



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE

IWRA 2020: Addressing Groundwater Resilience Under Climate Change –
Groundwater Education and Capacity Building



Laurens Thuy

*UNESCO WWAP Gender &
Communication Specialist*



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Water
Assessment
Programme



WWAP RESEARCH 'ENGENDERING GROUNDWATER'

THE ISSUE

- Lack of coherent governance frameworks and consideration of gender issues

OBJECTIVES

- Analyze groundwater governance frameworks with gender lens
- Encourage policy makers to integrate gender perspectives



“Groundwater, if not engendered, is endangered”

APPROACH

- Desk review & analysis of literature, policies and frameworks
- Intra-Household surveys within Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) Project, funded by SDC, executed by UNESCO IHP



NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM STAS

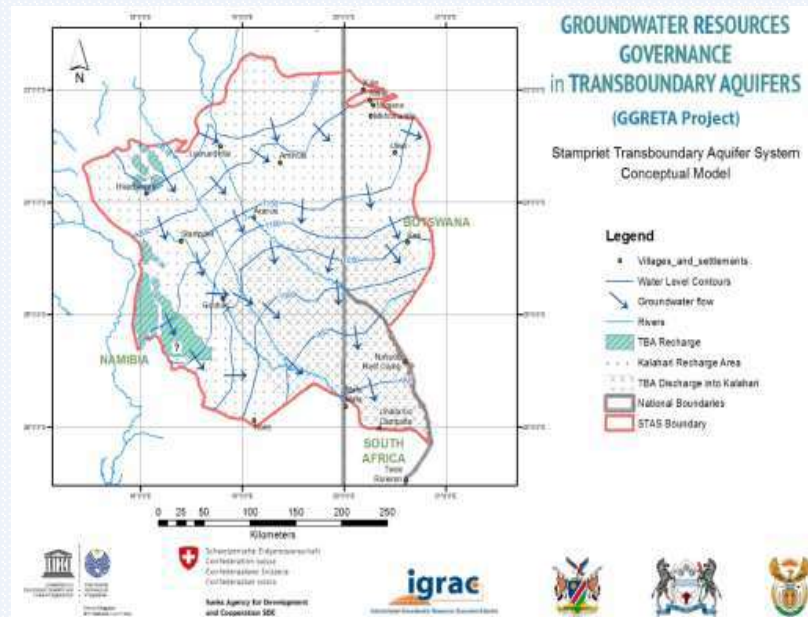
STAMPRIET TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER SYSTEM (STAS)

- **Botswana:**
 - a) Some water laws outdated
 - b) Legal Pluralism
 - c) Channels for community participation lag behind
- **Namibia:**
 - a) Institutional gender mainstreaming
 - b) Legal Pluralism
 - c) Participation: Constitution vs. Policy basis



GENDER FIELD SURVEYS

First-ever gender-responsive water assessments



Household and intra-household surveys in **Botswana and Namibia** in key sites within Stampriet Aquifer System (STAS) .



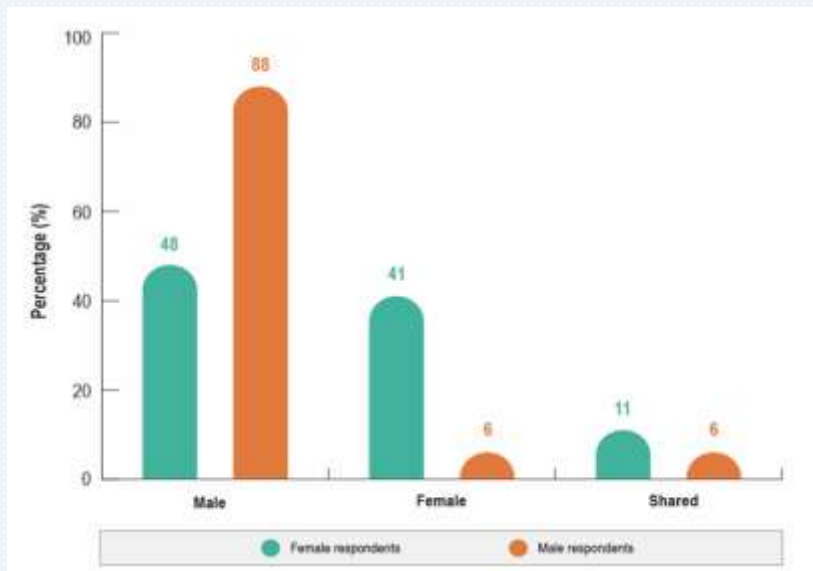
UNESCO WWAP Toolkit on Sex-disaggregated Water Data



RESULTS VERSUS POLICIES: STAS

BOTSWANA

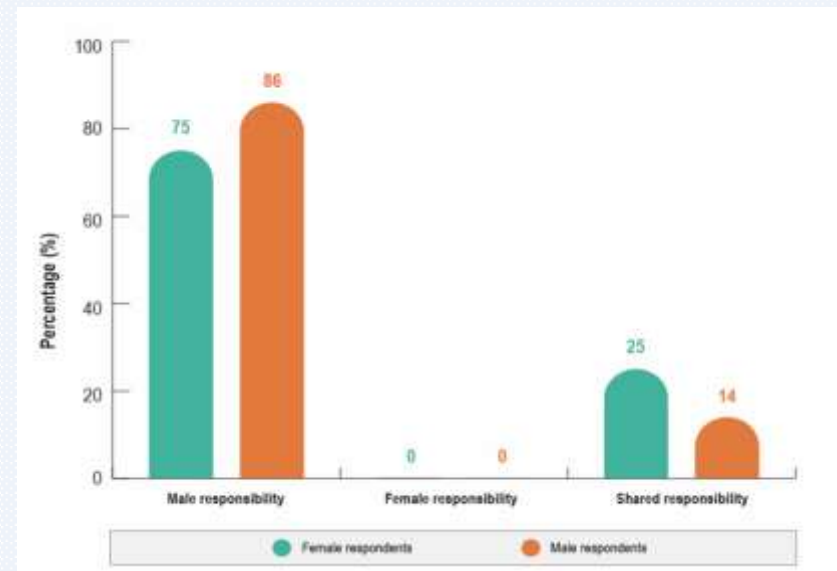
- 89% HH access to tap water, 100% to sanitation
- Water-related decision-making involvement: mainly male responsibility
- HH water quality and quantity: mainly female responsibility
- Water for productive uses: men



Primary HH decision-maker

NAMIBIA

- Personally provide suggestions regarding water use within HH: 100% men, 38% women
- Women's suggestions less often accepted
- Female: more interest in new technologies, less training
- Commercial farms employees and decision-making: mainly male



Farm water management responsible

CONCLUSIONS & THE WAY FORWARD

CONCLUSIONS

A) Methodological

- WWAP gender-responsive indicators passed the test
- Shortcoming in water policy's goal of women's empowerment / full inclusion

B) Desk Research

- Weak legal basis for strengthening women participation despite advancements
- Lack of initiative to promote local gender-balanced decision-making
- Legal pluralism

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Availability sex-disaggregated data key
- ✓ Incorporate gender mainstreaming in national legislation
- ✓ Capacity strengthening





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE OF GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE

IWRA 2020: Addressing Groundwater Resilience Under Climate Change –
Groundwater Education and Capacity Building



THANK YOU

Laurens Thuy

*UNESCO WWAP Gender &
Communication Specialist*

l.thuy@unesco.org



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Water
Assessment
Programme

