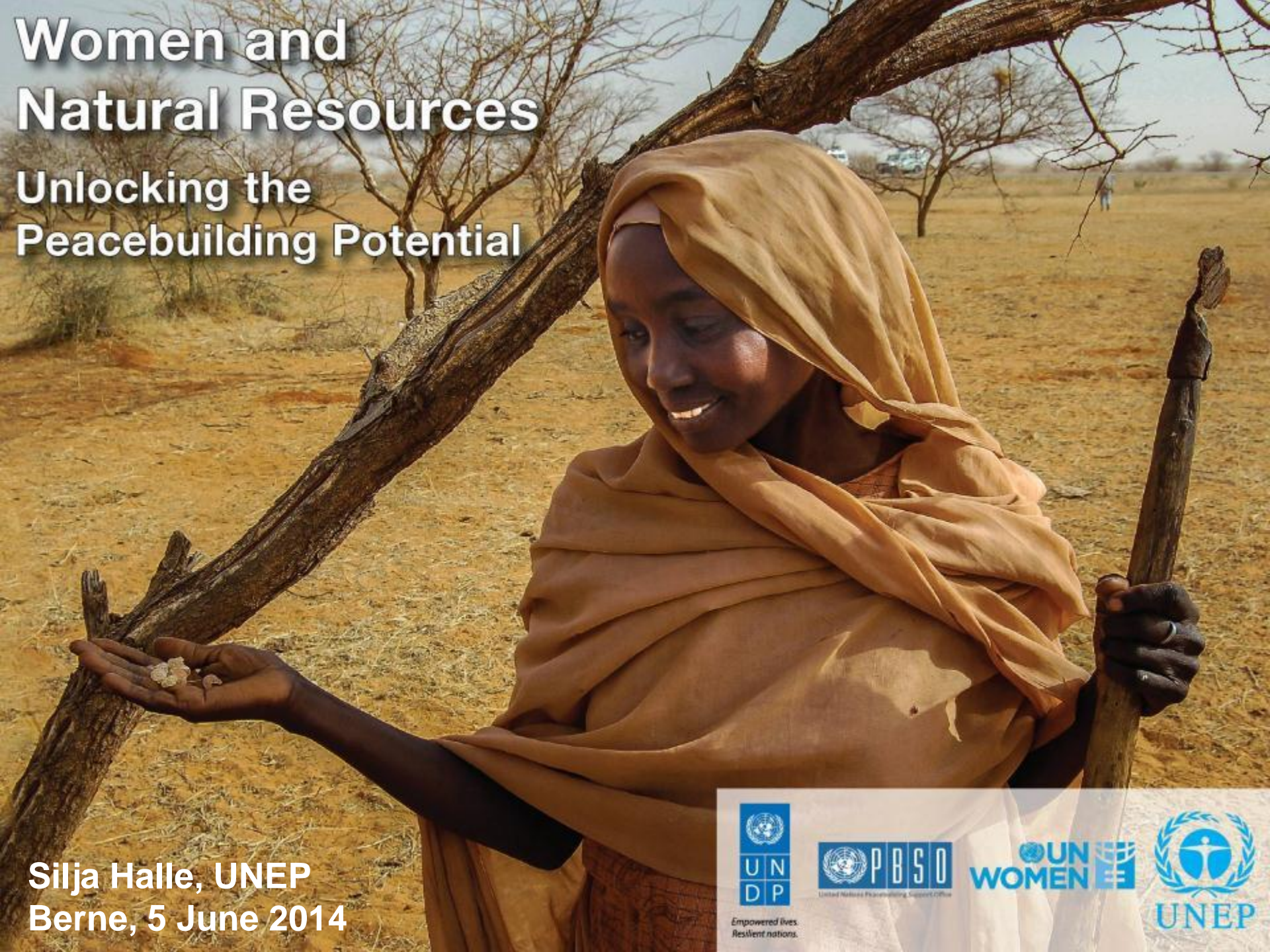


# Women and Natural Resources

## Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential



Silja Halle, UNEP  
Berne, 5 June 2014



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.





# Background

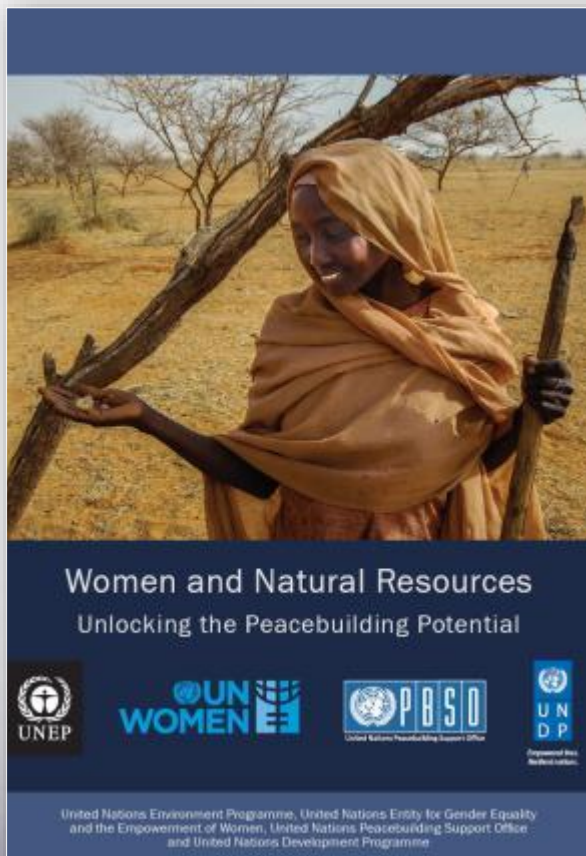
- **Women are generally the primary managers of water and energy needs (e.g. fuelwood) at the household and community levels**
- **Women comprise 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries and are responsible for some 80% of all food produced in Africa**
- **Two-thirds of livestock keepers worldwide are women**
- **Women represent 30% of artisanal miners worldwide**
- **In conflict-affected settings, around 40% of all households are headed by women**
- **Children are 60-85% more likely to suffer from malnutrition where women lack land rights**

# Background

- **Conflict challenges traditional gender roles: window of opportunity**
- **Focus on women as victims**
- **Less than 2% of development aid to economic and productive sectors target gender equality**
- **Funding gap even more pronounced in fragile states**



# Joint policy report



- **Inform and support improved UN programming in conflict-affected settings**
- **From a gender perspective to a focus on women**
- **Overview of challenges and opportunities in three main resource sectors: renewable, extractive and land**
- **Exploration of entry points for interventions in three areas: participation, protection and economic recovery**
- **Desk study, interviews, 14 case studies**



# Participation

- **4% of female signatories to peace agreements since 1992, 12/585 agreements refer to women's needs in reconstruction**
- **Improving women's participation in political processes is not only about increasing representation**
- **Natural resource governance is an entry point for engaging women engagement in decision-making**





# Participation

*Participatory and inclusive land reform process in Rwanda has led to significant increase in women's tenure over land*





# Protection

- **Women face multiple risks – sexual and gender-based violence, and health impacts from exposure to environmental contamination**
- **Incorporating these factors in infrastructure design and camp placement can mitigate exposure to risk**



# Protection

*Providing women with clean cook stoves has co-benefits for women's health, environment*





# Economic recovery

- **Women are most often engaged in informal economic activities that lack visibility**
- **Legal protection of key economic assets (land and sub-surface resources) underpins economic empowerment**
- **Women often lack the tools to turn natural capital into productive assets (access to markets, finance, technology and know-how)**





## Economic recovery

*Women are the primary producers of food in Côte d'Ivoire, yet receive little support*





# Impact to date

- **Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2014**
- **Secretary-General's report on 1325 (2013)**
- **Programming?**



# Moving forward

- **Pilot and demonstration projects**
- **Training**
- **Roster of experts**
- **Collecting best practice and lessons learned from country programming**
- **Research agenda (e.g. gender dimensions of the oil and gas sectors)**

