



Gender equality within the REDD and REDD-plus framework

Why forests are important?

Mitigating climate change

Tropical forests cover about 15% of the world's land surface (FAO, 2006) and contain about 25% of the carbon in the terrestrial biosphere (Bonan, 2008). Roughly 13 million hectares – an area the size of Peru – are converted to other land uses each year. This loss accounts for a fifth of global carbon emissions, making land cover change the second largest contributor to global warming (IPCC, 2007).

Home and resources for local communities

Forests are home to 300 million people around the world and they contribute to the livelihoods of many of the 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty (women constitute 70% of the poor worldwide- UNDP, 1995). Forests provide global food security and resources, food, fodder, fuel and medicine. However, the way people use and manage forests depends on the socio-economic and socio-cultural environment, age and gender.

What is REDD and REDD-plus?

The framing of coordinated international approach for REDD and REDD-plus are part of the current UN climate negotiations in addition to reforestation and afforestation which have both have been integrated as forestry based mitigation schemes into the Kyoto Protocol.

‘**REDD**’ covers Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries - is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development (UN REDD, 2009).

‘**REDD-plus**’ refers to ‘reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries’. This is based on paragraph 1(b)(iii) of the Bali Action Plan, which was adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) in December 2007.

The main difference between REDD and REDD-plus is that REDD-plus gives the same level of priority to conservation, sustainable management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks as to deforestation and degradation of forests.

How gender equality is relevant to REDD and REDD-plus?

Why gender makes a difference in REDD and REDD-plus?

Men and women often have different roles with regard to forest resource management. They play different parts in planting, protecting or caring for seedlings and small trees, as well as in planting and maintaining home-stead woodlots and plantations on public lands. Men are more likely to be involved in extracting timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for commercial purposes. Women typically gather forest products for fuel, fencing, food for the family, fodder for livestock and raw materials to produce natural medicines, all of which help to increase family income (Aguilar *et al.*, 2007).

The incorporation of gender considerations into the REDD and REDD-plus frameworks brings about increased efficiency and sustainability as it contributes to women’s involvement and commitment who are crucial players of local forest management.

A gender perspective in REDD and REDD-plus initiatives also ensures the integration of the wealth of unique knowledge, skills and experience of women which is vital to successful REDD-related initiatives.

Taking into account the existing instruments of international law on gender equality, with particular attention to the *Convention on the Elimination*

of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/31 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the inclusion of gender perspective ensures that the REDD and REDD-plus frameworks respect international law instruments and human rights standards.

How could REDD and REDD-plus promote gender equality?

An analysis of several India and Nepal community forest groups highlighted the fact that, in most cases, cash is not distributed equally and funds are commonly invested in resources or activities from which women were unlikely to benefit, such as club repair, purchasing community utensils, rugs, drums, etc. (Agarwal, 2002).

It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD could reach up to US\$30 billion a year (UN REDD, 2009). Such amount of funding can significantly contribute the empowerment of women or on the contrary can deepen already existing gender gap if REDD and REDD-Plus regimes are not designed carefully.

It is crucial that the REDD and REDD-plus framework under development

ensures that women will have equitable access to the available funds. It implies the taking into consideration of land rights and the fact that women lack *de jure* right over land in many developing countries; however, they play a significant role in forestry as *de facto* users. Equitable access to REDD mechanisms and carbon markets promotes also the entrepreneurship of women and their green businesses.

REDD and REDD-plus initiative through ensuring the equitable sharing of benefits generated by them contribute to the poverty alleviation of women through taking into account their specific needs and interests when deciding on the use of such benefits.

Women's participation is not just essential for making visible women's needs and interest with in the REDD and REDD-Plus framework, but it also causes additional benefits; such as, women's increased self-esteem, public engagement, respect of their communities, and opportunities for women to assume leadership roles, as well as to have access to additional income which are all essential for the advancement of women.

The way forward

The following recommendations are based on principles adopted by the 'Engendering REDD Workshop' held 21-22 May 2009, Washington D.C.¹

¹ *Engendering REDD Workshop organized by IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM) on behalf of GGCA (Global Gender and Climate Alliance).*

1. The connections between REDD and gender should be noted in the UNFCCC Copenhagen agreement and related AWG-LCA and SBSTA agreements or other agreements to extend the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Acknowledge that the importance of land and resources to women are frequently not recognized under statutory and customary laws, REDD projects should comply with international agreements related to women's equal access to land ownership and resource rights addressed by the Beijing Platform, CEDAW, MDGs, CBD, UNCCD, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (WSSD), and Agenda 21.
3. A gender perspective should be included in existing international standards and guidelines on REDD to ensure that women have equal access to and control of all REDD benefits.
4. International and national planning processes on REDD, such as the UN-REDD project documents and the World Bank Readiness Plans, should include gender responsive indicators and targets as part of performance-based funding.
5. In the implementation of REDD schemes, special attention should be given to the gender implications of benefit sharing and payment structuring frameworks.
6. REDD projects should comply with international agreements related to women's equal access to land ownership and resource rights.
7. Women and women's networks that are involved in, or are leaders in, natural resource management should be recognized as important stakeholders and empowered to participate in REDD consultations, the national REDD working groups, and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of REDD projects. REDD should abide by good governance practices that incorporate inclusive participatory processes to address gender equality concerns.
8. All stakeholders, particularly women, should have equal and timely access to information regarding REDD planning and implementation to enable full and effective participation.
9. Capacity-building opportunities should be made available for women in order for them to participate effectively in REDD processes, as well as for decision-makers and REDD specialists in order to ensure that REDD schemes are gender responsive.
10. REDD schemes and research should value women's traditional and scientific knowledge and entrepreneurial potential in relation to combat deforestation and the degradation of forests.
11. In the REDD+ arena, sustainable forest management should be favoured over conservation due to the fact that the former provides more security to the livelihoods of women and communities.

Engendering a Readiness Plan

Readiness Plan	Gender Consideration
<p>1. Land use, forest policy and governance quick assessment: Prepare an early analytic assessment of past experience to reduce deforestation, to identify promising approaches and lessons learned. Analyze governance and legal issues related to land use pertinent to REDD actions. Independent or external expert authors may be commissioned, to enhance objectivity and quick preparation. Requirement: <i>Quick, short analytic synthesis of past performance, potential opportunities to explore for REDD, and key barriers, to inform REDD strategy development.</i></p>	<p>Expanding the scope of the assessment to include:</p> <p>Land use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain basic socio-economic and cultural information disaggregated by sex on communities within the project zone and nearby communities affected by the project. - Understand the current land use and forest management practices through data disaggregated by sex; including, different uses of forest by men and women, women’s role in deforestation and degradation of forests. - Understand land rights issues; including customary and legal property rights concerning women’s access to land as well as international agreements applicable in the host country. <p>Forest policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze forest policy of national, regional, sub-regional and local levels as appropriate to verify whether gender is incorporated therein. <p>Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand which legal and customary institutions are responsible for land use and REDD-related decisions. - Verify whether within legal and customary institutions gender balance is ensured and women’s interests are addressed. - Acknowledge which legal and customary institutions’ approval is needed for REDD projects ensuring equitable access and sharing of benefits for women. - Identify some work that women groups are doing in the governance of forests.
<p>2. Management of Readiness: 2a. Convene National REDD Working Group: Present the design of a national working group to coordinate Readiness activities and ultimately REDD implementation, its methods of operation, and how REDD will be integrated into the existing land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include in the working groups at national level a gender and forestry expert. - Include women as separated stakeholder group into the consultation process and address their capacity-building needs if necessary for participating.

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<p>use policy dialogue. The working group process should include internal and external stakeholders, and the coordination of donor efforts supporting REDD or land use activities.</p> <p>Requirement: Summarize a work plan to synthesize and manage the REDD program; and prepare the framework ToR for that work plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite women’s organizations to the working group process.
<p>2b. Prepare a REDD Consultation and Outreach Plan:</p> <p>Prepare a REDD consultation and outreach plan, to ensure continuous, inclusive consultation during the development (and eventual implementation) of your REDD strategy, implementation framework, reference scenario, monitoring system, and other R-Plan components during the Readiness phases. Special attention should be given to discussion and assessment of potential social and environmental impacts of the evolving REDD strategy.</p> <p>Requirement: Summarize the consultation and outreach plan, and attach that plan as an attachment (note: full plan required, not ToR).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include the promotion of gender equality as goal into the design and implementation of both REDD Consultation and Outreach Plan. - Consult women and women’s groups during the design and implementation of consultation processes (gender-sensitive consultation methods). - Address the following issues during the Consultation processes and in the Outreach strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify positive and negative socio-economic impacts differentiated for women and men. - Identify risks (social, economic and cultural factors) to the equitable distribution of socio-economic benefits between women and men. - Understand the added value of gender mainstreaming through comparing scenarios “with gender” and “without gender”.
<p>3. Design the REDD strategy:</p> <p>3a. Assess candidate activities for a REDD Strategy:</p> <p>Summarize the outlines of a REDD strategy and candidate activities, building on the land use policy assessment (above), stakeholder consultations, and analytic work.</p> <p>Summarize the knowledge and capacity gaps, and analytic activities needed to elaborate and define a REDD strategy.</p> <p>Requirement: Summarize a work plan to reach a decision on REDD strategy design; and prepare the framework ToR for analytic work and studies needed to reach this decision and define capacity building needs.</p>	<p>Main elements of REDD strategy and candidate activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include the promotion of gender equality as one of the goals of the Strategy. - Identify the potential risks for equitable benefits for women deriving from the project. - Describe each project activity in relation to the promotion of gender equality. - Identify gaps in capacity and knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the awareness on the importance of gender among project staff and stakeholders. - Enhance the capacity of women and women’s groups to participate in the project.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify clearly who is responsible for gender mainstreaming among members of project staff during both Strategy development and implementation. - Show how financial mechanisms sponsoring the REDD activity ensure the necessary flow of funds for gender-related activities and equitable distribution of benefits. - Develop a monitoring and evaluation system which includes variables on gender. <p>Note: If in the working group there is an expert of gender and forestry expert, then gender criteria should be reflected in the REDD strategy.</p>
<p>3b. Evaluate potential additional benefits of REDD, including biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood:</p> <p>Conduct an assessment of potential benefits of the REDD strategy for biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood, and other benefits deemed important by a country (e.g., water supply).</p> <p>Requirement: <i>Summary of your approach to assessing potential additional benefits of REDD, and potential negative impacts. Summarize your framework ToR and attach the ToR as an annex.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze by sex the beneficiaries of current distribution mechanisms of forest benefits, at national and local level. - Conduct gender-sensitive assessment of potential benefits of REDD (identify different benefits for men and women. - Identify possible negative impacts on women of REDD Strategy and actions to mitigate those. - Find solutions for equitable benefit sharing between women and men.
<p>3c. Trade-offs Analysis:</p> <p>Assess the trade-offs across candidate elements of your REDD strategy in terms of your broader land use policy dialogue and sustainable development policies, to help define an integrated REDD strategy.</p> <p>Requirement: <i>Summarize a work plan to make this selection; and prepare the framework ToR for that work plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender equality (considerations) should be considered as a component of the decision making process for defining the trade-offs on REDD. - Access how trade-offs (for competing lands uses for example) affect women's livelihoods strategies and practices.
<p>3d. Risk assessment of your REDD strategy</p> <p>Evaluate barriers to successful implementation of your REDD strategy, risks associated with the strategy elements you propose, and ways to reduce or compensate for those risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify how the lack of incorporating gender into REDD Strategy might impact effectiveness and sustainability (lack of stakeholder commitment, loss of knowledge, poverty, health and nutrition impacts etc.).

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<p>Requirement: Summarize a work plan to make this selection; and prepare the framework ToR for that work plan.</p>	
<p>4. REDD implementation framework: Assess the institutional arrangements and legal requirements needed to implement REDD activities, including design of equitable payment mechanism. Issues to be analyzed and addressed are likely to include ownership of carbon rights, equitable revenue sharing mechanisms, national carbon registry to manage different REDD activities and revenue streams, etc.</p> <p>Requirement: Summarize a work plan to develop this framework; and prepare rough draft framework ToR for that work plan (recognizing these framework issues are complex and not well understood).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess formal and customary laws having impact on women’s participation in REDD strategies and the applicable international agreements in the host country. - Evaluate the appropriate manner for the executing institutions to mainstream gender (gender policy, focal point, criteria standards, gender plan of action, among others). - Assess institutional gaps and opportunities at the local and national levels for women’s groups to engage in REDD and the private carbon markets.
<p>5. Assess the social and environmental impacts of candidate REDD strategy activities: Assess potential impacts by performing an impacts assessment, using the Environmental Strategic Management Framework or another analytic approach (both explained in component 5 below). Feed this assessment into the consultation plan and ongoing consultations.</p> <p>Requirement: Summary of proposed impacts analysis, using the Environmental Strategic Management Framework or other approach. Summarize framework ToR and attach the ToR as an annex.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out gender-sensitive impact assessment through comparing the scenarios “with REDD strategy” and “without REDD strategy” considering the impact separated for both women and men. - The impact assessment should be carried out with gender-responsive participatory methods.
<p>6. Assess investment and capacity building requirements: Assess candidate REDD strategy elements and the REDD implementation framework, in terms of capacity requirements, financial support needed, and gaps existing with regard to potentially available resources.</p> <p>Requirement: Summary of rough estimates of investment requirements, capacity requirements, and gaps for your major REDD strategy elements. Summarize framework ToR and attach the ToR as an annex.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the needs for capacity building of women and women’s groups. - Verify whether the financial resources available can support activities carried out by women within the REDD strategy.

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<p>7. Develop a reference scenario of deforestation and degradation: Develop objectives; a work plan to realize those objectives during the R-Plan implementation phase; and prepare the ToR for the majority of that work plan.</p>	
<p>8. Design and implement a monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD: Provide the capacity to monitor forest sector carbon emissions and other benefits over time, in relation to the Reference Scenario. Requirement: <i>Summarize a work plan to design and implement a MRV system during the R-Plan Implementation phase; and prepare a framework ToR for the majority of that work plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify gender-related variables. - Consider the possibility of establishing participatory monitoring systems as forms of revenue that include both men and women. - Ensure that the monitoring and evaluation are based on data disaggregated by sex.
<p>9. Design a system of management, implementation, and evaluation of Readiness preparation activities (optional): Synthesize all R-Plan components into a REDD national program that is effectively and transparently managed, and regularly evaluated using pre-established indicators of performance and effects on development plans. Requirement: <i>We recommend you begin to develop a means to synthesize and manage the REDD program, including evaluation of progress at regular intervals. No ToR is required at this time</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve women, groups of women and women’s organizations into the entire readiness process, including all economic, social, technical and financial elements thereof.

Source: Aguilar, L. , Espinoza, C., Quesada-Aguilar, A. , Pearl, R. and Sasvari, A.
 Table based on the World Bank Readiness Plan (R-Plan) and CCB Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project Design Standards.

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