



# GENDER AND RESILIENCE IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Tuesday, 8 June 2021 • 2–3 p.m. Manila time (GMT+8)

Register [HERE](#).

To commemorate World Oceans Day, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), are hosting a webinar focusing on women and their role in the management and resilience of coastal systems. The discussions will be framed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing efforts to work with women to alleviate poverty, improve food security and nutrition, support livelihoods, and promote integrated nature-based solutions to ocean challenges.

## AGENDA

**Moderator:** Samantha Hung, Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, ADB

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| Introduction               | Qingfeng Zhang, Chief of Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture), and Officer-in-Charge, Environment Thematic Group, ADB  |
| Opening remarks            | Ingrid van Wees, Vice-President for Finance and Risk Management, ADB  |
| Overview                   | Maeve Nightingale, Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Asia Regional Coastal and Marine Programme  |
| Panel Discussion           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ruth Konia, Manager Mangoro Market Meri, Papua New Guinea, TNC</li><li>Nasheeba Selim, Senior Social Development Officer (Gender), Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB</li></ul> |
| Audience Q&A               | Moderated by Samantha Hung, Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, ADB  |
| Closing and Vote of Thanks | Robyn James, Gender and Equity Adviser, Asia Pacific, TNC   |

## EVENT SYNOPSIS

Communities, especially women, in Asia and the Pacific are highly dependent on coastal and marine resources and ecosystems for food security and livelihoods, with fish as the main source of protein in many countries. Mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs act as nurseries for fish and sea life, aid carbon sequestration, and protect coastal areas. However, these coastal and marine resources are threatened by human activities, overexploitation, and unsustainable coastal development.

Recent research on gender and coastal management reveal deep gender and social inequalities in coastal and fisheries resource management. For example, women are largely invisible in leadership of the fisheries sector despite comprising over 60% of the sector's labor force in many countries. Lack of data and due attention by governments and other development actors on the critical role of women as key stakeholders and agents of change can undermine conservation and coastal management efforts.

TNC and ADB's World Oceans Day event provides an overview of the urgent need to consider gender equality in coastal and fisheries resource management. It also highlights how gender equality can be integrated in coastal resilience projects. Speakers will be providing examples of good practices in promoting women's leadership in coastal management, such as women-led mangrove restoration and sustainable aquaculture, among others.

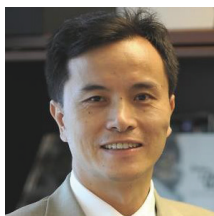
## SPEAKERS



**INGRID VAN WEES** is Vice-President of Finance and Risk Management, ADB. She is responsible for the overall management of the operations of the Office of Risk Management, Controller's Department, and Treasury Department. Before ADB, she was a senior director at the German Investment and Development Corporation (DEG) from 2004 to 2016. She moved to development banking after a 12-year career in the private sector with leading international companies in infrastructure and consumer goods from 1992 to 2004.



**SAMANTHA HUNG** is Chief of the Gender Equality Group, ADB, where she provides leadership for advancing gender equality across all aspects of ADB operations and knowledge work. Samantha has over 20 years of experience in gender equality at the project, program, and policy levels in Asia and the Pacific. Before ADB, she held various gender advisor and specialist roles for the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNICEF, Australian Government Office on the Status of Women, and UK Institute of Development Studies attached to the University of Sussex.



**QINGFENG ZHANG** is Chief of the Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, ADB and Officer-in-Charge of the Environment Thematic Group, ADB. He provides leadership around the formulation and implementation of the Bank's strategy and knowledge in agriculture, natural resources, and food, as well as the operationalization of the Bank's vision in these areas for regional and country programs. Prior to this, he was the Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in East Asia Department, ADB. Before he joined the bank, he was a Senior Environment Specialist at the World Bank in Washington, DC and a Director at the State Environmental Protection Administration in Beijing.



**ROBYN JAMES** is the Gender and Equity Advisor for TNC's Asia Pacific division. She has worked in conservation for more than 20 years, and developed experience in gender, equity and social justice, community-based conservation, philanthropy, and government policies and programs. She joined TNC in 2010 and previously held staff positions managing projects, and as Melanesia Conservation Director, where Robyn worked with teams focused on expanding sustainable and equitable livelihood development and better inclusion of women and others in all conservation and development. She worked with communities and policy makers to ensure that the extractives sector, including mining, better considers social and environmental considerations.



**RUTH KONIA** has had a long career in conservation and development in Papua New Guinea where she has managed community-based conservation and development projects, communications, capacity building and grant-making. She has been with TNC since 2010 leading communications for the entire program and leading the Mangoro Market Meri program since its inception in 2017. In this role she works with communities, government and other partners to build women's livelihoods and benefits through sustainable mangrove management. Ruth currently serves on the Global Greengrants Fund Pacific Islands Advisory Board where she works with other Pacific Islands Advisors on grant-making in PNG.



**MAEVE NIGHTINGALE** is a Senior Programme Officer leading The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Asia Regional Coastal and Marine Programme as well as regional focal point for gender equality and HRBA. Maeve has 22 years international experience working with international development organizations. Her work focuses specifically on addressing the multiple issues associated with sustainable coastal resource management, including Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation, through resilience building and integrated coastal management policy and practice, across South and Southeast Asian countries.



**NASHEEBA SELIM** is a Social Development and Gender Specialist in the Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB. Her areas of specialization include gender relations and equality, women's empowerment, mainstreaming gender in sectoral programs, violence against women, sex work and human rights, early marriage, and feminization of poverty. Previously, she worked with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh and was involved in the administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility where she worked closely with disadvantaged ethnic minorities groups. Prior to joining UNDP, Nasheeba worked with The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and was involved in the BRAC Targeting the Ultra Poor Program in North Bengal, focusing on improving the economic and social situation of extremely deprived women.

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