

Abstracts for Symposium:

“Women as Change Agents in the World’s Rangelands”

0231

Gender and Natural Resources: Global Overview

Claudia Radel, D. Layne Coppock

Department of Environment & Society, Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA

In this presentation, we provide an overview to questions of gender in natural resource management and in agricultural and rangeland systems. We begin by reviewing and comparing several different conceptual frameworks including feminist political ecology, gendered sustainable livelihoods, gendered agricultural relations, and the women’s empowerment in agriculture index. Drawing on existing global data sets, we summarize what we know about women’s status in the agricultural and natural resource sectors at the national and global scales and highlight the continued lack of sufficient and consistent information disaggregated by gender. We conclude by pointing to a number of topics with important gender intersections, with an eye towards both the opportunities and the perils for gender equality and women’s gender empowerment goals. If women are to realize any of these opportunities, particular attention must be given to how and why asset gaps persist; how individuals and collective groups both reinforce and challenge gender ideologies; and how differences in individual men’s and women’s positioning in societies, communities, and households lead to differences in socio-environmental vulnerabilities.

0266

Women and the SRM, Past, Present and Future

Barbara Allen-Diaz

University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

Women have been an integral part of the Society of Range Management from its inception. Women first largely acted in support roles, supporting their husbands' professional careers or working side-by-side with their spouse and family running the ranch. Women first attended SRM meetings primarily as spouses, forming a close-knit spouse group that provided forums for social and student interactions during the annual SRM meetings. By the 1980s, increasing numbers of women were attending SRM as the professional in the field; they came alone to these meetings, brought male spouses, or by the 90s were also bringing children. Clearly issues of balancing work and family life expectations were increasingly important, and these 'new' SRM members brought different experiences and different needs to SRM leadership. SRM needed to evolve and did in many respects. Change never happens however, without lots of soul-searching, evaluation of mission and direction, angst, and making choices. Choices were made both by leadership of the time and by the members themselves. Tracing the changes in SRM leadership, values, and modes of operation will provide a window through which to view the possible future of SRM.

0203

Cross-Border Interaction Spurs Innovation and Hope among Pastoral Women of Ethiopia and Kenya

D. Layne Coppock¹, Seyoum Tezera², Solomon Desta², Abdillahi Aboud³, Stellamaris Muthoka⁴, Getachew Gebru², Mark Mutinda³, Azeb Yonas²

¹*Dept. of Environment and Society, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA,* ²*MARIL PLC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,* ³*Dept. of Natural Resources, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya,* ⁴*Dept. of Nutrition and Pre-Clinical Studies, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya*

The pastoral areas of eastern Africa are typically characterized today by "gloom and doom." Poverty is rampant and rangelands are often ecologically degraded. Residents can be at risk of famine and sporadic violence occurs. Within this framework we report on some success stories that focus on the achievements and vision of pastoral women. Women have typically been in the backseat of pastoral politics and development initiatives; they have often lacked the right to own or trade larger species of livestock (cattle or camels), have rarely been consulted when development projects are created, and are subjected to the daily toils of hauling water, collecting firewood, and managing households. Our story begins with the discovery of dynamic pastoral women's groups in remote northern Kenya who organized themselves, saved money, created innovative small-businesses, and eventually provided funding support for public education and health services in their impoverished communities. This model was successfully transferred to southern Ethiopia following a project-facilitated event where Ethiopian pastoral women leaders were taken across the border to meet and learn from their Kenyan peers. Subsequently, the approach was further modified and extended back to agro-pastoral communities in the Rift Valley of central Kenya, where women again emerged as community pacesetters and spearheaded major accomplishments. In each case, initial push-back from men was overcome. Women have particular talents to engage, persevere, and create change for the betterment of their communities under daunting circumstances. Rather than being sidelined in pastoral and rangeland development initiatives, pastoral women should be a major focus.

0014

Women, sheep and goats. The livestock farming economy of Mexico from a gender perspective

Veronica Vazquez-Garcia

Colegio de Postgraduados, Texcoco, EDOMEX, Mexico

The cattle, sheep, goats and pigs that Europeans brought to America in the late 15th century caused dramatic changes in the environmental landscape and the sociocultural practices of indigenous peoples. These animals slowly became part of Mesoamerican diets and peasant productive systems. Nowadays, some (particularly cattle and pigs) are produced industrially, but all of them continue to be part of small-scale livestock farming systems of rural Mexico. Gender ideology and the market economy determine women's and men's tasks, responsibilities and rights to these animals as well as the access that each gender may have to grazing and/or fodder collection lands. The aim of this paper is to analyze the ways in which Mexican animal science and livestock policy have failed to acknowledge gender roles in animal husbandry, including women's traditional knowledge, access to information and assets (i.e. veterinary services and supplies) and production needs. Focus is placed on sheep and goats, two species generally raised by women living in distinctive ecosystems (highlands and dry rangelands, respectively). The paper concludes by identifying some of the key gender elements of Mexican livestock farming economy in order to design more effective policy interventions.

0111

Women and Extensive Livestock Production in Afghanistan

Catherine Schloeder^{1,2}, Michael Jacobs^{1,2}

¹Texas A&M University, College Station, USA, ²Oikos Services, LLC, Fortine, MT, USA, ³Ecology & Environment, Inc., Albany, NY, USA

Afghanistan's extensive livestock producers, the Kuchi, are comprised of various ethnic identities including the Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, Arab, Aimaz, Hazara, Khirghiz, Turkmen, and Baluch. These various Kuchi play an integral role in Afghanistan's economy by providing livestock and livestock by-products for sale and trade. The role of Kuchi women in livestock production is not dissimilar to the role of female extensive livestock producers elsewhere in the world in that they have a role in production and like the men, their role is critical to ensure the survival, health and growth of the herd. Similarly, Kuchi women share in the benefits of this joint effort. The exact roles of Kuchi men and women differs somewhat partly because of the adherence of the Kuchi people, to varying degrees, to a conservative interpretation of Islam. In particular, women are rarely seen herding animals except in the immediate vicinity of the families tent and they seldom appear in public for the purpose of buying or selling. Additionally, Kuchi women are solely responsible for all aspects of carpet production with the exception of shearing the animals, which is primarily the job of men, and the production of dairy products for sale and consumption. Unfortunately, extensive livestock production in Afghanistan is currently at risk. Over half of the total population of Kuchi is now settled after massive livestock losses and in 2006, the Kuchi represented 70% of the Internally Displaced Population in Afghanistan. Today, poverty and food insecurity is the norm for those that are settled.

0050

Women as Collaborative Leaders in US Rangelands

Laura Van Riper

Bureau of Land Management, National Riparian Service Team, Prineville, Oregon, USA

Rangeland management within the Western United States is changing and women, through their effort and example, are informing this process. Women's capacity and inclination for collaboration and cooperation in business, academic endeavors, community development, natural resource management, and other areas has drawn increasing attention and scholarship in recent years. In contrast to more traditional (and masculine) leadership styles and problem solving approaches, which typically privilege individualism, competitiveness, and command and control or top-down decision making, emerging (and distinctly more feminine) approaches focus on advancing relationships, community, and communication that fosters extended dialogue as a way to engage, understand and develop solutions that address people's differing perspectives and needs. Using an interactive format, this panel will draw on the stories and experiences of women ranchers to: highlight and describe their role as innovators and community collaborators; explore their backgrounds, motivations and tactics; and describe the unique challenges and opportunities they have faced, as well as lessons they have learned.

0313

Women and Range Education

Amy Ganguli¹, Karen Launchbaugh²

¹New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, USA, ²University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, USA

Women play an increasingly pivotal role in rangeland education as our profession adapts to an expanding diversity of rangeland values and stakeholder interests. Like other natural resource disciplines, rangeland ecology and management was historically dominated by men. The range managers, agency personnel, consultants, scientists, outreach specialists and educators that founded and built our profession were, with few exceptions, men. Over the last 30 years, rangeland education programs nationwide have

undergone considerable evolution to be more inclusive of contemporary issues facing rangelands including a higher emphasis on resource conservation and multiple use management. This expansion of traditional rangeland education programs has been accompanied by a dramatic influx of non-traditional students and educators. The gender demographic in rangeland education has progressively become more balanced similar to patterns observed in other biological and agricultural disciplines. The objective of this paper is to discuss the history of women as rangeland educators and highlight the specific role that greater participation of women in rangeland education plays in mentoring and preparing a cohort of professionals ready to face the modern challenges of rangeland management. We will also discuss research findings from related disciplines that suggest a benefit of having greater gender balance in the rangeland profession. Finally, we will suggest strategies for retaining and sustaining women in rangeland education to advance the profession of rangeland management and ensure the relevance of our profession well into the future.

0151

Gender aspects of rangeland management in Mongolia

Tungalag Ulambayar¹, Maria Fernandez-Gimenez¹, Batbuyan Batjav², Batkhishig Baival³

¹Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA, ²Center for Nomadic Studies, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, ³Nutag Partners LLC, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Nomadic women play a pivotal role in Mongolia's rural development through their labor contributions to households' livelihoods, while bearing essential caregiving obligations within pastoral families. Among the women-related studies since late 90s, the little attention has been given to the gender aspects of natural resource management in Mongolia and the potential influence of gender on the performance of community institutions for resource management. This research contributes to addressing the existing gap in scientific information about gender dimensions of community institutions for pasture management. We collected social and economic data on 702 herder households belonging to 141 community institutions across 10 Mongolian provinces (aimag). To explore the gender features of rangeland management, we compare the outcomes of female-headed households and women-led community groups with those of male-headed households and community organizations. This comparison will help identify potential gender dimensions of formal community-based rangeland management institutions (N=72) and informal traditional herder neighborhoods (N=69), as well as household-level differences. We hypothesize that female-headed households will demonstrate significant social and economic disadvantages compared to their male-headed counterparts, and these are reflected in reduced adaptive capacity and greater vulnerability at a household level. In contrast, we hypothesize that female-headed community organizations are associated with greater adaptive capacity due to stronger social networks and greater emphasis on learning and capacity building. The identification of gender components in the performance of community-based rangeland management institutions should contribute to improved institutional design leading to greater adaptive capacity in the face of environmental and economic changes.

0166

Shifting into the driver's seat - women of the Australian rangelands driving change.

Sally Leigo^{1,2}

¹Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation, Alice Springs, NT, Australia, ²Northern Territory Government Department of Resources, Alice Springs, NT, Australia

The Australian rangelands make up 81% of Australia's land area, has a gross revenue of AUS\$90.5 Billion but contains 3% of the country's population. The main contributors include mining (39.5%), manufacturing (12.6%) and agriculture, forestry and fisheries (9.3%). This paper focuses on the women involved in the beef industry, which is part of the agricultural sector. With a sparse population and limited available time, engaging leaders in the beef industry to represent their needs at a local, state or national level is becoming increasingly difficult. In response, the Commonwealth Government of Australia in

partnership with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association) and the Northern Territory Department of Resources initiated a two year project to build the leadership capacity of women in the beef industry. In 2009, seven one-day workshops were held in remote locations with participants (total n=107) travelling up to 800kms to attend. In 2010, nine follow up workshops were held with a total of 86 participants attending. Participants learned about communication skills, strategic planning, mental and physical well-being. The women benefitted from this investment in their personal development, while the beef industry also benefitted. This was especially evident 12 months later during a ban of all Australian stock for live-export. During this crisis some workshop participants were involved in negotiations with the Commonwealth Government and as spokespeople for their industry. By engaging women, the beef industry benefitted by the increased representation and the different perspective women brought as business partners in managing the land.

0052

"Range Women: Integrating Women's Voices into Rangeland Management Research and Extension Design."

Rachel Mealor¹, Hailey Wilmer²

¹*Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, USA,*

²*Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA*

Women are an important presence in the ranching and rangeland management fields, taking active roles in grazing plan development and rangeland monitoring. However, women's voices have traditionally been absent from studies of the diffusion of innovation, land management decision-making and the design of rangeland research outreach programs. Further study is needed to determine if women have distinct needs for the content and structure of outreach programming and if family level decision-making is a driving force for rangeland innovation adoption. This presentation outlines: 1) the results of a literature review and a research agenda concerning how female ranch operators and their families make management decisions, and how women's experiences can inform the design of future outreach programming and 2) an extension program focused on providing women with basic natural resource science while illustrating the development and use of techniques to improve the management of their rangelands.

0204

Pastoral Women of the Andes of Bolivia and Peru

Corinne Valdivia¹, Cecilia Turin², Jere Gilles¹

¹*University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, USA,* ²*Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Lima, Peru*

The High Plateau of the Andes between Peru and Bolivia is home to agropastoral and pastoral household production systems where women are critical to the livelihoods of their families and are often sole decision makers. Over the last twenty years many drivers have impacted the landscapes of the Altiplano region. Markets have created incentives for the establishment of dairy production, changing livestock asset composition, and directly impacting women in the Andes. Markets have also created opportunities for migration leaving women to be the sole decision makers. Other factors increasingly affecting their livelihoods include climate variability and change that appears to be drying the landscapes they depend on for grazing their animals, but also where livestock have been a key savings mechanism to buffer shocks and build other assets. Historical data from the last twenty years is analyzed to identify changes in the role of women and their agency, their assets and the livelihoods of their families, teasing out how livestock and range lands are elements of their asset building strategy.