

Gender and REDD+: Key Issues and Recommendations, including for SBSTA 40

Background: the basis for ‘gender considerations’ and REDD+

Over the last five years, governments and stakeholders from different regions have increasingly recognized that effective solutions to climate change require gender-responsive policies, programming and funds. The 2010 Cancun Agreements¹ and 2011 Durban Outcomes² called for REDD+ national strategies and systems for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected to integrate ‘gender considerations’. At regional, national and sub-national levels, various organizations and agencies have initiated activities that identify relevant gender issues and further demonstrate how ‘gender considerations’ can contribute to effective REDD+ programming and results.

Mapping the way forward: identifying lessons and best practices for enhanced implementation

Seeking to foster direct learning exchange across countries and contexts to enhance gender-responsive REDD+ processes at all levels, IUCN and USAID, together with WEDO, REDD+ SES and the UN-REDD Programme, organized a technical workshop in Washington, DC, 13-15 May 2014. The workshop brought together 52 policymakers and practitioners from more than 20 countries. Presentation and analysis of specific approaches comprised the majority of the agenda.

Key results: worldwide lessons from gender and REDD+ initiatives

During the three-day workshop, participants engaged in dynamic discussions on the lessons learned, best practices, challenges, gaps and needs among the different countries where gender and REDD+ initiatives have been developed or are at nascent stages. Specific examples of in-country actions to implement best practices or overcome challenges include:

Challenge (CH) /Best Practice (BP)	Country, project and work stream	Country/project action
Enhanced networking and self-confidence of marginalized women (BP)	Nepal Hariyo Ban Program Governance	Support for networks of women and socially excluded groups like HIMAWANTI and DANAR enabled strong engagement in policy dialogues and enhanced learning/networking
Ensure that the REDD+ Program safeguards the rights of women and develops gender-sensitive indicators for Nepal’s safeguards information system based on REDD+ SES (CH)	Nepal REDD+ Cell REDD+ SES action research Safeguards and SIS	Engaging in gender action research created awareness among the stakeholders on gender considerations in the REDD+ SES and developed indicators that incorporate social inclusion and gender considerations
Minimal participation of women; minimal gender budgeting and no budget for women in communities (CH)	Suriname Association of Indigenous Village Leaders (VIDS) National Process	Developed a culture- and gender-sensitive approach that involved Indigenous village leaders (predominantly men) to increase understanding of women’s position/role/agency in climate change, REDD+ and development plans
Full integration of gender into LEAF’s programming at all levels (CH)	USAID’s Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) Capacity Building	Capacity-building of project team on gender mainstreaming skills promoted buy-in and brought in contextual sensitivity to undertake gender-specific interventions
Benefit-sharing mechanism ensures that women and socially excluded groups can access and control forest revenue (BP)	Tanzania TFCG and Mjumita Pilot Projects Benefit Sharing	Designed an innovative benefit-sharing mechanism to ensure that women receive the resources (benefits are allocated based on the number of children)

¹ FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 72

² FCCC /CP/2011/9/Add.2

Next steps: supporting gender-responsive REDD+ through international and in-country processes

Workshop participants identified the following priority actions necessary to enhance the work of gender and REDD+ at multiple levels:

Policy: Leverage 'gender & REDD+' for harmonized gender-responsive policies and reforms pertaining to, e.g., land use, land tenure, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation

Country Processes: Develop and consolidate a gender and REDD+ action plan that is resourced for implementation

Land tenure: Develop strategies to bypass land tenure complexities, including by focusing on access to natural resources and use rights

Participation: Perform participatory assessments of direct and indirect costs and benefits for women's participation in REDD+

Resources: Allocate enough budget within REDD+ environment strategies and processes to ensure effective, gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, at national and subnational levels

Benefit Sharing: Develop benefit-sharing mechanisms based on gender-differentiated roles and actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including gender-based understanding of drivers/ reducers

Safeguards and Safeguard Information System (SIS): Require specific/concrete indicator(s) on gender (with feedback from sub-national levels to inform guidance)

Safeguards and Safeguard Information System (SIS): Develop and implement a safe, accessible gender-responsive grievance and redress mechanism

Recommendations: enhancing gender-responsive REDD+ through climate change policies and agreements

Drawing from experiences across more than 20 countries, workshop outcomes suggest recommendations for future climate change negotiations regarding REDD+, land use and the land sector, including:

- **Current REDD+ negotiations regarding non-carbon benefits** should consider including performance on gender aspects of REDD+ in results-based payments; supporting enabling conditions needed to deliver gender-related non-carbon benefits; providing ex-ante finance to deliver gender-related non-carbon benefits; recognizing that gender related non-carbon benefits should be defined through multi-stakeholder participatory processes; and defining a framework of international criteria (including gender criteria) for the types of national non-carbon benefits.
- **Future REDD+ negotiations regarding guidance for systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected** should encourage countries to interpret Cancun Safeguards with a gender perspective; promote the development of SIS through a gender-responsive multi-stakeholder participatory process; and ensure that country SIS include gender indicators and report on SIS with gender disaggregated data and analysis.
- **Future land sector and land use negotiations** should recognize and incorporate gender as a crucial crosscutting issue; recognize women as stakeholders with unique needs, preferences and contributions; focus on resources on/from land, and not the land itself; ensure that actions proposed are based on a gender-responsive, pro-poor landscape approach that recognizes the gender-differentiated use of, access to and control of land resources; and propose processes that are inclusive, safe, democratic and transparent for all stakeholders, particularly women and marginalized and vulnerable groups.