

Gender aspects and conflict analysis for water diplomacy

Annex to the Guidebook "Conflict analysis
tool for water diplomacy – Why, what, how?"

Gender plays a role in conflicts and their resolution

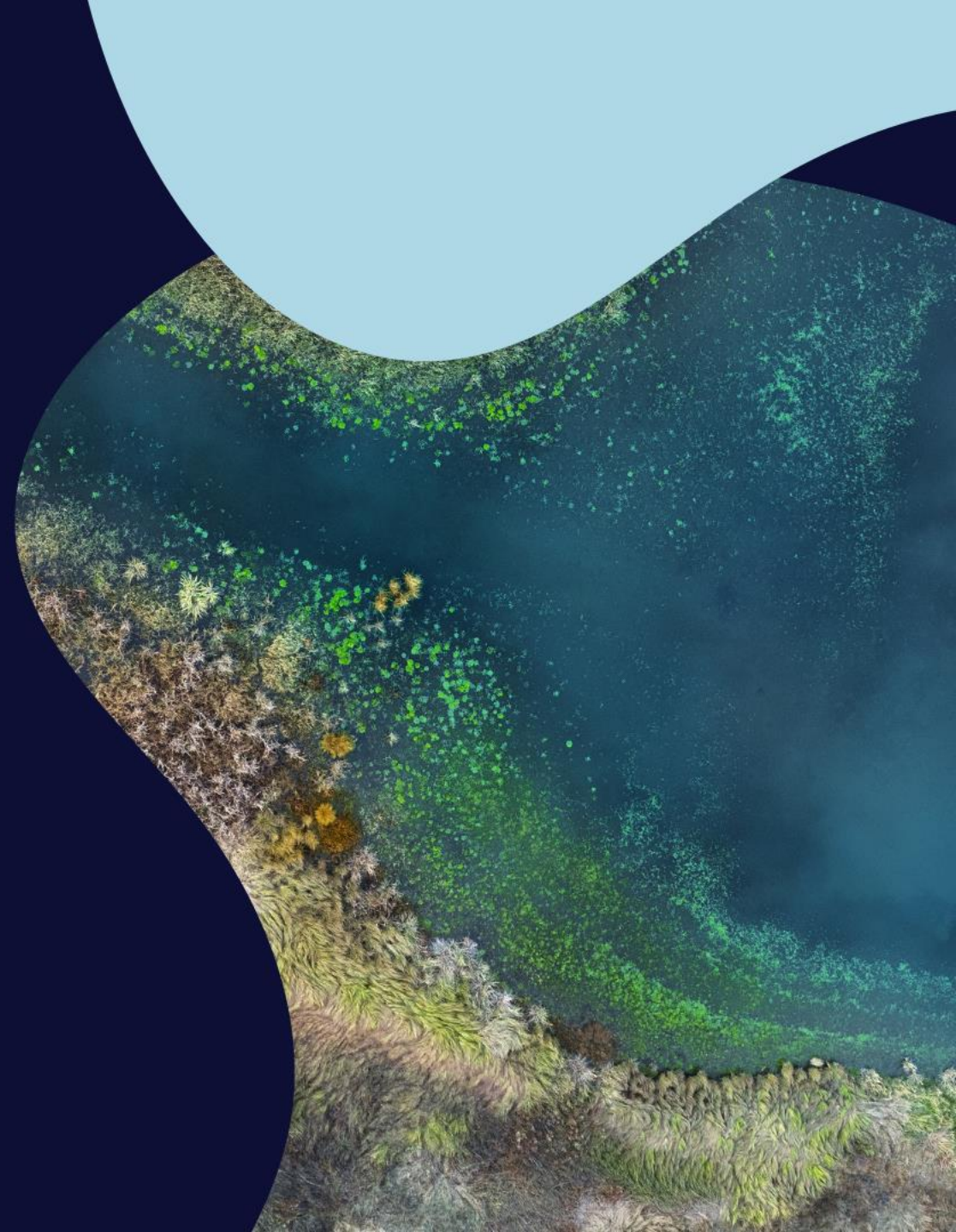
- Gender is intertwined in the social positions that influence conflict and the individuals affected by it
- Conflict can disrupt and change gender relations
- Therefore, a gender approach can
 - provide an **analytical framework** for understanding prevalent power structures and social inequalities underlying a conflict
 - yield **policy options** to facilitate peace and stability through more efficient and inclusive interventions

Gender and water diplomacy

- Gender roles yield different social positions, division of labour and other factors that affect the ways women and men behave in relation to the environment
- Social inequalities, also linked to gender roles, affect access to natural resources and experiences of scarcity, which have a role in conflict and peace processes
- Water diplomacy **must be based on human rights** and therefore needs to take gender into account
 - to ensure that the **needs** of all those affected are addressed and that **inequalities** are not perpetuated
 - to design more **efficient and inclusive interventions**

A gender approach to conflict analysis for water diplomacy: Why?

- More comprehensive analysis
- More effective policy options
- Attention to questions of inequality
- Improved ability to follow do-no-harm principle
- Promotion of inclusivity and participation
- Broader and more inclusive basis for identifying peace potential
- Opportunities for improved gender equality in peace processes



Gender can be seen as a system of power

- **Gender as identities, roles and relations:** Expectations and choices available to individuals regarding their roles, tasks and activities
- **Gender as a system of meanings:** Symbols influencing the way the surrounding world is ordered
- **Gendered institutions:** Organisational structures, cultures, and practices based on and producing ideas about gender
 - ➔ Need for context-related, intersectional analysis

Intersectional approaches are necessary

- **Intersectionality:** aims to comprehend how the various social and political identities of an individual will result in unique combinations of discrimination and privilege
- Gender ≠ only women: men also experience inequalities, and sexual and gender minorities often are particularly exposed
- No gender constitutes a homogenous group, rather than a multitude of overlapping experiences
- A failure to recognize intersectionality may lead to over-simplified, counter-productive one-size-fits-all solutions
- Gender is intertwined with human rights and inequality

Gender issues feature at all levels of water diplomacy

Local

- Participation in: Decision-making about water use and access; livelihoods
- Actors: Individuals; water user committees; civil society organisations; women's networks; gender stakeholder groups

National

- Participation in: Water governance; (cross-)sectoral water allocation
- Actors: Experts; authorities; political parties; civil society organisations; women's networks; gender stakeholder groups

International

- Participation in: Water allocation; transboundary water governance; negotiations; conflict resolution; peace-building
- Actors: Experts; authorities; ministries; transboundary basin organisations; civil society organisations; regional networks; gender stakeholder groups

Water diplomacy and gender examples: Livelihoods and insecurity

Women are often responsible for unpaid, water-intensive domestic work like cleaning, cooking and fetching water

- Water scarcity → Even longer journeys to access water keep women from pursuing other goals and expose them to threats
- Conflict → E.g. in Yemen and Syria, women exposed to sexual violence and abuse as well as diseases due to poor hygiene

Men tend to be responsible for livelihoods/income outside household

- Water scarcity → E.g. around Lake Chad, young men more likely to be recruited to terrorist organisations as traditional livelihoods like agriculture become impossible

Water diplomacy and gender examples: Access to decision-making

Women often are underrepresented in water governance/diplomacy

- Gender roles but also the disproportionate impact of water scarcity on women hinders their access to education and economic independence.
 - Illiteracy, marginalisation from societal activities
 - Deepening lack of representation
 - Decision-making that perpetuates marginalization
- Conflict can alter gender roles
 - Women need to be able to participate in peace processes
 - Marginalized roles may be reinforced in a post-conflict situation

Water diplomacy and gender examples: Migration

Conflict and environmental change have an effect migration patterns

- Men often migrate while women stay behind
 - Emergence of ‘feminized’ (female dominated) communities
 - Increased economic role for women
 - Increased responsibility for running the household
 - Along their migration route, men are exposed to violence

Gender should cross-cut all stages of conflict analysis

1. Needs assessment

- What are the gender roles and power relations of those carrying out the analysis?
- How and by whom will the analysis be used?
- How do the objectives factor in gender relations?

2. Analysis

- Do the sources enable analysis of gender roles?
- Who is interviewed?
- Is there a need to take extra measures to ensure women/minorities are heard?

3. Policy outcomes/follow-up

- How do the outcomes reflect gender relations?
- How can a gender-sensitive approach be maintained in the follow-up?

**Conflict analysis for
water diplomacy**



**Outcomes
Recommendations
Next steps**

Profile

Actors
(international,
national local,
incl. non-state)

**Conflict
factors**

Dynamics

Socioeconomic and
political context

(Potential)
conflict parties

Structural factors
and drivers

Local, national
and international
conflict dynamics

Political institutions
and societal
structures

Peace enablers

Water (use) as
conflict factor

Water dynamics

Water resources,
their governance
and related future
scenarios

External actors

Peace and
resilience factors

Water-related
cross-sectoral
dynamics

**Gender
perspective**

Profile

Guiding questions



Profile

Provides the background of the region, including political and socio-economic setting, and conflict histories. It particularly considers water resources, their use and management, and their future outlooks.



Provides the socioeconomic, political and environmental context

- Governance institutions, demographics, conflict histories, societal cleavages
 - Do genders enjoy equal rights (legal/social life)?
 - What is the gender wage gap and what are levels of female/male unemployment?
 - Are there major cleavages in gender roles across population groups (e.g. urban/rural)
 - What is the gender balance in political structures?
 - What kinds of barriers are there for participation?
- Water resources, water governance systems, future outlook
 - What is the level of participation of women in water governance?

Actors

Guiding questions



Actors

Traces (potential) conflict parties, peace enablers, and external actors as well as their interests, networks, and power relations. The focus is on decisive actors as well as vulnerable groups, and to understand their relationships to water resources.

Political actors and population groups that influence and are influenced by the situation

- (Potential) conflict parties (state and non-state) and vulnerable groups
 - What is the gender representation of the conflict parties?
 - Is vulnerability linked to gender roles?
- Key external actors
- Potential peacemakers
 - Are women or minorities represented in peace initiatives?

Conflict factors

Guiding questions



Conflict factors

Structural causes like economic inequalities as well as short term drivers like increased political oppression. Our tool specifically focuses on water-related factors and aims to identify sources of peace and resilience.

Holistic understanding of causes of conflict

- Structural causes
 - How do (potential) gender inequalities intersect with other conflict factors?
 - Are there gender roles that drive violence?
 - Are human rights respected and implemented?
- Drivers and triggers
 - How do conflict drivers change gender relations?
- Role of water resources and management in the (potential) conflict
 - How do the conflict cause and triggers change resource use linked to gender roles?
- Peace enablers
 - What are the opportunities of women or minorities to participate in reinforcing peace?

Dynamics

Guiding questions



Dynamics

Refer to the resulting interactions, interdependencies, and (de-)escalation cycles that result from the inter-play between profile, actors, and conflict factors. These include peace and conflict dynamics related to water and its management.

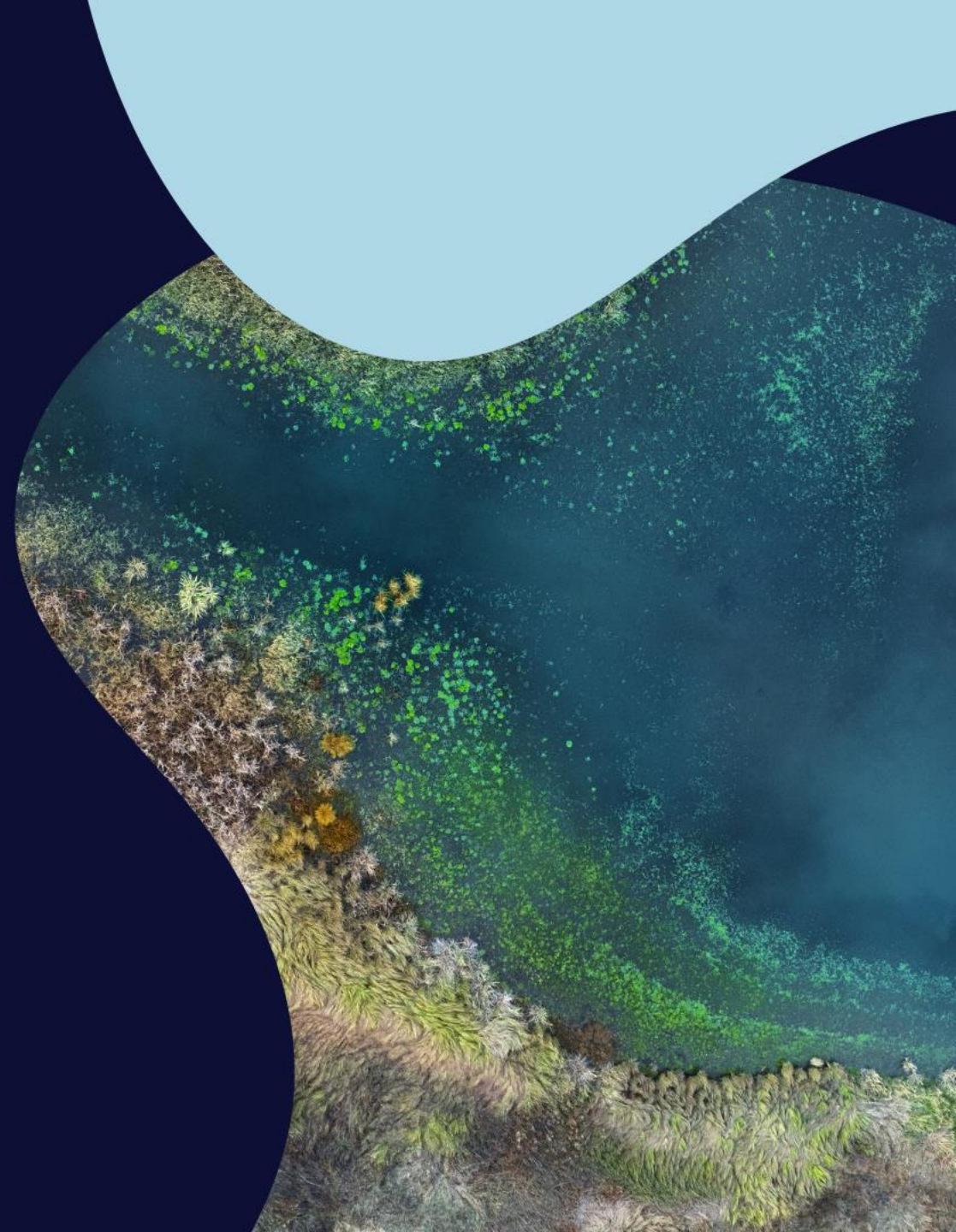


A holistic understanding of the inter-dependencies and escalation cycles

- Conflict dynamics
 - How do escalation cycles affect different (gender) groups and vice versa?
- Water-related dynamics
 - How are water user relations changing and does this have links to gender roles?
- Dynamics related to the water-food-energy nexus
 - How do gender relations play into changing livelihoods and cross-sectoral interactions?

After the analysis: Outcomes and next steps

- Who is responsible for taking forward the outcomes of the analysis?
- How will a gender perspective be sustained in the next steps?
- Which concrete measures will be taken to ensure inclusivity and participation?



Policy-making for a gender approach

- Policy interventions need to take gender roles into account in a context-sensitive way
 - E.g. design policies in a way that allows for wide inclusion of water user groups if water governance bodies are not representative in terms of gender
- (Post-)conflict situations can present opportunities for wider participation, which can be supported e.g. through:
 - Inclusion of women and minorities in peace processes
 - Support to (water) governance initiatives where women have gained ownership
 - Reduction of risk of recruitment in terrorist groups through sustainable livelihoods especially targeting men

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