

## 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 Agreements<sup>1</sup> and 2011 Durban Outcomes<sup>2</sup> 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:

<b>Challenge (CH) /Best Practice (BP)</b>	<b>Country, project and work stream</b>	<b>Country/project action</b>
Enhanced networking and self-confidence of marginalized women (BP)	Nepal Hariyo Ban Program <b>Governance</b>	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 <b>Safeguards and SIS</b>	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) <b>National Process</b>	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) <b>Capacity Building</b>	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 <b>Benefit Sharing</b>	Designed an innovative benefit-sharing mechanism to ensure that women receive the resources (benefits are allocated based on the number of children)

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.