



ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
Coral Reef Studies

From Resistance to Internalization: The Spread of 'Gender Equality' in Small-Scale Fisheries Governance

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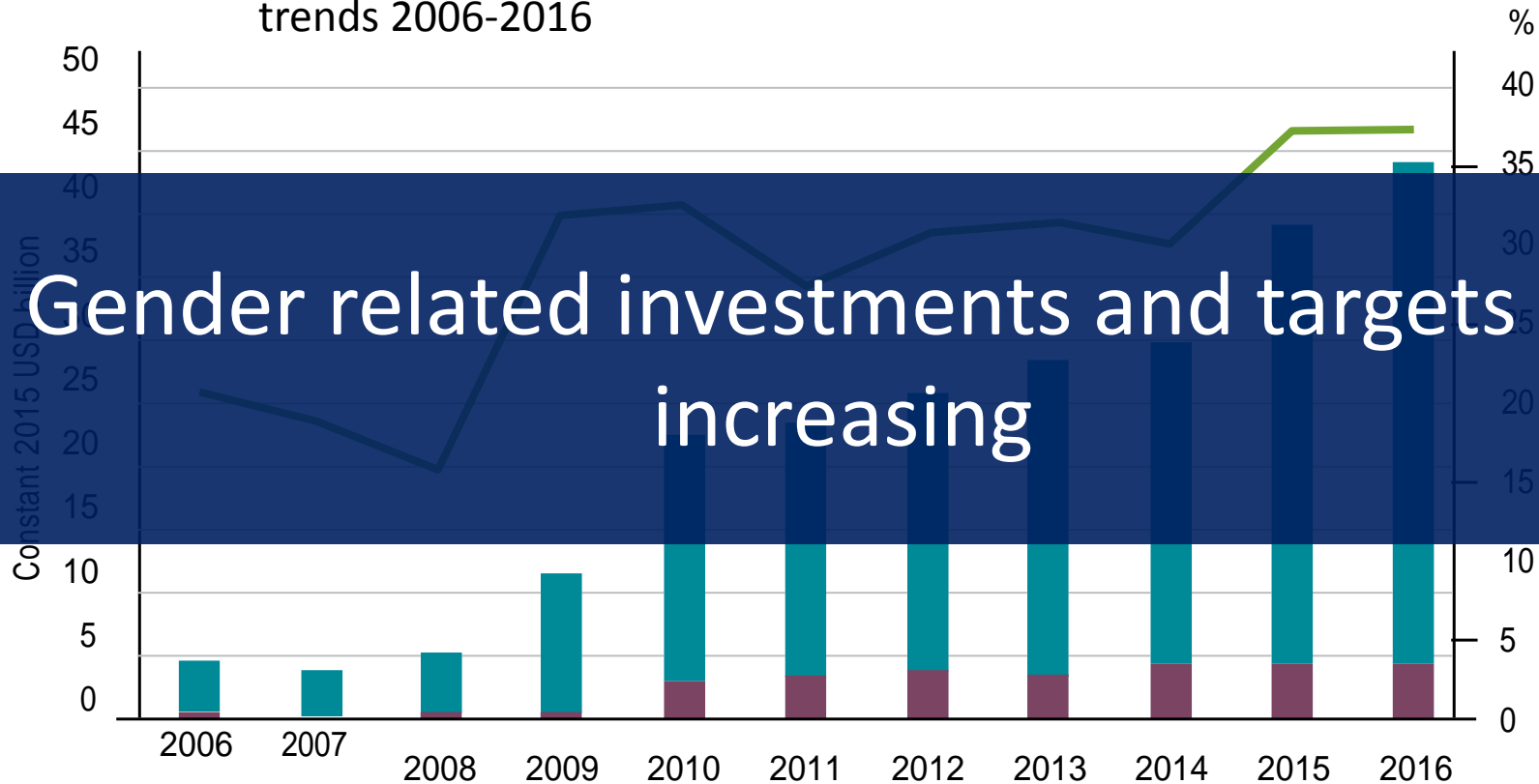
In collaboration with

Assoc. Prof. Tiffany Morrison, Dr Anne Stephens, Dr Philippa Cohen, Dr Andrew Song and Dr Sangeeta Mangubhai



Gender investments and targets

Investments: Bilateral ODA to gender equality and women's empowerment, trends 2006-2016



Targets: “At least 80 per cent of investments, regardless of their objectives, will effectively address gender issues in implementation”
(DFAT, 2017)



Gender is becoming more prominent in small-scale fisheries policy and reporting



Context

There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and are characterized by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, representing significant economic, social and cultural benefits for communities. The region has extensive coral reefs, consisting of 70 coral genera, over 4,000 fish/vertebrate species and 30 mangrove species. These coastal resources are under increasing threat and in many places are being over exploited.

Used to compile card information

The intentional alignment between the regional Roadmap and the New Song has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The 2017 Report Card is the first time a single reporting mechanism has been adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

The indicators utilized in the Report Card were identified in consultation with representatives from SPC, CPOC, Worldfish and the LMMA Network, with feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and the 102nd FIC Officials Meeting. Data sources for each indicator are noted in the accompanying 2017 Coastal Fishery Background Report.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge in implementing regional commitments. Limitations in data availability, resources of available data for most outcome areas, information gaps are noted in the Report Card. For outcomes where progress has been noted, the following ranges have been used:

	Significant progress has been made towards the outcome
	Some progress has been made towards the outcome
	No progress has been made towards the outcome
	Move away from the outcome towards the outcome

Abbreviations: CLAIM - Community based ecosystem approach to fisheries management; FIC - Fisheries Forum Extension; FPO - Framework for a Pacific Oceanwide FPO - fisheries income & dependence survey; LMMA - Locally Managed Marine Areas Network; CPOC - Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner; PICTs - Pacific Island countries & territories; SPC - Pacific Community



“... drive stronger integration of a gender perspective in both its conservation work and its internal operations. We aim to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment...” (WWF, 2018)

Small-scale fisheries actors are increasingly considering gender



“CI works to better understand gender considerations in conservation ... to improve conservation effectiveness and inform policy that incorporates the different needs of men and women” (Conservation International, 2018)

Research gap

Gender equality

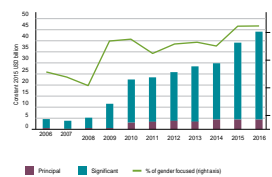


Impact

Global goals/commitments



Investment and targets



Fisheries policy commitments



Governance actor commitments



Action?

Despite movements including feminism and the adoption of the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), research illustrates that efforts to integrate gender have had little influence on the status of women in the fisheries sector.
(Williams 2016)

Research question



In the context of small-scale fisheries, how are efforts to promote gender at the global scale influencing action at other scales of governance?

Case study of the Pacific Islands region



Highest concentration of small-scale fisheries investments and governance actors

Fiji: <50% households involved in subsistence small-scale fisheries

Solomon Islands: 70-80% of households

(FAO, 2018; Pacific Community, 2017)

Organizational landscape

Organizational datapoints:

Total organizations: 26

Total interviews: 64 (f=40, m=24)

Global



Local

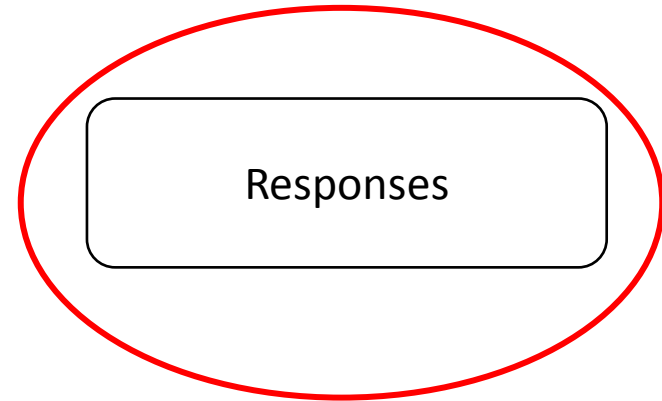


How do global principles (gender equality) spread?

Theoretical Framework



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1. Economic benefit
2. Compliance mechanisms
3. Institutional normative environments
4. Functional interaction
5. Norm source
6. Norm issue framing
7. Cultural suitability
8. Societal temper



Lawless et al. in review

How do global principles (gender equality) spread?

Response typology

Applied practice / action

Responses:

Resistance

Rhetorical adoption

Contestation

Implementation

Internalization

Alternative terminology:

Abandonment, block, deferment, defence, defiance, false compliance, indifference, inhibit, obstinacy, opposition, rejection

Decoupling, incomplete internalization, lip-service, partial compliance, symbolic commitment

Adaptation, amendment, argumentation, conflict, contestation, (re)interpretation, modification, mutation, (re)negotiation, norm-bending, norm-shrinking, re-defining, reinvention, translation

Appropriation, embracement, embedding, integration, sustained adoption

Acceptance, domestication, institutionalization, localization, success, vernaculization



Lawless et al. in review

Empirical findings: Responses to gender in small-scale fisheries

Responses:

Resistance

Rhetorical
adoption

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Internalization



Gender is part of the "issues the world is doing rather than something they [regional governors] are supporting"
- Female, middle management, regional agency

"The fisheries mandate is not on gender, it's on sustainably managed fisheries".
- Male, senior leader, regional fisheries agency

Usually people working at the regional level don't support gender integration, "if a male is leading something they won't want gender issues [as part of the initiative]".
- Female, middle management, regional agency



Responses to gender in small-scale fisheries governance

Responses:

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Regional scale

In our funding proposals we mention 'gender mainstreaming', I still don't even know what this means, or how to do this.

Maybe it's a juicy term that appeals to donors. We leave it to the gender team to do this work (paraphrased from original).

- *Male, senior leader, regional fisheries agency*

The Secretary General always asks us to include gender because he 'should' be doing it. "If there is a [gender-balanced] panel he looks good".

- *Female, middle management, regional agency*



Responses to gender in small-scale fisheries governance

Responses:

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National scale

“There is no resistance [to work on gender],
but fisheries officers do not know how”
- Male, national policy advisor, regional
fisheries agency

“I think people want to include gender in their
work, but what does including gender actually
entail?”

- Female, fisheries research officer, national
fisheries ministry

“We are biologists, not gender experts”
- Female, Conservation scientist, INGO



Responses to gender in small-scale fisheries governance

Responses:

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“You always deal with backlash [when working on gender]. It’s a sign you’re on the right track and that you’re destabilizing those harmful social norms”.
– *Female, regional gender expert*

I needed support from head quarters before I could implement gender in our project. I had to pass the project through a number of ‘gate keepers’ in the head quarters to review. I had challenges because its a new project and it didn't have gender requirements. So we were questioned whether the inclusion of gender was relevant or appropriate (paraphrased from original).
- *Female, country director, INGO*

Responses to gender in small-scale fisheries governance

Responses:

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Evidence is limited

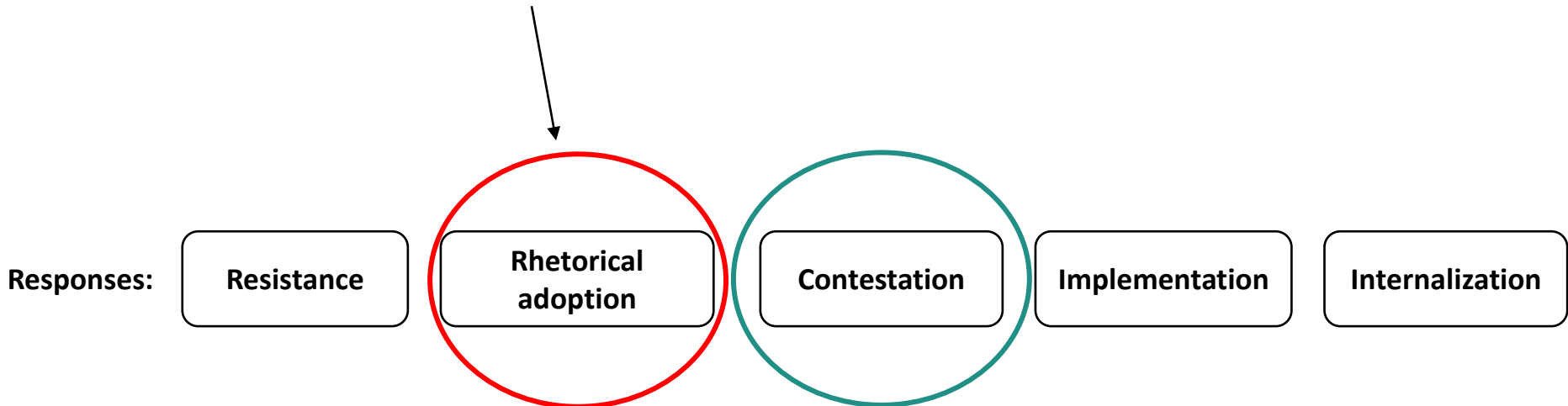
Barriers included:

- Perceptions that gender = women's issues
- Majority of approaches were gender reinforcing and gender accommodating
- Approaches largely reflected Women in Development (WID) approaches, however evidence of shift towards Gender and Development (GAD)



What does this mean for future research?

If gender remains obscure, intangible and non context specific = Best case



Contestation is the space where 'doing gender' is negotiated, made more tangible and contextualized.



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Potential areas of influence:

- Re-framing of gender equality to show its importance to small-scale fisheries
- Embracing contestation
- Capacity building
- Community engagement / facilitation

Thank you



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Acknowledgements

Assoc. Prof. Tiffany Morrison, Dr Sangeeta Mangubhai, Dr Anne Stephens,
Dr Philippa Cohen, Dr Andrew Song

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