


Chapter 7

Women Leaders in Environmental Management and the Role of Media in the EMEA Region

Maybel Fernandez Vallado

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1039-1322>

University of the Philippines, Visayas, Philippines

ABSTRACT

Women leaders who are at the forefront of environmental conservation efforts, have been instrumental in mitigating the effects of climate change, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable development. The EMEA Region has seen an increasing number of women leaders in various industries and they play a crucial role in shaping public opinion on environmental issues. In this Chapter, their specific contributions are examined, including awareness, grassroots mobilization, and policy and advocacy. The challenges and opportunities they face, which include gender bias, risk and safety, collaboration and partnerships, and the role of media are also identified. Women can be effective leaders in environmental management through: collaboration and teamwork; communication; problem solving and innovation; attention to detail; as well as empathy and inclusivity. Women leaders promote sustainable development, protect the environment and their work in the media inspire and empower other women to take on leadership roles and contribute towards sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

The EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) Region has seen an increasing number of women leaders in various industries, including environmental management and media. These women have made significant contributions in promoting sustainable development and protecting natural resources. This Chapter aims to explore the role of women leaders in environmental management and media in the EMEA Region.

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The banking industry, energy sector, governments and activism are among the key areas where women leaders have made notable contributions. Women in the media shape public opinion and create awareness of environmental issues. This Chapter highlights examples of women leaders in these areas, their specific contributions, and the challenges and opportunities they face in promoting sustainable development. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of gender equality in the context of environmental management and media. Women's voices and perspectives are often underrepresented in decision-making processes related to the environment. Therefore, highlighting the role of women leaders in these fields can inspire and empower other women to take on leadership roles and contribute towards sustainable development.

Women Leaders in Environmental Management: An Overview

The State of Climate in Europe reports Europe as the fastest warming region globally and has been experiencing double the average global warming since the 1980s. In fact, extreme heat waves, droughts, and wildfires in 2022 resulted in over 16,000 reported fatalities. The report also highlighted the urgent need for action in response to the climate crisis. (WMO, 2022, p.5)

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Arabian Peninsula, the average temperatures have risen and continue to rise. This results in the rise of surface water temperature and deep waters of the Gulf will likely to increase as well. Other seawater properties will also be affected. Seawater salinity and pH are expected to increase with water evaporation and higher absorption of CO₂. The sea level in the Arabian Gulf is projected to rise due to melting polar ice caps and thermal expansion of seawater. Rainfall may also either increase or decrease. It may become less frequent, but the intensity of the precipitation events may increase. Extreme temperatures - droughts, sandstorms, and cyclones - are expected to increase in severity and frequency in the Arabian sea, which is a cause of concern for many. (UAE MOCCA, 2021, p.8)

Average and maximum humidity will increase, due to higher evaporation. There will be further warming through an intensified greenhouse effect, lower recharge due to less rainfall, and some reservoirs will be lost because of salt intrusion from rising sea levels. (p.14)

Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 between 2030 and 2050 if it continues to increase at the current rate. (IPCC, 2018, par. 4)

Women leaders at the forefront of environmental conservation efforts, and their contributions have been instrumental in mitigating effects of climate change, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable development and ethical practices in waste management.

The Case of Cameroon, Africa

Rural Cameroonian women interact with the environment through their numerous daily chores - cutting down and burning vegetation to create farms, fetching fuelwood and water. These activities create problems which devastate and accelerate environmental degradation and have negative consequences. Women contribute to the continuous natural resource consumption process, but they have no firm authority over the land, credit, and decision-making. The men are accomplices, as they compel the women to take a lot from the environment to satisfy the men and use for general domestic needs.

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