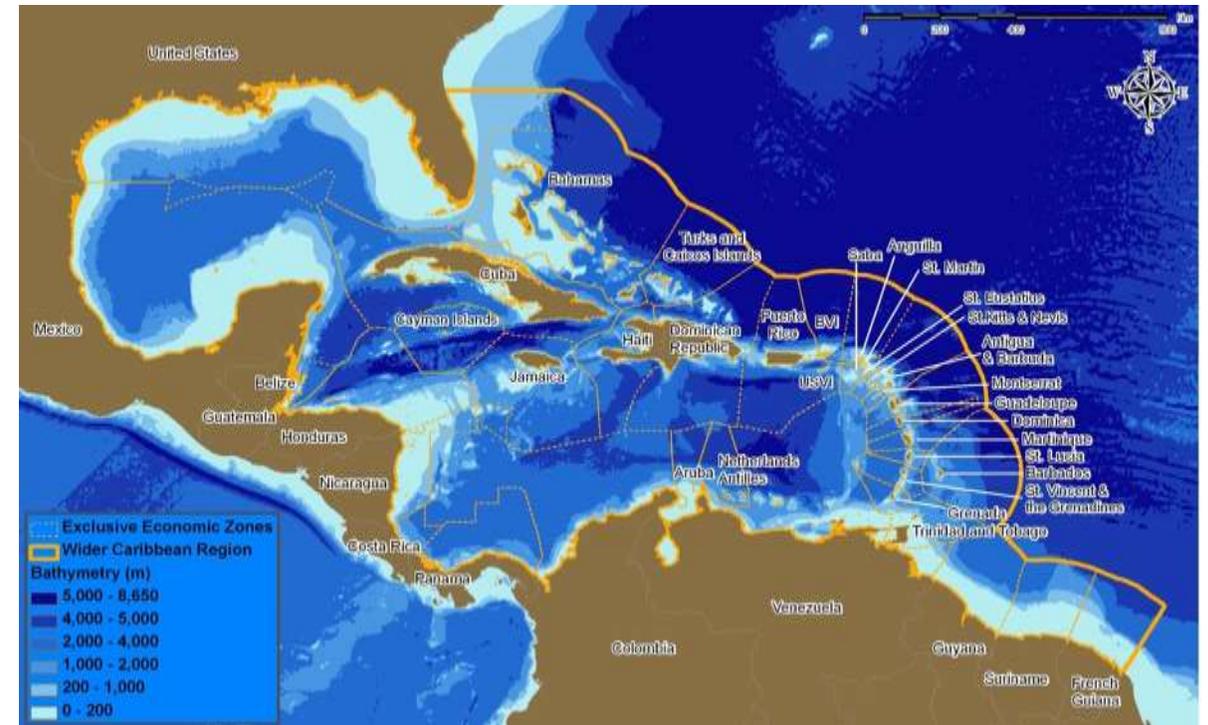
Leisa Perch, Patrick McConney
and Maria Pena
Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT)
University of the West Indies,
Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

THE PROBLEM

In the English-speaking Caribbean, gender equality in fisheries:

- Remains difficult to define
- Is still not yet mainstreamed
- Is still quite actively debated
- Requires a policy foundation
- Can reduce unsustainability

Failure to recognize fisheries as adaptive social-ecological systems



Women play a central role in fisheries, and in use of seafood all in households



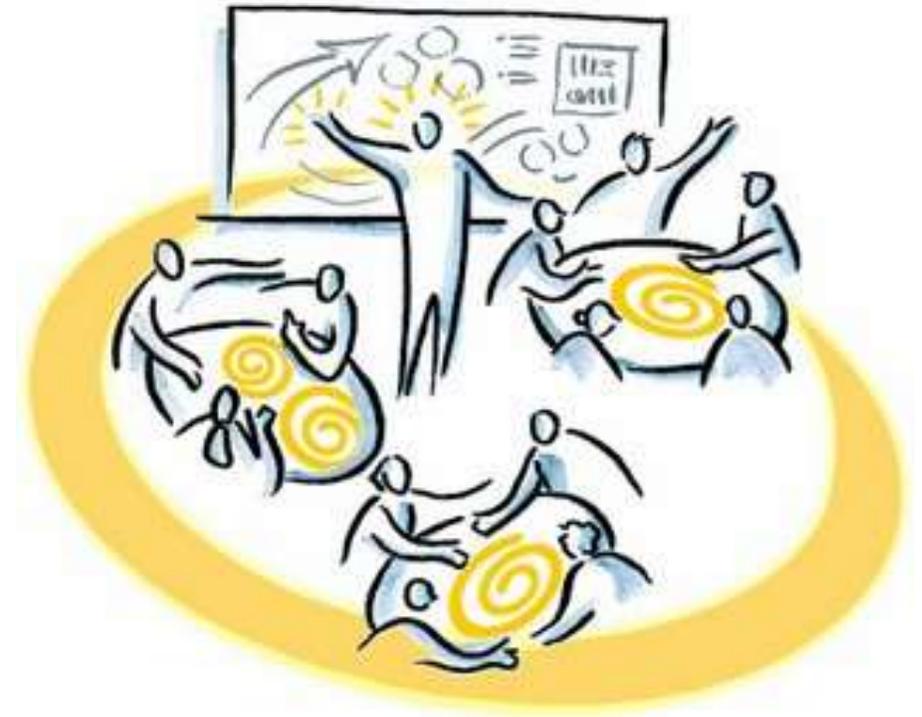
WHAT TO DO?

Need to

- link the social with the ecological
- integrate hazards and climate risks
- expose gender-differentiated realities

Demand for new sustainability pathways in policy and practice

Actively engage more women in decision-making and governance arrangements and promote their leadership and influence



SIGNS OF HOPE

Protocol to incorporate SSF Guidelines

CRFM regional gender in fisheries policy

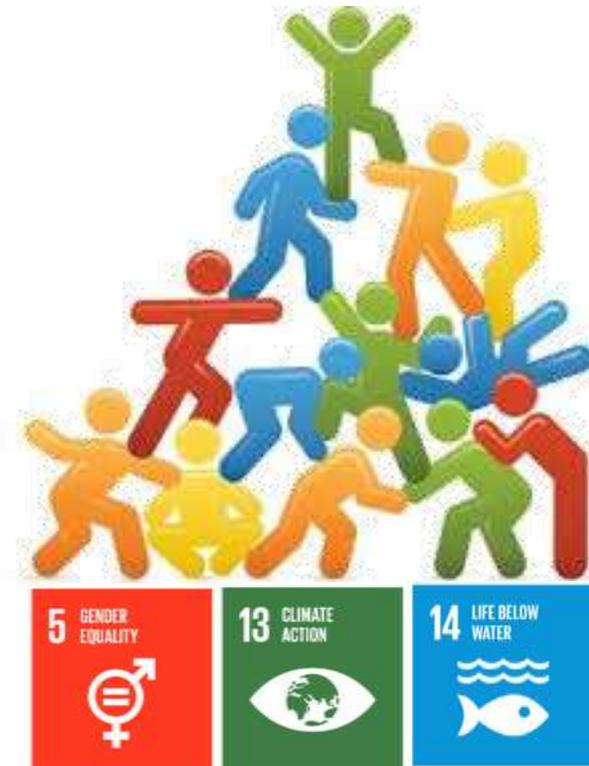
Fisherfolk organisation interest in gender

Active discussion at the ministerial level

Focus on climate resilience includes gender

Disaster recovery highlights gender roles

Convergence of interest in SDGs 5, 13, 14



METHODS

Secondary data generated from a review of existing policy documents

Primary data from 2018 online survey to generally assess gender, climate risks and disaster risks

41 questions, 7 specific to fisherfolk

108 responses, 42% completion rate.

Variables of interest included:

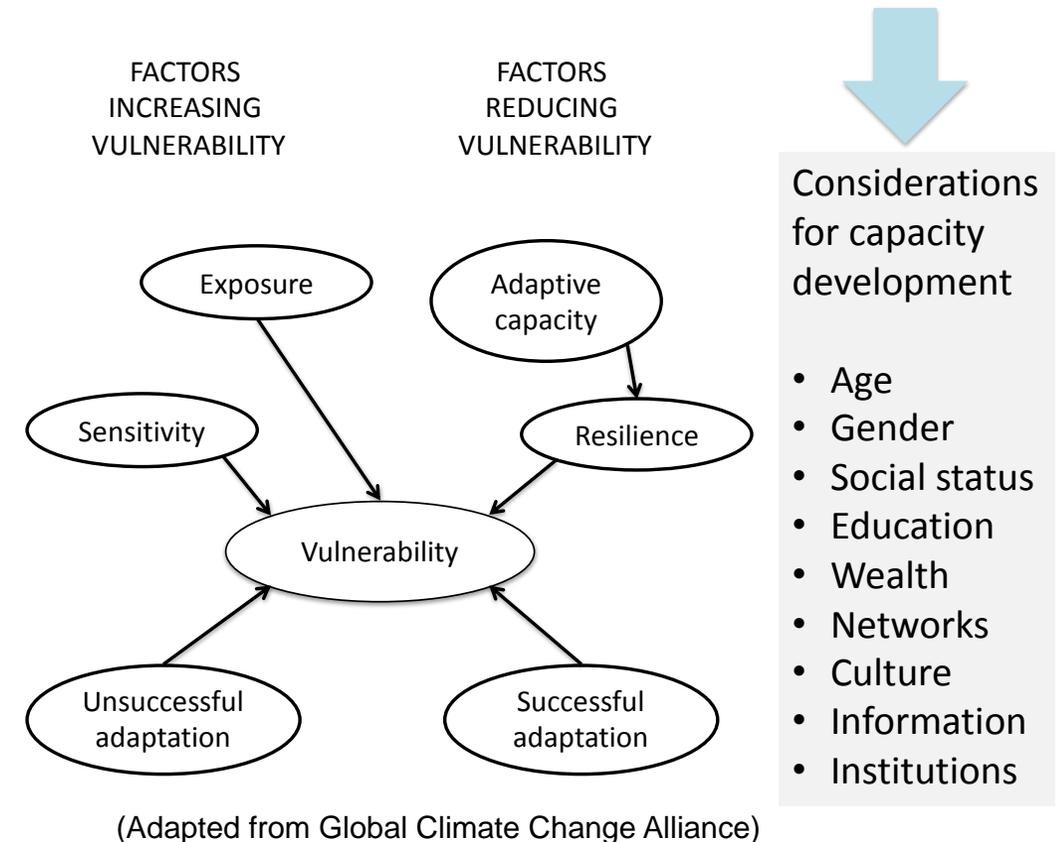
- (i) perceived vulnerability of the sector;
- (ii) vulnerability derived from being involved in the sector;
- (iii) capacity to adapt; and
- (iv) access to tools that would facilitate adaptation

RESULTS

PERCEIVED VULNERABILITY OF FISHERFOLK

Fisherfolk perceived as vulnerable ... often due to physical location, limited adaptive capacity, limited access to finance

Compared to other typically vulnerable groups such as: elderly, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, pregnant and lactating mothers, infants and young children, female headed households, male-only households.

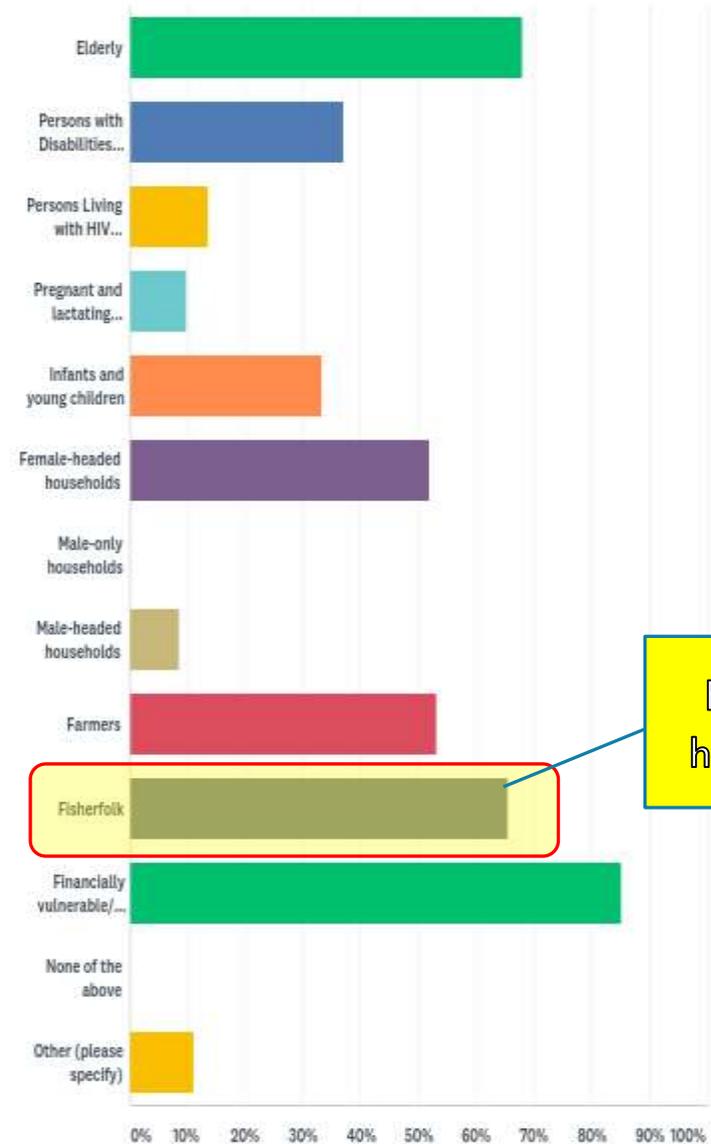


Q5 Who is most likely to live in places exposed to hazards? Select a maximum of 5.

RESULTS

Summary of responses to “Who is most likely to live in places exposed by hazards”.

Source: Derived from online survey



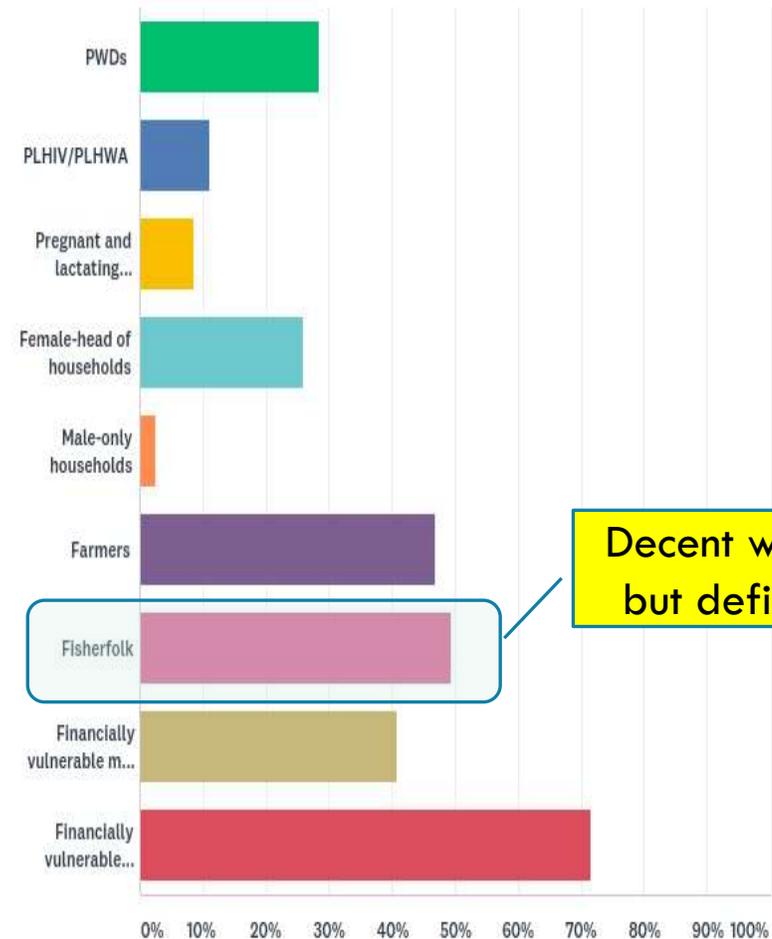
Fisherfolk live in hazardous places

RESULTS

Results for question on work places without risk-reducing infrastructure and strategies.

Source: Derived from online survey

Q7 Which of the following groups is most likely to work in places that do not have risk-reducing infrastructure and strategies? Select the top three only.



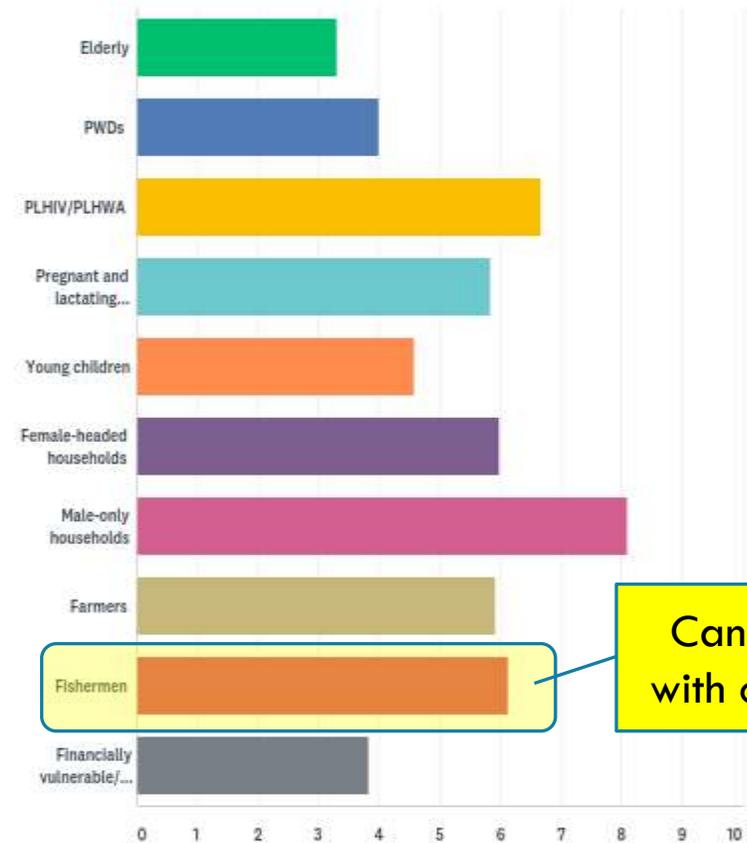
Decent work maybe, but definitely risky

RESULTS

Response on ability to cope with, adapt to or avoid climate and disaster impacts.

Derived from online survey

Q10 Please rank from 1 to 10 who is least able to cope with disaster and climate impacts and/or adapt to or avoid them with 10 = highest risk (least able to cope) and 1 = lowest risk (best able to cope).



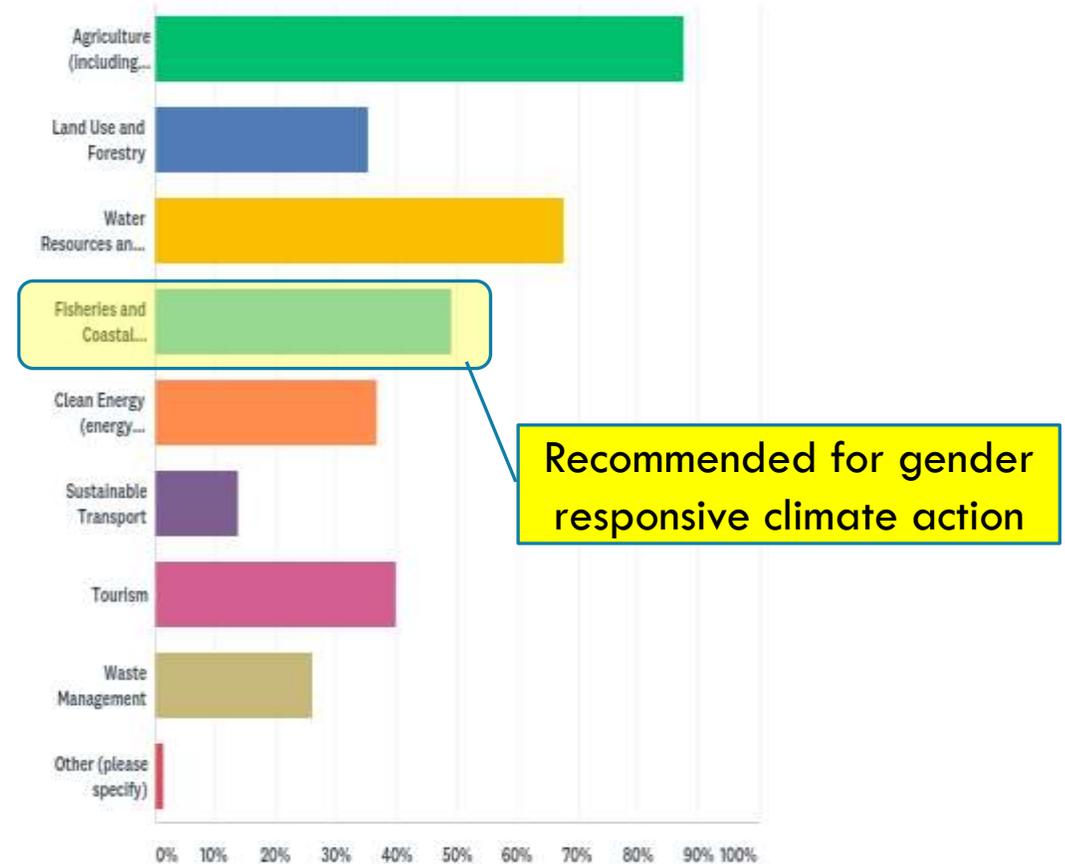
Cannot easily cope with or avoid impacts

RESULTS

Priority sectors for gender-responsive climate action

Source: Derived from online survey

Q23 Identify the key sectors where gender-responsive climate change actions can be best implemented for the greatest impact on women and girls. (Select a maximum of three options).



LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN THE ANALYSIS

Rapid desk analysis of existing policy documents

Did not explore issues of implementation capacity

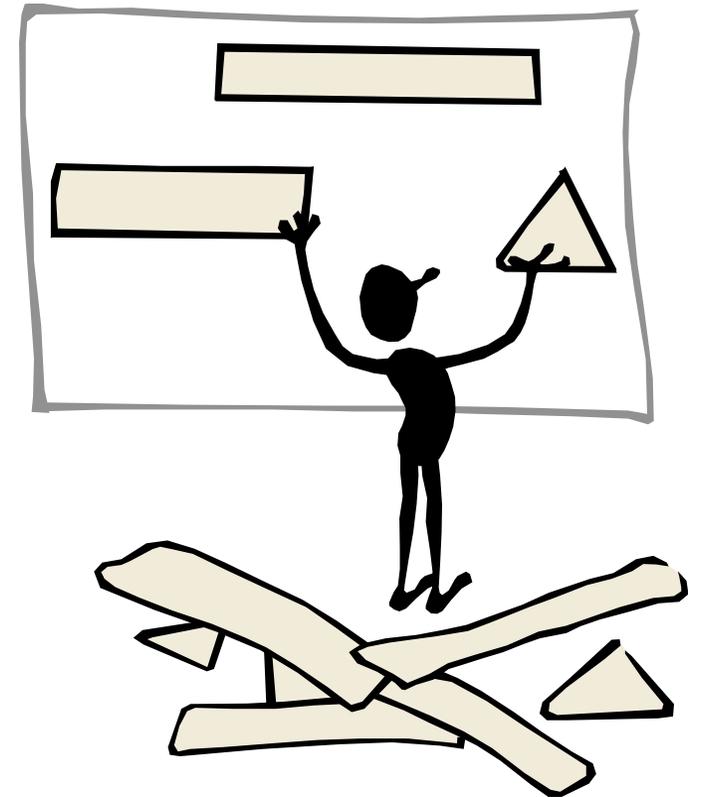
Results also reflect the perspectives of other livelihood sectors and other actors

Communication challenges typical of online surveys

but

Gender-responsive disaster recovery and climate action was a specific focus with relevance to fisheries

Informative on drivers for change in fisheries sector



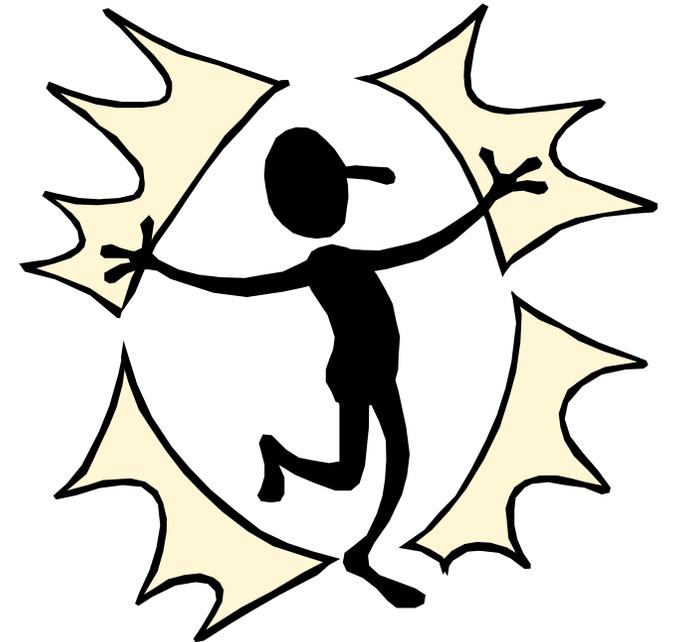
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fisheries is one of the top 3 sectors where gender-responsive climate actions can best be implemented for the greatest positive impact on women and girls

Behind agriculture and water resources but ahead of land use and forestry

Important pathways for increased coherence between gender and fisheries policy can be identified

Ensure that climate policy neither undermines gender-responsive efforts, or fails to take critical opportunities to boost them



AREAS OF CONCERN FOR GENDER AND FISHERIES

Several capacity gaps and engagement gaps that limit female influence on policy, governance and decision-making.

Gender mainstreaming efforts at the policy and planning level need to be supported by specific gender expertise, gender-specific governance mechanisms and clear accountability tools



LOOKING FORWARD TO GENDER IN FISHERIES

Opportunities for greater coherence between SDGs 5, 13 and 14 will require robust technical support, improved data, more consistent and available financing and strengthened coordination mechanisms

Though broad sustainability arguments are relevant, those most persuasive are likely to be those linked more closely to income-generation and sustainable livelihoods ... closely linked to human well-being

