

Mainstreaming gender considerations into REDD+ processes in Ghana

REDD+ could present serious risks for women and men, and this could jeopardize their livelihoods. However, if REDD+ incorporates the gender dimension successfully it could create some opportunities for positive outcomes. Gender sensitive REDD+ initiatives could also lead to a paradigm shift in all climate change initiatives.

Participants at the women’s workshop on “Mainstreaming Gender into REDD processes in Ghana” held 5-7 September 2011, Accra¹, discussed some of the risks that REDD+ implementation could pose as well as the opportunities therein to women, as presented in in Table 1, below.

Table 1: REDD+ in Ghana: Risks and Opportunities

Risk/Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Readiness Phase ✓ Gender barriers due to socio-cultural practices ✓ Economic dependency syndrome – women depend more on their husbands for livelihoods hence are not able to raise their own financial resources ✓ High illiteracy rates among women – this affects women participation in capacity programmes where English is the medium of communication. The use of technical jargons also hinders their understanding. ✓ Poor targeting - elite capture to the detriment of intended beneficiaries (local people). ✓ Lack of funding - women lack savings and investment culture hence prevents them to pre-finance their initiatives. ✓ Inappropriate gender advocacy approach such as confrontations, will affect support for gender mainstreaming by men ✓ Strong patriarchal values and slow pace in adapting to new concepts, ideas and attitudes ✓ The challenge to recognise the diversity of women ✓ Implementation Phase ✓ The tendency to ignore women views in decision making ✓ Women lack capacity to do monitoring, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Readiness Phase ✓ Women networks and platforms created for knowledge sharing, advocacy and lobbying on use of forest resources ✓ Breaking of myths about women use of the forest ✓ Capacity building leading to women involvement in decision making and participation in forestry projects ✓ Career opportunities for young women in forestry, surveying, ICT etc. ✓ Implementation Phase ✓ Improve women livelihood and poverty reduction – women will obtain benefits such as income from the sale of NTFP’s (mushroom, snails, etc). ✓ Empowerment of women – as women come together to share knowledge through networks, they also build self confidence which enhance their participation in programmes. ✓ Reduction in domestic violence as women are able to contribute to household decision making ✓ Increase participation in forest management as women become aware of their rights in community based forest management practices. ✓ The women are also equipped with good management skills as they come to learn more about forest management and the

¹ Mainstreaming Gender into REDD Workshop organised by IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) in collaboration with the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) with logistics and facilitation support from PDA (Participatory Development Associates LTD, Accra Ghana)

Risk/Challenges	Opportunities
<p>reporting and verification (MRV) due to low education levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of land use policy and gender responsive land administration act ✓ Lack of knowledge of women on forest laws ✓ Gender disparities in land access due to socio-cultural norms and practices ✓ Unequal rules of inheritance of resources between men and women ✓ Limited economic empowerment for women to seek justice on land issues in the court ✓ Lack of women capacity to be involved in forest management programmes ✓ Intimidation from men on land issues ✓ Small land holdings on the part of women hence will have limited benefits <p>✓ Consolidation Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Limited access to, and control over land by women (Land tenure) – land is mostly owned by men in Ghana, in certain areas where women inherit land, there control over the land is often limited. ✓ Low participation of women in forest management programmes – since women’s access to land is low, their participation in forest management programmes would be very minimal ✓ Low level of education among women – illiteracy rate among women is high hence, they lack the capacity to involve in forest management programmes. ✓ Cultural practices and patriarchal values – when it comes to sharing of benefits, the men take charge and the women are left out. ✓ Multiple roles of women – women may not have enough time to get involve in forest management programmes like the men hence may not benefit. ✓ Loss of livelihood – if not properly managed, women will lose farmlands and become poorer. ✓ Food insecurity – because of the benefits that would be derived from REDD programmes, there may be the temptation to convert food crop lands into forestation projects and this may lead to food shortage. 	<p>need to conserve the forest for the next generation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consolidation Phase ✓ Improved access to resources especially NTFPs including mushroom, snails, wild fruits, etc. ✓ Gender equity in benefit sharing ✓ Improved and diversified livelihood due to increased income ✓ Improved nutrition ✓ Opportunity to plant trees and get payment for services ✓ Increased opportunity for transparency and accountability – opportunity for women to demand accountability ✓ Improved health – reduced maternal and infant mortality due to increased income. ✓ Ability to use land title documents as collateral ✓ Increased income will help in the increase of girl child education ✓ Ownership of information.

Women workshop on “Gender and REDD” held from 5-7 September 2011 Accra

Gender differentiated use, access and control of forests

A summary of results from women’s workshop on Accra, show that there are gender differentiated use, access and control of forest resources. The participants noted that men are likely to go to deep areas of forest, reserve areas and sacred groves, while women go to the edge of the forest, the productive areas for wild fruits and deep areas for herbal medicines (Table 2).

Men and women play different roles in planting, protecting or caring for seedlings and small trees, as well as participate in plantations on public lands. Men are more likely to be involved in extracting timber for commercial purposes, engage in *Galamsey*², hunting, sand winning and palm wine tapping. Women typically gather forest products for fuel, fencing, food for the family, fodder for livestock and raw materials to produce natural medicines, charcoal burning, all of which help to increase family income (Table 2).

Table 2: Gender differentiated use of Forest resources

Use of Forest	
Category	Uses/activities
Men	Felling of trees/timber, galamsey, hunting, sand winning, harvesting of honey, performing rituals, fetch herbs, palm wine tapping, charcoal burning, forest management activities – tree planting.
Women	Collecting fuel-wood, planting of crops, collection of NTFPs (fuel-wood, snails mushroom, cola nuts, spices), leaves for wrapping food, wild fruits, charcoal burning, fetching water, and farming .
Category	Benefits
Men	Cash benefits e.g. logging to have lumber for sale.
Women	Mostly non- cash but consumptive e.g. Water for household consumption.

Results from the assessment of communities at the Wassa Amenfi West District of Ghana in 2008 using the IUCN-PROFOR Poverty Forest Linkages Tool Kit (PFTK)³ revealed that, based on market accessibility, forest cash and non-cash benefits make up 33% of cash and subsistence (non-cash) income of forest communities, which equals USD 250 per head per year. Forests therefore form a very major part of rural peoples’ income/ livelihoods particularly for poorer men and women. Agriculture contributes most of the rest, with other cash income hovering around the 6-8% mark. Availability of high value products such as cola nuts and bush meat particularly encourages men to invest labour in forests. Women close to market centres often sell more household agricultural produce than they consume, whilst in remote areas, dependence on forest produce for home consumption is the highest. Generally, men draw about 41% of their income from forests against 33% for women, with cash benefits forming a higher proportion of the income for men in comparison to women.

In most part of Ghana, women usually have user rights (Table 3) in particular when they obtain benefits such as forest products (fuel wood, charcoal production, fruits of dawadawa (i.e. *Parkia clappertoniana*) and shea nut picking and food wrapping leaves) to support household income. Since forest reserves are mainly controlled by the state, individuals do not own forest in Ghana. However there is communal ownership by communities and traditional authority. Traditional practices prevent women from inheriting land in the northern regions of Ghana. Women at the workshop concluded that even though the constitution of Ghana gives equal

² Galamsey is a local name for small scale mining activity

³ The PFTK is an analytic tool for collecting qualitative and quantitative data, as well as understanding and communicating the contribution of forests to the incomes of rural households, including variations in forest dependency between men and women and wealthier and poorer members of forest communities and other forest governance issues

rights to all; forests in its traditional sense have been acknowledged to be the domain of the men. Inequitable socio-cultural norms also make women have no or limited access to and control over forest resources as well as benefits that accrue (Table 2).

Participation in forest programmes is mostly the preserve of men since women are perceived to lack the knowledge, skills and strength to participate in forest programmes. However the participants mentioned that women could play active roles in forest management programmes if they received education, and the timing of forest programmes take into account women's home responsibilities, and also if the men are willing to share roles with the women at home.

Table 3: Women Access and Control of Forest Resources and/activities

Women access and control of forest resources	
Issue	Indicators
Access	Have user rights
Control	Women control own cash from activities eg. Snail rearing, charcoal production, dawadawa and sheanut picking
Benefits	fuelwood, water, food, NTFPs (e.g. leave wrappers?), cash and clay
Participation	Mostly the preserve of men eg – mining, logging and hunting
Invitation	Not involved in decision making but are invited during implementation due to physical strength requirements
Active participation	When women are educated on both forest and proper time managements; when roles are shared
Land tenure	Yes – women have access to land. However in the northern part of Ghana, it is against tradition for women to inherit land. Forest ownership is mainly by the state; individuals do not own forest even though community based schemes exists.

Gender and REDD+ roadmaps

The women's workshop on "Mainstreaming Gender into REDD processes in Ghana" held 5-7 September 2011, Accra, was conducted in two parts. The first part brought together individual gender experts, gender and women organizations working in the Environment and the Forestry sector with the following objectives in mind:

- Understand the ecological function of forests in relation to the carbon cycle;
- Comprehend the state of the forests in the world and in Ghana and acknowledge women's role in the forest sector in Ghana
- Understand what is climate change and its differentiated impacts on women and men
- Comprehend what is REDD+ and its relation with climate change
- Comprehend what is gender and identify gender considerations in REDD+
- Understand the REDD+ process in Ghana and identify women's role/involvement in relation to REDD+ in Ghana

The second part focused on policy level people and gender experts and sought to explore gender consideration in REDD+. It also sought to identify possible entry points for

mainstreaming gender considerations in REDD+ processes in Ghana, and using the outcome of the two workshops to define a road map in this regard

This road map is the result of participatory forums designed for multiple stakeholders working in the forestry and environment sector. The road map also used secondary data to provide an overview of REDD+ process in Ghana.

The overall objective of the road map is to mainstream gender considerations in the forestry sector and climate change initiatives, paying special attention to REDD+ process, as a means for both men and women to be recognized as important forest stakeholders. Thus, improving women and men's access to information and capacity building; participation; use, control and management of forest resources; rights to land tenure; and equitable sharing of benefits for sustainable forest management leading to the improvements of people's livelihoods.

The road map is divided into three phases in which REDD+ programmes shall be implemented; a) Readiness, b) Implementation and c) consolidation phases. The following table show some examples of activities identified for each of the three phases.



The Gender and REDD+ Road Map for Ghana

Table 3: Road map activities Readiness phase

Objectives	Action steps	Timeline	Indicators of success	Responsible	Possible Source of Resource
1. To support the establishment of a gender and forest task force (as part of Objective #7 R-PP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify representatives women NGOs, youth groups working on gender issues, that are involved in the environmental/forestry sector 2. Identify at least one representative per region from national level women networks 3. Establish contact with networks or organizations working on specialized topics, such as land tenure rights, domestic relations, women empowerment to identify representation in the task force 4 Establish contact with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to identify representation in the task force 5. Establish contact with women parliamentarian association to identify representation in the task force 6. Establish contact with the gender focal points of developments partners to identify representation in the task force 7. Appoint a full time coordinator 8. Mobilize resources to support the activities 	Beginning 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of functional women and forest task force in Uganda • Task force contribution to REDD+ National Strategy • Specific actions to support information flow to women throughout the country • Availability of resources to support the task force and its activities for 3 years • Women constituency representation in major decision making bodies and processes related to REDD+ • Impact of women constituency representation in major 	IUCN, WEDO, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association (UWOPA), National Association of Women Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU), Action for Development (Acfode), AWEAPON	GoU, Development Partners



Objectives	Action steps	Timeline	Indicators of success	Responsible	Possible Source of Resource
	<p>of the task force</p> <p>9. Identify which are the decision making bodies and processes where women need to be represented, in accordance with the structure of the implementation arrangements of R-PP</p> <p>10. Advocate for women inclusion in the decision making bodies and processes previously identified</p>		<p>decision making bodies and processes related to REDD+</p>		
<p>2. To ensure effective consultation and participation of women in the design of the REDD+ national strategy (as part of development and implementation of participation and consultation strategy⁴ and Objective #3 R-PP)</p>	<p>1. Gender and forest task force (or gender expert) invited to participate in the design and planning of consultation and participation strategies</p> <p>2. Develop a methodology that promotes the consultation and full and effective participation of women which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of main barriers that limit women's participation (paying special attention to cultural barriers and regional differences) at the local and national level • Mapping of target groups such as women NGOs, organizations/groups that work with women empowerment, youth groups working on gender issues, women councils, local women networks that are involved in the 	<p>By December 2012</p> <p>2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and Forest task force contributes to the design and implementation of a gender sensitive consultation and participation methodology • Data on main barriers that limit women's participation • Map of key stakeholder (organizations) that need to be present in consultations • Number of women platforms created and actively working • No. of women, youth attending the meetings • Women's specific needs and concerns identified during the meetings and addressed in the 	<p>Uganda REDD+ Secretariat, Gender and Forest Task Force, IUCN, Ministry of Gender, Local Governments</p>	<p>GoU, IUCN, World Bank and Development Partners</p>

⁴ IUCN Uganda Office is currently working with the REDD+ focal point to design the participation and consultation strategy

Table 4: Road map activities, Implementation and Consolidation Phase⁵

Objectives	Action steps	Timeline	Indicators of success	Responsible	Possible Source of Resource
1. To identify lessons learned from the implementation of the gender sensitive Readiness Phase	<p>1. Document and analyze (systematization)⁶ lessons learned in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of gender and forest task force • Gender sensitive participation and consultation process • Gender sensitive MRV implementation • Capacity building for women organizations/NGOs • Policy Reforms • Equal involvement of men and women in REDD+ Activities • Gender sensitive awareness and communication strategy • Gender sensitive conflict and grievance management system • Women and men empowerment actions <p>2. Development of guidelines for project implementers based on lessons learned and supported by case studies</p> <p>3. Disseminate and train on the use of</p>	Beginning of 2015 (or after end of Readiness activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practices and challenges identified • Guideline on Gender and REDD+ for project implementation • Number of training and exposure visits conducted • International workshop on gender and REDD+ lessons learned 	FSSD, NFA, piloted district local governments, IUCN, WEDO, gender and forest task force	Development partners, GIZ, GoU

⁵ At the time that this gender and REDD+ road map was developed there was a high level of uncertainty about the structure and contents of the REDD+ implementation and consolidation phases. Hence, a revision of the objectives and activities proposed will be required in due time.

⁶ Systematization is a process of reconstruction and analytical reflection about an experience lived. It implies an investigation, analysis and documentation process (GIZ Systematization Guide)

	<p>guidelines and organize exposure visits.</p> <p>4. Foster a dialogue on lessons learned among countries that have implemented a gender sensitive readiness process</p>				
<p>2. To ensure opportunities for women and benefits from activities proposed by REDD+ efforts</p>	<p>1. Identify and document activities related to sustainable forest management (SFM) and</p> <p>Agroforestry systems (locally and internationally) in which women are actively involved and benefiting from</p> <p>2. Select communities to implement activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address women’s concerns such as land availability, appropriate planting materials, labour availability, technology needs • Increase women’s income and improve their livelihoods • Involve women in areas they are interested in working such as tree planting, bee keeping, planting of boundary trees to improve security of tenure, ecotourism <p>3. Train local women on SFM and other REDD+ activities, such as agricultural techniques with low impact on the environment, afforestation, forestry certification, agroforestry and forestry</p>	<p>2015 On going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in forest management and AF systems identified • Number of women in communities from the various agro-ecological zones included in activities • Types of activities women engage in. • Analysis of sources and types of benefits that women obtain from these activities 	<p>Women and forest task force, NFA, FSSD, local women organizations from different ecological zones and district gender offices</p> <p>FAO, IUCN, Implementing Partner Organizations,</p>	<p>Developing Partners (including International Finance Institutions),</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>FAO, CIFOR, IFAD, IIED</p> <p>IDRC</p>



	<p>techniques, NTFP processing</p> <p>4. Empower local women to assume leadership roles during the implementation of REDD+ activities through capacity building</p> <p>3. Establishment and support of women groups involve forest conservation</p>				
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Conclusion

The arrangements that will help put in practice the road map will be based upon the existing national structures for gender and REDD+ issues to ensure the desired outcomes.

- Strengthen women's networks
- Need for institutional collaboration
- Need for Capacity Development to mainstream gender into REDD+
- Securing tenure rights for women

This effort has given as a result the first road map on gender and REDD+ in Ghana. Its principal driving principle was to ensure that both women and men are fully recognized as forest stakeholders, that they have equal opportunity to develop their capacities and to participate, contribute and benefit from the REDD+ initiatives.