

Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+



UN-REDD

PROGRAMME



The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

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This Guidance Note is the product of the collaboration and support from a wide range of stakeholders involved in REDD+ readiness processes and gender equality and women's empowerment efforts.

Sincere thanks goes to participants at the Information Session on Gender at the 9th Policy Board meeting of the UN-REDD Programme, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 25 October 2012. Deep gratitude further goes to participants at the Knowledge Sharing and Information Session at the 10th Policy Board meeting of the UN-REDD Programme, held in Lombok, Indonesia, on 25 June 2013. A wide range of participants from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, including governments, civil society and UN agencies participated actively in these sessions. Participants shared their first hand experiences and provided valuable inputs and suggestions on how integration of gender considerations in REDD+ processes can strengthen the efficiency, efficacy and sustainability of REDD+. This Guidance Note has drawn upon inputs from these discussions, as well as other lessons learned from the UN-REDD Programme's partner countries and examples of best practices from the field.

Many thanks and great appreciation also go to a number of professionals in the UN-REDD Programme's three agencies, FAO, UNDP and UNEP, who have contributed valuable and constructive inputs in the revision process. The process of drafting this document has been led by UNDP's Environment and Energy Group, the UNDP Gender Team and consultant Jaime Webbe.

All countries engaged in REDD+ efforts are encouraged to utilize this note and provide feedback to the UN-REDD Programme. Any comments, inputs or suggestions may be sent to un-redd@un-redd.org.

We look forward to continuing the discussions on how we can best ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes, for effective, efficient and sustainable REDD+ processes and outcomes.

Best regards,
The UN-REDD Programme

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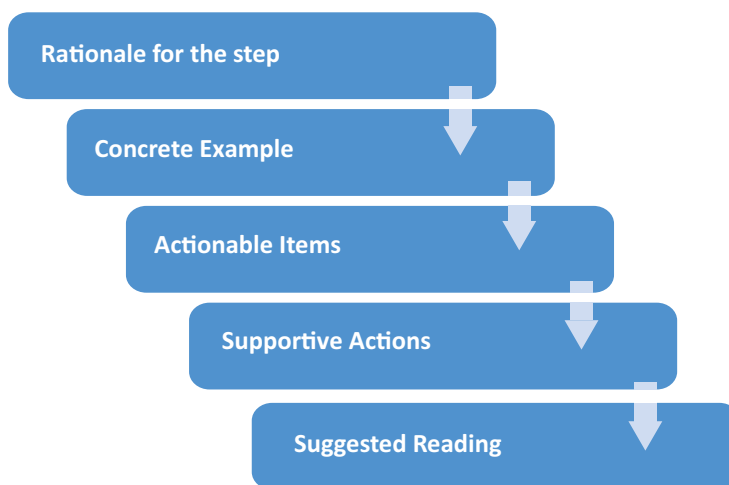
OVERVIEW

This note has been prepared as a guide for those engaged in REDD+ efforts at the local, national, regional or global level. The overall objective is to promote gender sensitive REDD+ processes and support UN-REDD Programme partner countries and stakeholders in the preparation, development and implementation of gender sensitive national REDD+ strategies. By doing this, REDD+ will be more efficient, effective and sustainable.¹

This note contains 5 steps:

- Step 1: Establish a Baseline through a Gender Analysis
- Step 2: Mobilize Gender Expertise and Create Partnerships
- Step 3: Ensure the Effective Participation of Women
- Step 4: Ensure a Gender Sensitive REDD+ Strategy
- Step 5: Monitor and Report on Gender Mainstreaming

Each step contains the following components:



1 For more information, see UN-REDD Programme's "The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+", available at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/the_business_caseformainstreaminggendereinredd/

Through these five components, each step provides the rationale for investing the time and resources, offers one or more concrete examples of good practices and guidance, and proposes specific actions that can be taken in order to ensure that gender sensitive outcomes are realized. Each step also points to resources and includes links to additional information.

The note aims to encourage processes and concrete action to ensure that national REDD+ processes are gender sensitive and, as such, contribute to gender mainstreaming and gender equality (see Box 1 below). It provides guidance and concrete recommendations to UN-REDD partner countries as well as other countries and stakeholders involved in REDD+ efforts.² This note is not, however, intended to provide all of the information, background and knowledge needed to achieve gender sensitive REDD+ processes. Rather, it is intended to provide a brief introduction of why gender considerations are relevant for national REDD+ processes, and some key steps as to how one can ensure improved gender sensitive REDD+ processes.

The five steps suggest some concrete entry points for action; however the steps do not need to be carried out in a linear manner. The lists of actions set forth in this note are not meant to be prescriptive, nor exhaustive. The detailed design and implementation of actions may vary based on context on the ground and national circumstances. Country-specific actions should be carried out in collaboration with regional, national or local gender experts and/or people or organizations with gender expertise.

Box 1: Gender related terms

Gender Sensitive:

In the discourses around gender, some actors use the terms such as gender sensitive, gender responsive and gender equitable interchangeably, while others apply different and distinct definitions. The UN-REDD Programme uses the term 'gender sensitive' in this Guidance Note, as it is a term widely used in the UN system, including within the guidelines on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. In the case of this document, 'gender sensitive' includes the systematic integration of gender transformative interventions to reduce gender gaps and inequalities, and to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

Source: Guidelines on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/oSGreports.html>

² For UN-REDD partner countries that have National Programmes, this note provides guidance and recommendations that are relevant from the start of the National Programme (the scoping stage) until the closing of the National Programme.

Box 1 (cont-d): Gender related terms**Gender Mainstreaming:**

The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions, 1997/2, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/intergovernmentalmandates.htm#ecosoc>

Gender Equality:

The equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.

Source: UN-REDD: Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, available at: http://www.un-redd.org/Multiple_Benefits_SEPC/tabid/54130/Default.aspx



1. INTRODUCTION

Inclusive and equitable stakeholder participation, as well as ensuring that REDD+ processes are gender sensitive, are crucial elements in implementing effective and efficient REDD+ strategies, and more broadly, achieving sustainable development (see Box 2 below).

In particular, meaningfully capturing the views, experiences and priorities of both men and women in REDD+ activities at all stages, including in REDD+ readiness, has been identified as a main contributor to success. Both acknowledging the specific benefits of and effectively implementing gender sensitive REDD+ processes requires an understanding of country specific and local circumstances. Such factors include identifying the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure and resource use rights; understanding how women and men use forests and participate in the forest sector; and accounting for any proposed strategy for a transition to a green economy or low-emission and climate-resilient development.

Box 2: Rationale for gender sensitive REDD+ processes

What can be gained from mainstreaming gender in REDD+ processes?

- Capturing the specific knowledge, skills and experiences of women as primary forestry users, and the different roles, rights and responsibilities of men and women, as well as their particular access to and use patterns and knowledge of forests;
- Ensuring the accuracy of information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Ensuring efficient measures for the sustainable management of forests, forest conservation and restoration;
- Improving the equitable sharing of benefits from REDD+; and
- Ensuring consistency with the human rights based approach to development.

Box 2 (cont-d): Rationale for gender sensitive REDD+ processes

What are the risks related to ignoring gender issues in REDD+ processes?

- Inaccurately identifying the primary stakeholders of forests and forest management;
- Setting up an inequitable system for sharing of benefits;
- Perpetuating inequality in land and resource use rights;
- Continuing marginalization of women in decision-making; and
- Limiting the sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+ outcomes.

Source: Setyowati, A., *Ensuring that Women Benefit from REDD+*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Unasylva 239, Vol. 63, 2012/1, available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2890e/i2890e09.pdf>

The rationale in Box 2 above demonstrates that gender sensitive REDD+ processes can contribute to increased efficiency and efficacy for REDD+ processes leading to reduced carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, the above rationale also touches on the multiple benefits from REDD+, ‘beyond carbon’, that can be critical to the success of REDD+. For example, ensuring that REDD+ processes are gender sensitive can contribute to both ‘environmental benefits’ as well as ‘social benefits’ from REDD+. ‘Environmental benefits’ include ecosystem services, such as conservation of forest biodiversity, water regulation, soil conservation, timber, forest foods and other non-timber forest products (NTFP). It has been demonstrated that women play a crucial role in the sustainable management of ecosystem services, as local use and knowledge of forests and NTFP is often heavily differentiated by gender. ‘Social benefits’ include development goals such as poverty reduction, improved livelihoods, gender equality, and ensuring effective, inclusive and transparent governance.

As such, mainstreaming gender and integrating women’s valuable expertise in REDD+ processes can both help to address and respect REDD+ safeguards as well as enhance environmental and social benefits from REDD+. It can also contribute to gender equality even beyond the scope of the specific REDD+ process. Gender sensitive REDD+ processes, if implemented effectively, can create broad ownership of REDD+ and ensure more efficient REDD+ outcomes, as well as contribute to the empowerment of women; promote the achievement of international commitments on women and gender equality; ensure a human rights based approach to development; establish frameworks for effective participation (particularly of rural women); and increase the recognition of women as important managers, key stakeholders and decision-makers in forests and forest management.

Some concrete examples of social and environmental benefits that have been realized through the mainstreaming of gender in sustainable development processes are presented in Box 3 below.

Box 3: Examples of benefits from mainstreaming gender in sustainable development processes

The World Bank conducted an analysis of the development benefits from gender mainstreaming. Although the study didn't address REDD+ specifically, there are many relevant findings including:

- In India and Nepal, giving women a bigger say in managing forests significantly improved conservation outcomes.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural productivity could be raised by as much as 20% by allocating a bigger share of agricultural input to women.
- In the context of forest management in India, the likelihood of women attending village meetings, speaking up, and holding office was found to increase when women represent 25–33% of a group.

Source: World Bank, World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development, Washington, DC, 2012

It is also worth noting that governments around the world have committed to mainstreaming gender through a number of international development and human rights frameworks and processes.³ These include agreements such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), amongst others.

With regards to climate change commitments, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has included various references to gender equality and the participation of women within a number of its decisions, including on REDD+. Women are regarded as “agents of change”, and a gender sensitive strategy is highlighted as a precondition to both adaptation and mitigation efforts.⁴ At the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP 18) in 2012, a specific gender decision was adopted on promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. In addition to ensuring that women's voices are better represented in global climate change discussions, the COP 18 gender decision adds the issue of ‘gender and climate change’ as a standing item on the agenda of the COP.⁵

3 An overview of relevant international processes and commitments is presented in Annex 1.

4 For more information, see “The Rio Conventions: Action on Gender”, available at http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/roi_20_gender_brochure.pdf.

5 For more information, see the COP18 Gender Decision, available at http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/election_and_membership/application/pdf/cop18_gender_balance.pdf

More specifically on REDD+, gender considerations have also been acknowledged as a cross-cutting issue with regards to putting safeguards and safeguard information systems into practice. Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that as safeguard information systems are developed, relevant international obligations and agreements should be recognized and gender considerations should be respected.⁶ There are also specific gender requirements for countries that are preparing themselves for involvement in REDD+ under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) or the UN-REDD Programme (see Box 4 below).

Box 4: Integration of Gender Considerations in REDD+ Readiness Preparation

The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) template, designed to help a country prepare itself for involvement in REDD+ under either the FCPF or UN-REDD Programme, highlights the importance of incorporating gender considerations into REDD+ readiness. The overarching guidelines for preparing an R-PP underlines, “women play a unique role in natural resource management in many countries that is relevant to REDD+ Readiness”. The R-PP template further stresses that countries should identify gender concerns, “especially gender-based risks or unequal benefits”.

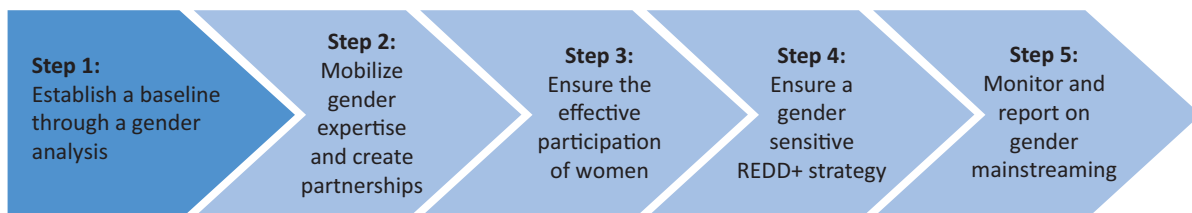
The need to integrate gender considerations into readiness activities is further highlighted in various other components of the R-PP template as well. Please see Annex 2 for more information on the gender requirements within the R-PP.

In places where gender equality considerations have been mainstreamed into forest management strategies, equitable and gender sensitive REDD+ strategies can then be established within complementary legal, governance and development frameworks. In most cases, however, ensuring gender sensitive REDD+ processes will require additional efforts, such as modifications of existing governance, participation and decision-making practices. For example, land and forest tenure issues are often included as important elements of a REDD+ governance framework. If women are excluded or marginalized with regards to access to and ownership of land, it may be necessary to address gender inequality in land tenure in order to ensure equitable, efficient and sustainable REDD+ outcomes.

As described in the Overview Section above, this Guidance Note sets out five steps. The first step in this Guidance Note will help identify some gender related gaps and the baseline conditions in national REDD+ processes, which will be a good starting point for a strategy to ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes. The following other four steps will introduce other suggested areas for action in order to increase the gender sensitivity of national REDD+ processes. However, the specific challenges, the detailed design and the exact implementation of actions may vary based on the country specific context.

6 For more information, see http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/durban_nov_2011/decisions/application/pdf/cop17_safeguards.pdf

STEP 1: ESTABLISH A BASELINE THROUGH A GENDER ANALYSIS



Questions Answered in Step 1:



What is a gender analysis?



Why is a gender analysis useful for national REDD+ processes?



What data is required in order to establish a gender baseline for REDD+ processes?



What are specific actions in conducting a gender analysis?

“Officers [in FAO] which had more frequent exposure to community work, have no doubts that gender relations are one of the key elements to take into consideration in all phases of the field work, and that by doing so the project will achieve better results.”⁷

7 Gentile, R., *Gender Stocktaking in the FAO Forestry Department*, FAO, April 2012, available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/34297-065ff1406280d957e10a6d08947dc9019.doc>

Rationale

A gender analysis is an essential dimension of a socio-economic analysis to inform policy making. It provides information on the different social, economic and political conditions that women and men face in a specific context, and identifies possible benefits from particular activities, which can inform and improve policies and programs. A REDD+ gender analysis will help establish the baseline data for gender sensitive REDD+ processes.

More specifically, UNDP defines gender analysis as a *“methodology for collecting and processing information about gender. It provides disaggregated data by sex, and an understanding of the social construction of gender roles, how labour is divided and valued. Gender Analysis is the process of analyzing information in order to ensure development benefits and resources are effectively and equitably targeted to both women and men, and to successfully anticipate and avoid any negative impacts development may have on women or on gender relations.”*⁸

As gender roles interact with other relationships, such as ethnicity, culture, class, religion, income, education, age, disability, and/or other status – and that these relationships change over time – gender analysis should therefore be cautious not to treat women and men as homogenous groups.⁹

Gender analysis can be conducted as a separate exercise or as part of a larger context/situational analysis process, such as an Institutional Context Analysis.¹⁰ It is however essential that the analysis incorporates gender sensitive questions and has data that is classified by sex (i.e. sex-disaggregated data).¹¹ Having access to such data allows for the better identification of potential opportunities, problems, barriers and risks associated with REDD+ processes, which in turn can help ensure their effectiveness and sustainability (see Box 5 below). It is also important to include sex-disaggregated data within monitoring and evaluation (see Step 5).

8 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Introductory Gender Analysis & Gender Planning Training Module for UNDP Staff*, 2001, available at: <http://204.200.211.31/contents/file/GenderMainstreamingTraining.pdf>

9 For more information, see “Gender and Development: A Trainer’s Manual”, available at http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/192862/Module2/Module2b.html#_ftn3

10 For more information, see “Institutional and Context Analysis – Guidance Note”, available at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/oslo_governance_centre/Institutional_and_Context_Analysis_Guidance_Note/

11 Please note that sex-disaggregated data may also be integrated into other assessment processes other than just a gender analysis. This will enhance the accuracy of the data, and may be useful in order to support gender sensitive REDD+ processes.

Box 5: What data is needed for a REDD+ gender analysis

Regarding what data is required for a REDD+ gender analysis, a useful first step can be to look at databases with different sex-disaggregated information. For example, the World Bank and the United Nations maintain databases of sex-disaggregated data on population, health, education, employment and political participation, which cover most countries.

In order to ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes, additional sex-disaggregated data may include specific forestry data (employment, income, market information), land data (ownership, rights, use) and forest use data (non-cash income, medicinal value, cultural use). The abovementioned R-PP template specifically requests countries to provide data on land tenure, “differentiated if possible by gender and ethnicity” (component 2a, page 32).

A gender analysis is ideally carried out in the beginning of REDD+ readiness processes, in order for the baseline to be most relevant and to identify potential entry points for action. For instance, the R-PP template highlights the importance of taking gender concerns into account when mapping stakeholders. The gender analysis can also include some form of capacity assessment of stakeholders involved in a national REDD+ process, which can provide useful information for the design of targeted capacity building interventions.

However, if it is not possible to carry out a gender analysis in the beginning of a REDD+ readiness process, it is still beneficial to undertake a gender analysis later on in the process as well. At this stage, such an analysis can still help identify how REDD+ processes can become more gender sensitive as well as successes that can be built on and lessons learned. It can also help identify relevant stakeholders who need to be informed, consulted or more actively engaged.¹²

Furthermore, a gender analysis can be a useful undertaking while developing a country’s safeguards approach, and in putting safeguard information systems into practice. The analysis can help define the gender specific goals of the country’s safeguards approach, as well as the gender related needs and gaps of new safeguard policies, laws and regulations. The data collected through a gender analysis can then also be used to inform safeguard information systems.

12 For instance, the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme conducted a Gender Analysis to improve the gender sensitivity of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme’s “Phase II”. The report is available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10870&Itemid=53

Concrete Example: Drawing upon existing assessments for efficiency gains

Gender analyses for national REDD+ processes may draw information and data from previous gender assessments, general gender analyses of the country, or of the forestry sector more specifically. This is useful for efficiency reasons.

One such gender analysis/assessment is a study entitled, “Overview of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nepal”, which was developed as part of a series of gender assessments supported by the Asian Development Bank. The assessment considers gender within the framework of citizenship, property rights, family law, the police, employment and labor migration, trafficking, conflict, reconciliation and peace, gender-based violence, social security and protection, participation in governance, health, education, water supply and sanitation, rural transport infrastructure, energy and agriculture and natural resource management.

With regards to forests, the assessment demonstrates that the traditional land tenure system marginalizes many groups of women. For example, the assessment found that 95% of the Dalits women, living in the Tarai, are landless. On the positive side, the assessment notes that benefit-sharing mechanisms within community forestry as well as equitable representation in forest decision-making bodies are promoted.

This study on the current gender situation in the forestry sector within Nepal provides a useful baseline which can be used to inform other gender sensitive REDD+ assessments and processes within the country.

Source: Asian Development Bank, *Overview of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nepal*, 2010, available at <http://www.adb.org/documents/overview-gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-nepal>

Actionable Items

Specific actions in conducting a gender analysis (see Figure 1) include, but are not limited to, the following:

Action Item 1: Desk study

- Literature review to understand current gender relations and how REDD+ can affect institutional, social, and economic factors impacting women and men
- Compilation of forestry, land use and REDD+ related policies and legislation
- Compilation of gender policies and legislation, relevant to REDD+ processes
- Compilation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data; on forest livelihoods, forest use and forest management, as well as land and tenure rights

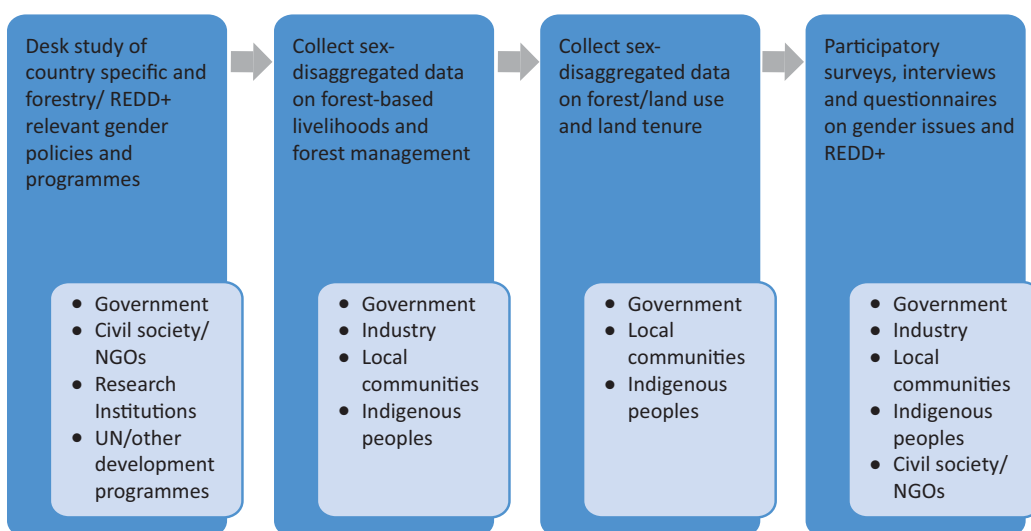
Action Item 2: Carrying out surveys; semi-structured interviews and questionnaires

- Surveys can provide new sex-disaggregated data on livelihoods, forest use and forest management, as well as land and tenure rights
- Identification of stakeholders' needs, use patterns and knowledge of forests, as well as roles, responsibilities and priorities for REDD+
- Ground-truthing of results from the desk study

Together these actions should answer the following questions:

- What are the different roles played by women and men in forest use and forest management?
- Are there gender differences in access to and control over forest resources?
- Do women and men have different priorities for REDD+?
- How may REDD+ differentially affect women and men?
- How may REDD+ differentially benefit women and men?
- How are women and men currently represented in decision-making processes relevant for REDD+?
- Is there any gender or forestry-specific policy and legislation that should be taken into account?

Figure 1: Conducting a Gender Analysis



Supportive Actions

A gender analysis can further help establish and / or strengthen gender sensitive REDD+ stakeholder engagement practices, through identifying and actively engaging relevant stakeholders in the analysis process. The analysis can engage stakeholders through surveys, interviews and questionnaires, but also through informal meetings and workshops. This participatory element of a gender analysis process can strengthen the quality of the analysis by ensuring accuracy of the information and the analysis and by expanding its scope. It can also strengthen stakeholder ownership to the analysis and raise awareness and build support for gender sensitive REDD+ processes.

REDD+ gender analyses can additionally be enhanced through knowledge exchange and awareness raising activities at the national, regional and / or global scale including inter alia: establishing a database of REDD+ gender analyses, assessments and studies, holding national and regional workshops on the results of gender analyses, as well as the publication of lessons learned regarding REDD+ gender analysis processes and results. As such, ensuring that information not just on the results, but also on the process and procedures of how a gender analysis is gathered and shared can support future analyses.

The importance of collaboration and engaging partners to ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes is further explored in Step 2 below.

Suggested Reading

UNDP, “Learning and Information Pack: Gender Analysis”, available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Institutional%20Development/TLGEN1.6%20UNDP%20GenderAnalysis%20toolkit.pdf>

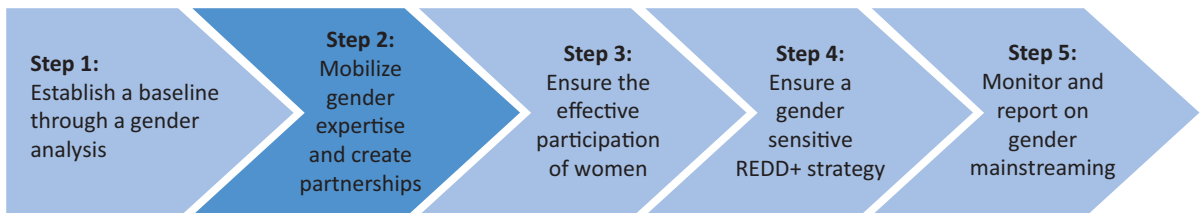
FAO, International Labour Organization, UNDP, “The Socio-economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA)”, available at: <http://www.fao.org/gender/seaga/en/>

Canadian International Development Agency, “Gender Analysis as a Tool”, available at: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/EMA-218123616-NN9#a3>

U.S. Agency for International Development, “Tips for Conducting a Gender Analysis at the Activity or Project Level”, available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/201sae.pdf>

World Bank, “Gender and Development: A Training Tool”, available at: <http://info.world-bank.org/etools/docs/library/192862/Module2/Module2-index.html>

STEP 2: MOBILIZE GENDER EXPERTISE AND CREATE PARTNERSHIPS



Questions Answered in Step 2:



How can networks and partnerships help ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes?



What are examples of relevant partners?



How can gender experts contribute to gender sensitive REDD+ processes?

“Strengthening links to advocacy networks and platforms (including media and women’s organisations) is critical for raising awareness and mobilising action toward gender inclusion”¹³

Rationale

There are extensive networks and partnerships working on gender and REDD+, collaborating on research, advocacy and policy development and implementation. These networks can provide access to relevant gender and REDD+ resources as well as qualified gender and REDD+ experts, who can share lessons learned and best practices on ensuring gender sensi-

13 Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), *Gender in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: A summary of the strategy for research and action*, Brief No. 16, February 2013, available at: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/infobrief/4032-infobrief.pdf

tive REDD+ processes. Identifying and engaging champions on gender equality and women's rights could serve as a powerful aide to promote gender sensitive REDD+ processes. These champions could either be internal (with the national REDD+ coordination units) or external (women's associations, gender equality advocates, social movements, etc.). Engaging with a network can make the most of limited resources and promote learning and the exchange of experiences. It can also help integrate gender considerations in the national REDD+ framework, and ensure gender sensitive and efficient REDD+ processes.

Partnerships can exist between and among a number of relevant partners: government agencies, UN organizations, NGOs, learning institutions, CSOs, the private sector, and indigenous peoples and local communities as outlined in figure 2 below.

Concrete Example: Access to climate and gender experts

The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) is a multi-agency partnership that focuses on the linkages between gender and climate change. This partnership facilitates, among others, advocacy and awareness-raising activities and has trained and built the capacity of over 500 experts from more than 100 countries. These capacity building activities have created a regional cadre of experts who are available and fully prepared to engage in the climate change community, including on issues surrounding REDD+. UNEP, UNDP, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) are the founding members of this Alliance, and all currently sit on its Steering Committee.



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Figure 2: Examples of Relevant Partners

Government Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries / departments for women /gender • Ministries / departments for forests / environment • Local councils • REDD+ cells / units / Task Forces
UN Organizations / Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Women • In-country implementing Agencies (UN, Banks, Bilateral) • One UN Lead organization (if applicable)
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's groups • Environmental groups • In-country implementing Agencies (NGOs)
Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples organizations • Youth organizations • Local community associations
Producer Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers / agricultural organizations • Forestry organizations • Water user associations • Workers and trade unions

Concrete Example: Mobilizing each partner's comparative advantage

The UN-REDD Programme in Asia-Pacific is part of a regional collaboration between UNDP, WOCAN, Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF, funded by US-AID) and The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC). Mobilizing each partner's comparative advantage and/or expertise, the regional collaboration promotes gender sensitive REDD+ activities through:

1. Collecting data on the role of women in natural resource management and REDD+ related processes in the region;
2. Conducting ground-truthing and supporting local stakeholder engagement;
3. Developing targeted policy recommendations;
4. Convening national-level policy dialogues; and
5. Facilitating the sharing of lessons learned

Concrete Example: Specialized organizations and networks

Organizations such as WEDO and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) also have expert knowledge on gender and REDD+.

Similarly, there are indigenous women's networks and partnerships actively involved in REDD+ processes. The Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) is one example of such a network.

Linking up with a partnership or a network specialized in natural resource management and gender issues can be useful to ensure the gender sensitivity of national REDD+ processes.

Partnerships can often give access to relevant gender expertise, but it can also be useful to mobilize *additional* gender experts and/or practitioners with gender expertise. Mobilizing gender expertise can facilitate capacity building and training on gender issues for people engaged in REDD+ efforts. In addition, such expertise can support the mainstreaming of gender in all relevant REDD+ processes.

Gender experts and/or practitioners with gender expertise can for instance help in developing measurable gender sensitive indicators, conducting gender analyses and facilitating assessments of progress. Additional information on gender analysis can be found in Step 1, while details regarding gender sensitive indicators, monitoring and evaluation can be found in Step 5.

Actionable Items

In order to efficiently support gender sensitive REDD+ processes, the appropriate gender expertise needs to have an understanding of the REDD+ landscape as well as the key REDD+ stakeholders (women and men, indigenous groups, civil society, amongst others).

As such, specific actions could include:

Action Item 1: Based on a gender analysis, consider what specific gender expertise is needed and what partnerships would be useful at what stages;

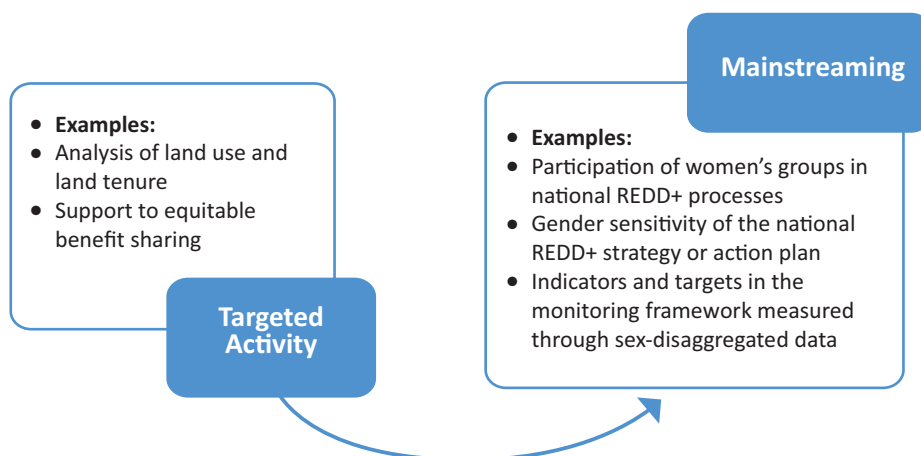
Action Item 2: Through the use of existing networks, identify gender experts and relevant partners;

Action Item 3: Establish and implement partnership agreements or recruit gender expertise; and

Action Item 4: Implement capacity building or advising activities.

As outlined through the examples in Figure 3 below, differences may emerge with regards to how the technical expertise is translated into either a single targeted action or set of actions (targeted activity) or into every action carried out under the national REDD+ process (mainstreaming). In many cases a combination of both may provide the greatest benefits.

Figure 3: Examples of how gender expertise can contribute to national REDD+ processes



The use of gender expertise is especially important early in REDD+ processes and in a project design phase (if applicable), in order to establish a baseline (see Step 1), to support stakeholder engagement (see Step 3), ensure that key components of a national REDD+ strategy are gender sensitive (see Step 4) and for the development of indicators and targets (see Step 5). It can also be crucial to use gender expertise during the course of national REDD+ processes, for instance in relation to evaluation processes. This can be useful for adaptive management, in order to be able to adjust the course and improve the gender sensitivity of national REDD+ processes.

With regards to the establishment and implementation of partnerships for gender sensitive REDD+ processes, the following checklist can support effective partnerships. Specifically, it is important that the partnership has:¹⁴

- A clear understanding of the context in which the partnership will operate;
- A long-term vision;
- A gender action plan, strategy or work plan;
- The appropriate members with regards to both areas of experience and expertise and commitment to the process;

14 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Successful Partnerships: A Guide*, 2006, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/36279186.pdf>

- Well understood divisions of roles and responsibilities;
- Mechanisms for regular contact during implementation;
- A robust monitoring and evaluation system;
- Adequate funding; and
- A communication plan or strategy that draws on existing resources and platforms from different partners.

Supportive Actions

Identifying gender experts who could contribute to national REDD+ processes is a country specific activity. In many countries such work has been done either in the forestry sector or as part of gender mainstreaming efforts. As such, reaching out to partners and building national or regional information databases to store and disseminate sources on gender experts and expertise could help those seeking to reflect gender issues and effectively engage women in national REDD+ processes.

It is also important to understand how funding is flowing in order to identify and appropriately allocate funding and budget to support gender activities and gender sensitive REDD+ processes. For example, FAO has set a target that at a minimum 30% of its operational work and budget at the country and regional levels is allocated to women-specific targeted interventions. These resources could, for instance, go to supporting organizations and activities that advance women's access to and control over land and other productive resources; strengthening rural women's organizations and networks; and increasing women's participation and leadership in rural institutions.¹⁵

With regards to the specific case of funding for national REDD+ processes, there are several different funding models for gender considerations. In Vietnam, for example, gender considerations are fully integrated into activities undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme in Phase 2, and associated studies, assessments and actions are part of the Phase 2 general budget. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the other hand, gender equality is additionally supported through the UN-REDD Programme's "targeted support" on gender.¹⁶

Gathering such information on gender funding targets and funding sources can assist REDD+ teams in mobilizing resources for technical assistance.

15 For more information, see "FAO Policy on Gender Equality", available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3205e/i3205e.pdf>

16 To note, the UN-REDD Programme's "targeted support" modality follows a different application, approval and reporting process than the UN-REDD National Programme funding.

Suggested Reading

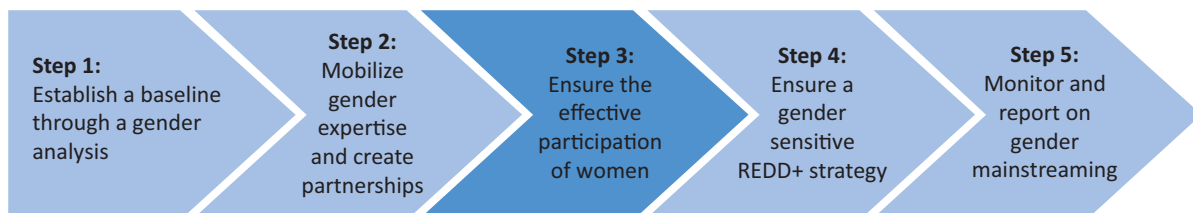
Aguilar, L. et al, “Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change”, published by the IUCN, UNDP and GGCA, 2009, available at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eng_version_web_final_1.pdf

GGCA, Database on Gender Publications, available at: <http://www.gender-climate.org/Publications/>

WEDO, “Mapping gender-sensitive REDD+ strategies”, 2011, available at: <http://www.wedo.org/themes/sustainable-development-themes/climatechange/mapping-gender-sensitive-redd-strategies-in-ghana-cameroon-and-uganda>



STEP 3: ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN



Questions answered in Step 3:



Why is participation of women essential to REDD+ processes?



How does capacity building contribute to effective participation?



What are the advantages and disadvantages of women's only consultations?



What are steps to ensure the effective participation of women?

"...having a high proportion of women in user-group executive committees and other key decision-making bodies significantly improves forest condition."¹⁷

Rationale

There is a wealth of evidence to support the fact that having both men and women effectively participate in decision-making processes improves the long-term and sustainable management of forests. For example, the 2011 Human Development Report notes that

17 Agrawal, A. et al, *Decentralization and Environmental Conservation: Gender Effects from Participation in Joint Forest Management*, 2006, available at: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp53.pdf>

greater involvement of women in decision-making has resulted in improved forest protection and better management of environmental resources in a number of countries.¹⁸

In addition, the R-PP template also highlights: “Women play a unique role in natural resource management in many countries that is relevant to REDD+ Readiness.” The document further notes the importance of incorporating gender into readiness as well as recommends consultation and/or participation plans should be designed to increase inclusion of different social groups, including women (see Annex 2 for more information). Gender sensitive consultations can inform effective and efficient REDD+ processes by more accurately taking into account the specific knowledge, distinct needs, opinions and contributions of varying groups. It can also increase the chances of widespread support, ownership and sustainability of REDD+ processes.

Additionally, there are a number of international obligations related to the participation of women in decision-making processes that should be adhered to in national REDD+ processes. For example, the UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) highlight that under human rights law, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), women have the right to equality in the exercise of the right of indigenous peoples to participate in both internal and external decision-making processes and institutions.¹⁹

Concrete Example: Integrating women’s participation in the National REDD+ Strategy

The National REDD+ Strategy in Indonesia highlights gender sensitivity as a key principle and includes several elements to promote the meaningful participation of women including:

- Conducting capacity building for communities, in particular women and other vulnerable groups, to enable them to understand the available information; and
- Enable participation of communities, in particular women and other vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes.

Source: Indonesia REDD+ National Strategy, June 2012, available at: http://www.unorcid.org/upload/doc_lib/Indonesia%20REDD+%20National%20Strategy.pdf

Facilitating gender sensitive REDD+ processes requires meaningful presence, participation, and engagement of women and men in all phases of REDD+. Effective participation of women may be beneficial not only for specific stakeholder engagement processes, such

18 For more information, see “2011 Human Development Report”, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

19 For more information, see “UN-REDD FPIC Guidelines”, available at http://www.un-redd.org/Launch_of_FPIC_Guidelines/tabid/105976/Default.aspx

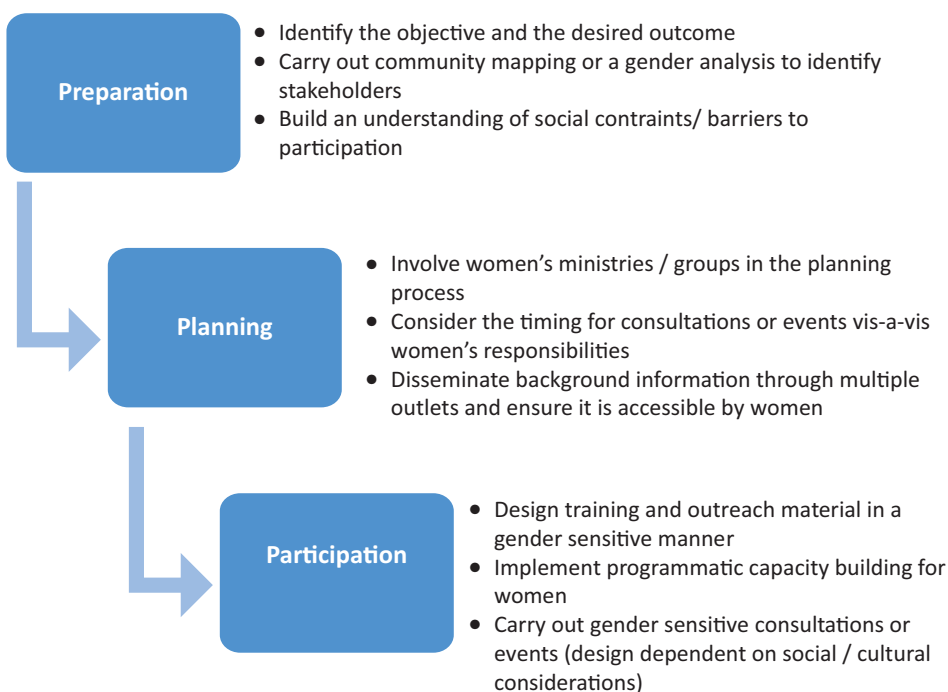
as consultations or FPIC, but also across all aspects of REDD+ processes, including governance, Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (M & MRV), national approaches to safeguards, and benefit sharing (see Step 4). Such participation requires both means and opportunity for active and sustained engagement which extends beyond attendance at meetings and consultations to also include capacity building, knowledge exchange and engagement in national REDD+ processes and programming (i.e. design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation).

Actionable Items

As with any stakeholder engagement process, supporting the effective participation of women requires an enabling environment, capacity building and the implementation of appropriate systems of engagement.

In order to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of women, it is necessary to carry out phases of preparation and planning, as well as to take steps to ensure that the participation process is gender sensitive. Figure 4 below suggests some practical entry points for action.

Figure 4: Ensuring the Effective Participation of Women



Additional and complementary actions include:

Action Item 1: Identify any discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that may limit the participation of women (this can be done as part of a larger gender analysis, see Step 1)

Action Item 2: Mobilize any additional partners supporting the participation of women in forestry and REDD+ processes (see Step 2)

Action Item 3: Ensure that relevant women's groups, including indigenous women's networks, have access to all relevant information,²⁰ and that they have the capacity to understand the issues

Action Item 4: Ensure that there is an enabling environment for women to participate actively.

Actions to ensure that women are able to participate in national REDD+ processes, such as consultations, can include:

- Promoting gender balance within groups and workshops (it is generally accepted that women should make up at least 30% of a body to ensure effective results²¹);
- Involving and consulting women in the design and conduct of participatory and stakeholder analyses;
- Considering women only groups and consultations (see box 6); and
- Ensuring that the information is disseminated to women in local languages and via different media outlets that women can access (including radio, internet, flyers, etc.).

Box 6: Women's only Groups and Consultations

Advantages:

- More women are likely to participate more often
- Better reflects the use of forests by women (which are often not allocated equal time in mixed discussions)
- Greater confidence among women in the outcomes of the decision-making process

20 For more information, see "Ensuring inclusive, transparent and accountable national REDD+ systems: the role of freedom of information", available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=9154&Itemid=53

21 CIFOR, *Gender strategy for the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA)*, April 2013, available at: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BCIFOR1303/EnglishSummary.pdf

Box 6 (cont-d): Women's only Groups and Consultations**Disadvantages:**

- May result in less acceptance of conclusions/decisions as only a portion of the community was present for discussions
- May have a less diverse knowledge and information base than mixed groups

Supportive Actions

A key criterion to the successful participation of women is capacity building prior to, during and following events and consultations. Such capacity building can (1) ensure that women have access to all of the relevant background information; (2) ensure that the information is presented in such a manner that it is understood by the participants; (3) introduce proposed decision-making processes and identify entry points; and (4) build women's communication skills (if necessary) to increase the effectiveness of their messages.

Identifying and making available resources for capacity building for local participation in REDD+ processes, with a particular focus on women and women's groups, could help facilitate and inform in-country action and gender sensitive national REDD+ processes. Furthermore, establishing partnerships with ongoing women's engagement processes or organizations representing women can facilitate mobilization and the dissemination of relevant information. As such, it may be useful to refer to the text on networks and partnerships contained in Step 2.

Suggested Reading

UN-REDD Programme, "Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent", available at: http://www.un-redd.org/Launch_of_FPIC_Guidelines/tabid/105976/Default.aspx

FAO, "Gender Analysis and Forestry Training Package", available at: <http://foris.fao.org/static/pdf/gender/tr-e01/tr-e01.2.pdf>

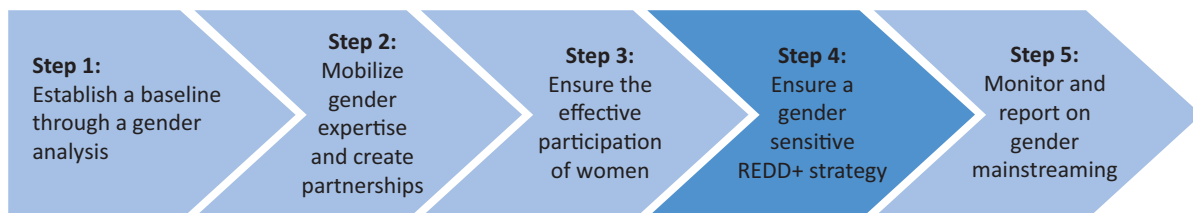
Convention on Biological Diversity, "Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in the Development and Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans", available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b9-train-gender-en.pdf>

International Finance Corporation, "Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets" (pp. 56-62), available at: http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/ifc+sustainability/publications/publications_handbook_stakeholderengagement_wci_1319577185063

WOCAN, "How Bringing Gender Perspectives into REDD+ Policies Could Enhance Effectiveness and Empowerment", available at: <http://www.wocan.org/resources/wocan-policy-brief-how-bringing-gender-perspectives-redd-policies-could-enhance>



STEP 4: ENSURE A GENDER SENSITIVE REDD+ STRATEGY



Questions Answered in Step 4:



Why should gender considerations be “mainstreamed” in national REDD+ strategy processes?



What are some key entry points to ensure gender sensitive REDD+ strategies?



What actions can be taken to prepare for gender sensitive benefit sharing?

“To ensure that national REDD+ systems and programmes are inclusive and resilient, specific attention must be paid to the specific roles, requirements and contributions of women and men at every stage of policy and programme development, from design through implementation and evaluation.”²²

“Women in forest communities can generate more than 50% of their income from forests, compared with about one-third for men.”²³

22 UN-REDD Programme, *UN-REDD FPIC Guidelines*, January 2013, available at: http://www.un-redd.org/Launch_of_FPIC_Guidelines/tabid/105976/Default.aspx

23 CIFOR, *Gender in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: A summary of the strategy for research and action*, Brief No. 16, February 2013, available at: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/infobrief/4032-infobrief.pdf

Rationale

As highlighted in the Overview, this document is not intended to provide a comprehensive overview of all possible actions to ensure gender sensitive REDD+ processes. However, this step aims to raise awareness of the need to ensure that gender considerations are integrated, or “mainstreamed”- in the preparation and implementation of national REDD+ strategies. Ensuring the gender sensitivity of key REDD+ components will in turn contribute to effective and sustainable REDD+ processes and outcomes.

A national REDD+ strategy depends on the country-specific context. However, there are some components that will be included in most REDD+ strategies. This step will touch upon some of these key components, highlight a few practical examples, and propose some concrete entry points for action. Furthermore, a major emphasis will be on benefit sharing, seeing that REDD+ can only be sustainable if it is transparent, equitable and gender sensitive in how it generates and delivers benefits.

National Governance for REDD+

A key entry point for advancing gender sensitive national REDD+ processes is the national governance for REDD+, as well as the policies, laws and regulations that are in place. As such, if for example specific actions are taken to revise the legal framework, and if land tenure reform is part of the national REDD+ process, actions should be taken to ensure that this process is gender sensitive. The governance structures for REDD+ should further be accountable and encourage transparency and access to information for all stakeholders.²⁴



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24 UN-REDD Programme, *Ensuring inclusive, transparent and accountable national REDD+ systems: the role of freedom of information*, January 2013, available at: <http://www.un-redd.org/Newsletter35/FreedomofInformationandREDD/tabid/105809/Default.aspx>

Concrete Example: Ensuring gender sensitivity when addressing governance challenges for REDD+

The Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) is an inclusive process involving different stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and academia with the view to analyse the current state of governance and produce robust and credible governance information to track progress and feed into and support government's policy-making, planning and strategies; and as such act as a starting point for governance reform. In Indonesia, the PGA included gender sensitive indicators and reviewed information on the gender dimensions of forests and peat lands, land use planning, land tenure and local governance issues. Gender equality was also considered when deciding on the composition of groups of stakeholders involved.

Sources: UN-REDD Programme, *Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) Fast Facts*, June 2013, available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10404&Itemid=53 and UN-REDD Programme, *2012 Indonesia Forest, Land and REDD+ Governance Index*, June 2013, available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10777&Itemid=53

Gender Sensitive Green Economy

Seeing that REDD+ processes have the potential to deliver multiple social and environmental benefits, national REDD+ processes could also work as an engine for transformational change, and advance a low carbon economy, or a “green economy”. Additionally, REDD+ efforts could help create “green jobs”, which would be a critical entry point for utilizing women's expertise and improving opportunities for marginalized groups. As an example, the Indonesia REDD+ Strategy highlights the importance of a green economy and the need for changes to the forestry sector's work paradigms and culture, and, in this regard, the first relevant principle is “gender sensitivity”.²⁵

Gender Sensitive Approaches to Safeguards

A gender sensitive national approach to safeguards is another entry point to ensure that REDD+ activities “do no harm” to people or the environment and enhance benefits for both.²⁶ A gender sensitive national approach to safeguards, which takes full account of all forest users (including women, as primary forest users) will help promote the sustainability of REDD+, as well as ensure that users are not negatively affected and that they have access to benefits. Guidance and approaches to support countries on this work are currently being developed. As

25 *Indonesia REDD+ National Strategy*, June 2013, available at: http://www.unorcid.org/upload/doc_lib/Indonesia%20REDD+%20National%20Strategy.pdf

26 UN-REDD Programme, *Putting REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems into Practice*, available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=9167&Itemid=53

an example, WEDO, in partnership with the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards initiative (REDD+ SES) have launched a publication that discusses how to address gender considerations in REDD+ through the use of social and environmental safeguards and standards.²⁷

Concrete Example: Gender sensitive approaches to safeguards

The Indonesia UN-REDD Programme has supported the integration of gender considerations into national approaches to safeguards. A draft REDD+ Gender Safeguard Framework was prepared, and gender considerations were further integrated into the Government's principles, criteria and indicators of safeguards in Indonesia (PRISAI: Prinsip, Kriteria, Indikator Safeguard Indonesia). The Indonesia UN-REDD Programme supported the involvement of two women groups, Solidaritas Perempuan and Indigenous Women of AMAN, in this process. Both NGOs were involved in the consultations for the PRISAI and provided detailed feedback on gender issues, most of which was integrated into the safeguards.

Source: UN-REDD Programme, *Integrating gender into REDD+ safeguards implementation in Indonesia*, November 2012, available at: <http://wocan.org/sites/drupal.wocan.org/files/Integrating%20Gender%20into%20REDD%2B%20Safeguards%20Implementation%20in%20Indonesia.pdf>

Gender Sensitive Monitoring & MRV

REDD+ countries are to develop, among other key elements, *“a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities”*.²⁸ The monitoring function of the national forest monitoring system (NFMS) is primarily a domestic tool to allow countries to assess a broad range of forest information, including in the context of REDD+ activities. The MRV function for REDD+, on the other hand, refers to the estimation and international reporting of national-scale forest emissions and removals. As with the other key components of REDD+ efforts, gender issues should be considered in the context of NFMS. In this regard, activities are already being carried out. As an example, some partnerships, civil society and indigenous peoples' groups are raising awareness on the contributions these groups can give in monitoring forest resources and on the importance of applying gender sensitive monitoring approaches and tools for REDD+ (see example on the next page).

27 The publication, which consists of two booklets, presents best practices and lessons learned from action research conducted in countries participating in the REDD+ SES initiative. Booklet 2 provides an accessible checklist tool for countries that are using REDD+ SES or other countries that are developing national approaches to safeguards and standards. For more information, please see “From research to action, leaf by leaf: getting gender right in REDD+ SES”, available at: <http://www.wedo.org/?p=11049>

28 Decision 1/CP.16, section C, paragraph 71 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=2>)

Concrete Example: Raising Awareness on Gender Sensitive Monitoring and MRV

As an example, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and other members of the Indigenous Peoples' Partnership on Forests and Climate Change, are raising awareness on the need to develop indigenous peoples and gender-sensitive monitoring tools and instruments for REDD+. The Partnership organized a training workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Gender Sensitive Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)". The workshop discussed existing MRV concepts, tools, instruments and standards as well as environmental and social safeguards and key principles to drive indigenous peoples and gender sensitive MRV processes.

Source: Riamit S. and Tauli-Corpuz V., *Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives and Activities in Monitoring, Reporting, and Indicators Development for REDD+ and A Review of the MRV Concepts, Tools and Instruments*, available at: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Feb2011/Indigenous%20Peoples'%20Perspective%20on%20Community%20based%20MRV%20for%20Social%20and%20Enviromental%20Standards.pdf>

Gender Sensitive Benefit Sharing

Building long-term support for national REDD+ processes is often tied to its ability to demonstrate benefits for the rural poor. Seeing that women typically rely more on forests than men do,²⁹ and that rural women engage in multiple economic activities that are critical to the survival of poor households,³⁰ considering gender during the process of both defining and sharing REDD+ benefits is a critical entry point with a strong political rationale for action. The importance of gender sensitive benefits, and equal access to benefits from REDD+, is also included in the guidelines for preparing an R-PP.³¹

In the discourses around REDD+ benefit sharing, some terms are used interchangeably. Below in Box 7 is how the terms are being used in this document.

29 UNDP, *2011 Human Development Report*, available at: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2011%20Global%20HDR/English/HDR_2011_EN_Complete.pdf

30 International Fund for Agricultural Development Rural Poverty Portal, "Gender and rural poverty", available at <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/topic/home/tags/gender>

31 Please see Annex 2 of this note for more information on the specific gender-related requirements in the R-PP template.

Box 7: REDD+ Benefit Sharing

Benefit sharing refers to a commitment to channel some kind of returns whether monetary or nonmonetary back to the range of designated participants or affected communities. A proportion of revenue earned by the State is returned to local communities through indirect and / or direct benefit sharing arrangements. Direct benefit sharing refers to cash payments to individuals or communities, and indirect benefit sharing includes other non-cash benefits, including infrastructure or community facilities, and grass-roots development activities.

Source: Mwayafu, D., Kimbowa, R. and Graham, K., *A Toolkit to Assess Proposed Benefit Sharing and Revenue Distribution Schemes of Community REDD+ Projects*, 2011, available at: <http://redd-net.org/files/Benefit%20Sharing%20Toolkit.pdf>

Benefit sharing mechanism:

Benefit sharing mechanism to refer to the variety of institutional means, governance structures and instruments that distribute finance and other net benefits from REDD+ programmes.

Source: CIFOR, *Analysing REDD+: Challenges and choices*, 2012, available at: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BAngelsen120108.pdf

Concrete Example: Gender sensitive benefit sharing

As part of its REDD+ readiness work, Viet Nam did some initial research on how multiple benefits could be captured in the design of a future benefit distribution mechanism. Gender was one of the factors considered in the “R coefficient”, which defines the allocation of positive incentives in a manner that considers local conditions. Other factors included income, ethnicity, biodiversity, watershed, accessibility and protection impact. Initial feedback from local stakeholders reports that a simpler R coefficient may be preferred. However, the mix of factors will be further developed, consulted and piloted with stakeholders during Phase 2 of the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam.

Actionable ItemsAddressing the institutional framework for REDD+ benefit sharing

In order to prepare for gender sensitive REDD+ benefit sharing it is important to gather and disseminate information on how women and men use forests as well as both formal and informal use rights. Much of this information can be gathered in partnership with

both gender expertise and the forest sector. It can also be obtained through a gender analysis (see Step 1).

As such, the following actions may be useful:

Action Item 1: When defining those who may bear costs as a result of REDD+, identify relevant women's groups, and any vulnerable women or men

Action Item 2: Assess how a benefit sharing mechanism can impact gender roles and responsibilities

Action Item 3: Consider both formal and informal land tenure, forest use and access to resources when defining beneficiaries

Action Item 4: Engage women and women's groups in benefit sharing discussions

Action Item 5: Ensure that the benefit sharing mechanism utilizes sex-disaggregated data

In some cases, the current institutional framework in a country provides a helpful point of departure for gender sensitive REDD+ benefit sharing. If the following questions can be answered with a 'yes' it is a good indication that gender considerations are taken into account:

- Is the land tenure and resource use system equitable with regards to gender?
- Is there transparency with regards to financial transfers to and within communities?
- Is there a strong national law on gender in environmental impact assessments?
- Is there a fair and accessible system to address grievances and conflict?
- Do women have the same legal rights to resources as men?

If the above questions cannot be answered positively, it may be useful to examine the national REDD+ process to evaluate whether it is feasible to improve the REDD+ related governance.

Supportive Actions

As highlighted under Step 2, the allocation of adequate financial resources for the effective participation of women during the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases, is an important pre-condition for gender sensitive REDD+ processes. This is equally important in order to ensure that all the key components of a REDD+ strategy are gender sensitive. Lessons learned from the development field have shown that when gender sensitive activities are developed and approved, they often fail to improve gender equality or empower women due to a lack of financial resources for implementation. Gender sensitive budgeting strategies can help identify such financing gaps, as well as empha-

size the re-prioritizing of financial resources within activities rather than only increasing overall expenditures. In doing so such approaches assist in ensuring that gender sensitive activities have the proper financial support to be effective.

For additional information on financing of gender sensitive REDD+ processes, see box 8 below.

Box 8: Financing gender sensitive REDD+ processes

Ensuring that all key components of national REDD+ strategies are gender sensitive requires that adequate financial resources are allocated for gender-related activities.

Methods to achieve this include: (1) dedicated funding windows for gender-specific activities and women's groups, (2) ear-marked funds for gender under each REDD+ funding window, (3) gender criteria in fund allocation, and (4) gender responsive budgeting.

Some resources on this issue include:

- UN Women, "Gender Responsive Budgeting", available at: <http://www.gender-budgets.org>
- UNDP, "Ensuring Gender Equity in Climate Change Financing", (Box 7, "Gender-Responsive Budgeting", p.36), available at: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/EngendCC_7.pdf
- GGCA Climate Finance Working Group and the Heinrich Boell Foundation of North America, "Operationalizing a Gender-Sensitive Approach in the Green Climate Fund", available at: http://gender-climate.org/Content/Docs/GGCA_Operationalize_Gender-Sensitive-Approach_GCF_Final.pdf
- The Voluntary REDD+ Database, Information on REDD+ Funding, available at: <http://reddplusdatabase.org>

Suggested Reading

UN-REDD Programme, “Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC)”, available at: http://www.un-redd.org/Multiple_Benefits_SEPC/tabid/54130/Default.aspx

UN-REDD Programme (UNDP), “Safeguards Policy Brief”, available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=9167&Itemid=53

FAO, Gender and Land Rights Database, available at: <http://www.fao.org/gender/land-rights/en/>

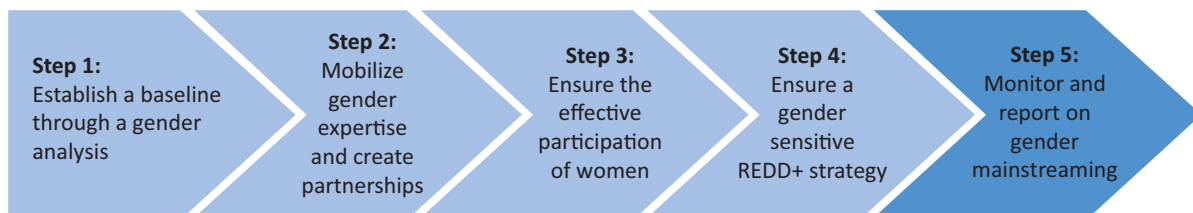
FAO, “Governing Land for Women and Men”, available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3114e/i3114e.pdf>

UN-Habitat, Global Land Tool Network, available at: <http://www.gltn.net/>

WEDO/ REDD+ SES, “From research to action, leaf by leaf: getting gender right in REDD+ SES”, available at: <http://www.wedo.org/?p=11049>



STEP 5: MONITOR AND REPORT ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING



Questions Answered in Step 5:



How can gender sensitive REDD+ processes be monitored?



What is the difference between gender-sensitive and gender-blind indicators?



What are examples of “SMART” gender-sensitive indicators?

“All of us in the international community (...) need to dramatically increase investment in women and girls. (...) We need to create mechanisms for tracking investment in gender equality. We need to monitor and report resource allocations on a regular basis.”³²

Rationale

In order to assess the effectiveness of efforts to make national REDD+ processes gender sensitive, it is important to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into indicators, goals and targets. To make this effective, gender sensitivity of REDD+ processes

32 Remarks of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Remarks at the inter-agency event to mark International Women’s Day: “Investing in Women and Girls”, 2008, available at: <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/ban-ki-moon-statement-2008-iwday.pdf>

should be considered during regular monitoring and reporting, so that it can be strengthened through adaptive management processes.³³

Effective monitoring and evaluation is, however, reliant upon the collection of relevant data during the process of establishing a gender baseline. As such, it may be useful to refer to Step 1, “Establish a Gender Baseline through a Gender Analysis”.

Gender sensitive monitoring and reporting of REDD+ processes can be divided into two main purposes:

1. to assess whether women are benefiting from the REDD+ process. This specific focus on women is necessary due to the fact that women are traditionally marginalized in social, economic and political activities.
2. to assess the extent to which national REDD+ processes contribute to gender equality.

In order to make sure that national REDD+ processes are being evaluated based on both of these purposes, the monitoring should consider issues such as women’s and men’s access and rights to resources and services, targets related to participation and decision-making, as well as collection of sex-disaggregated data on employment, income and poverty alleviation.

In order to assess if targets have been achieved, it is crucial to define specific and measurable indicators. When designing REDD+ indicators it is important to recognize ‘gender sensitive’ indicators – that recognize gender differences and accounts for them - as well as ‘gender blind indicators’- those that ignore important gender considerations and, as such, often hide inequalities and inequities.

Examples of Gender Blind Indicators:

- Data (e.g. number of meeting participants or people consulted) not disaggregated by gender;
- Homogenous terminology such as, “stakeholder participation”, “community involvement” and “indigenous peoples”, which does not make clear distinctions between the different types of stakeholders within the group, nor does it disaggregate such data (i.e. between women, men, girls and boys); and
- Indicators that only measure formal paid work and employment, and neglect measuring informal sectors.³⁴

33 For UN-REDD partner countries with National Programmes, the integration of gender considerations is usually reported quarterly and annually, through quarterly monitoring reports and UN-REDD Programme reporting requirements.

34 Women often participate in informal rather than formal sectors of the economy. As such, only measuring the formal sector neglects accounting for much of the work and employment held and undertaken by women.

Examples of Gender Sensitive Indicators:

- Percent of women/ men participating in a process;
- Number of women holding leadership roles in REDD+ decision-making bodies and involved in decision-making processes;
- Number of hours women are spending on unpaid work, such as childcare, household, elderly care and community work; and
- Number of hours women are involved in subsistence activities.

Overall, effective gender sensitive indicators are based on sex-disaggregated data, focus on both outcome and output achievements, as well as meet the SMART(ER) criteria.³⁵

Concrete Example: Checklist to support gender sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF funded by USAID) has developed a gender mainstreaming checklist to be applied to all of its investment programs. The checklist includes key questions, indicators and data sources, which can help ensure that monitoring, evaluation and reporting approaches are gender sensitive. For example, below are some checklist items used for project design:

Questions

- Have gender gaps been identified?
- Does the goal of the proposed intervention seek to correct gender gaps?
- Have proposed interventions been discussed with a gender advisor?
- Have the suggestions of the gender advisor been incorporated?

Indicators

- Incidence of consultation with gender advisor.
- Number of interventions that integrate gender aspects in their design as well as assign resources and responsibility to address the issues.

Data Sources

- Joint consultation meeting minutes.
- Concept note/agenda, program schedule, quarterly plans, country work plans.
- Terms of Reference for research assessments, pre-assessment report on gender integration.
- Memorandum of Understanding/gender integration plans.

Source: LEAF, *Gender Mainstreaming Strategy & Checklist*, August 2012, available at: http://www.leafasia.org/sites/default/files/resources/Gender_LEAF_StrategyMainstreaming_Final20120831.pdf

Actionable Items

In order to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of the gender sensitivity of REDD+ processes, preparations should occur during baseline data gathering, goal and target setting, data collection and adaptive management. As such the following actions are suggested (please also see step 1):

Action Item 1: Collect sex-disaggregated data in order to establish a gender sensitive baseline

Action Item 2: Conduct an initial gender analysis

Action Item 3: Establish gender targets and/or goals

Action Item 4: Design tools for regular data collection

Action Item 5: Assess data and adapt project if necessary

With regards to possible indicators for gender sensitive REDD+ processes, below are some examples:³⁶

- Proportion of women in REDD+ decision making bodies at the national level;
- Percentage of women elected/appointed to forest management committees;
- Percentage of women in programme areas who have control (i.e. stronger rights) over forest, agroforestry and tree resources at household and community levels;
- The number of women empowered to plant and manage forests, agroforests and tree resources; and

36 For more information, please see the following publications: *CIFOR, Gender strategy for the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA)*, April 2013, available at: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BCIFOR1303/EnglishSummary.pdf and European Institute for Gender Equality, *Review of the Implementation in the EU of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Environment*, 2012, available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/content/document/gender-equality-and-climate-change-report>

- Percentage of decreased disparity in incomes between women and men.

Examples of guiding questions:³⁷

- Will there be adverse effects on women's or men's capacity to continue to provide for basic daily needs or to earn income from natural resources?
- Does the project undermine women's access to land for food or cash crops?
- Has the impact of new technology been discussed with women?
- Has women's or men's workload increased as a result of involvement in the project/programme?
- Do men and women have equal access to benefits?
- Have groups of either women or men been disadvantaged? If so, are the reasons for this clear and acceptable, and what remedial measures can be taken?

Additionally, ensuring that indicators related to indigenous peoples are gender sensitive should be supported, and can be achieved through building the awareness of indigenous peoples with regards to gender sensitive indicators as well as increasing capacity for indigenous women to participate in indicators setting processes.

Supportive Actions

Developing a collection of various gender sensitive indicators at the national and sub-national level can help both in establishing a baseline and in identifying what goals and targets may already be monitored. As gender sensitive REDD+ processes often align with broader development strategies or plans, such an indicator list can also help avoid overlap and ensure efficiencies.

Additional actions such as reaching out to partners and networks, as well as mobilizing gender expertise to help in the development of gender sensitive indicators (see Step 2), may improve the accuracy and relevance of the indicators. Women's groups or other stakeholders with gender expertise may also contribute to collecting data and verifying results.

Suggested Reading

UNDP, "How to Integrate Gender into Monitoring and Evaluation", available at: <http://europeandcis.undp.org/files/uploads/Mozur/Gender%20and%20Monitoring%20Evaluation%20Toolkit%20Excerpt%20World%20Bank.pdf>

UNDP, "Measuring Democratic Governance, A Framework for Selecting Pro-Poor and Gender Sensitive Indicators", available at: http://www.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/presscenter/events/2012/November/regional_governance_week/_jcr_content/center-parsys/download_12/file.res/Measuring%20Democratic%20Governance_English%20Paper.pdf

37 OECD, *Land and Environment: Environment*, Gendernet Practice Notes, 1997, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/social/gender-development/44853897.pdf>



ANNEX 1: GENDER-RELATED INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS/COMMITMENTS

Universal Declaration on Human Rights	Article 2 recognizes that men and women are not the same but maintains their right to be equal before the law and treated without discrimination.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Also known as an international bill of rights for women, with 185 Parties, the Convention defines what constitutes discrimination against women and formalizes an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The Convention focuses on equality between women and men in all areas of life. Article 14 specifically highlights rural women and the significant roles which they play in the economic survival of their families, as well as their right to participate in all community activities and in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels.
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	Adopted by governments at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, this document sets forth governments' commitments to enhance women's rights.
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People	Articles 2, 22 and 25 call for particular attention to the rights and special needs of women, and for measures to ensure that indigenous women are protected against all forms of violence and discrimination.
United Nations Security Council	Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960 recognize that war impacts men and women differently, and emphasizes the need to increase women's role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution.
Millennium Development Goals	Goal 3 is to promote gender equality and empower women including, target 3.A to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p>References to gender mainstreaming and the participation of women are included in a number of decisions including on REDD+ calling for systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed to respect gender.</p>
Rio + 20 Outcomes	<p>Recognizes gender equality as a crosscutting issue and contains a section on gender equality and women's empowerment supporting participation, access, freedom from discrimination and reporting.</p>

ANNEX 2: GENDER-RELATED REQUIREMENTS IN THE R-PP

The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) template³⁸ is designed to help a country prepare itself for involvement in REDD+, under either the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) participant countries or the UN-REDD Programme. The template has included several references to gender concerns, gender-based risks and unequal benefits, disparities, as well as the importance of women for REDD+ Readiness. The following references are taken from version 6, April 4, 2012.

Gender Analysis and Stakeholder Mapping

The importance of an analysis of gender concerns in the mapping of stakeholders is highlighted several places in the R-PP, such as under the overarching guidelines for preparing an R-PP (point 9, page 6), as well as in component 1b, 1c and 2d (page 21-26, 46). The R-PP template specifically highlights as a good practice to assess “gender-based risks and potential benefits, and opportunities” of REDD+ strategy options (page 46). The R-PP template specifically requests countries to provide data on land tenure, “differentiated if possible by gender and ethnicity” (component 2a, page 32).

Mobilizing Gender Expertise and Creating Partnerships

Under the overarching guidelines for preparing an R-PP, the document notes that countries should identify key gender concerns and that institutions which have relevant expertise should be engaged (page 6, 25 and 37). The guidelines further highlight women’s organizations among the key stakeholders for the R-PP, and stress that the national focal point for REDD+ should engage in discussions and share the R-PP with women’s organizations and other stakeholders (point 11, page 6). Women’s organizations are also listed among the key stakeholders relevant for the working group responsible for managing readiness in a country (point 1, page 15).

Women’s Participation

With regards to women’s participation, the R-PP template highlights: “Women play a unique role in natural resource management in many countries that is relevant to REDD+ Readiness.” The document further highlights the importance of gender sensitive consultations, and that the consultation and participation plan should be designed to increase inclusion of different social groups, including women (page 25 and 26). The document notes the following: “Sometimes gender-based groups are more comfortable in single-gender

38 For more information, see “Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)”, available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6953&Itemid=53 and Annexes, available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6970&Itemid=53

sharing sessions, and translations are necessary for diverse communities. Special arrangements should be made for overcoming social norms and language barriers for effective dialogue and communication” (page 21). With regards to the engagement of indigenous peoples, the joint UN-REDD and FCPF Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness state that it is “important to ensure that consultations are gender sensitive” and that the choice of partners should “take into account groups that are often marginalized within their own communities, in particular women and youth” (Annex B, page 10 and 13).

Gender Considerations for Grievance Mechanisms

Women’s participation is also addressed with regards to grievance mechanisms, where the R-PP notes that “(i)f appropriate, the grievance mechanism should provide special provisions for women and youth” (page 17).

Gender Sensitive Benefit Sharing

The importance of gender sensitive benefits, and equal access to benefits from REDD+, is also included in the guidelines for preparing an R-PP. The guidelines urge countries to “identify key gender concerns, especially potential gender-based risks or unequal benefits...” and notes that “targeted opportunities should be identified that can help reduce gender-based disparities in access to and benefits from REDD+ interventions” (point 9, page 6).

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