



Implementing Gender-sensitive, Effective and Sustainable REDD+ Strategies

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This note outlines some ways to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles into UN-REDD's work and REDD+ strategies. By following these steps, REDD+ strategies can be made more effective, equitable, and sustainable.

Forests provide subsistence and income for more than 1.6 billion people. It is those who rely on forests for their livelihoods who are among the poorest people on the planet, and they are disproportionately female.¹ Coupled with this disparity, gender inequalities in cultural norms and socio-economic conditions often marginalize women.

Women and men are both key stakeholders in REDD+ processes and possess critical knowledge which can inform UN-REDD programmatic and policy interventions and improve the efficacy, effectiveness and sustainability of REDD+ outcomes. Acknowledging the importance of this, the UN-REDD Programme has highlighted gender equality as one of its five inter-related principles as well as noted *women's participation as a cross-cutting issue to be integrated in all its strategic outcomes*. Moving this work forward, several basic entry points for integrating gender concerns into UN-REDD's work and REDD+ strategies are noted below and can be adapted and expanded as necessary to country context.

- **Engage women and men as key stakeholders in all phases of decision-making, at all levels.** Given local actors reliance on forests, it is essential that both women and men play an active part in and understand the livelihood benefits of REDD+ programmes. Such consultations can inform project design to more accurately take into account the distinct needs and opinions of different groups, as well as increase the likelihood of attaining REDD+ programme support, ownership and sustainability. In addition, drawing on the talents and contributions of both women and men, and actively integrating their priorities into strategies can improve programme efficiency and help achieve programme objectives.² Critical to this process is ensuring women are actively involved in and can influence decision-making processes, and that their gendered roles, contributions and constraints are taken into account when designing and conducting workshops, training, awareness-raising and capacity building activities and consultations, etc.³
- **Conduct a gender analysis** during programme design to identify the national policies/strategies and local context in which REDD+ stakeholders are operating, and analyse their roles, needs, priorities and opportunities within their given socio-economic and political context. Such an analysis can help identify: the gender-defined differences in access to and control over resources; power dynamics between women and men; and different social, economic, and political inequalities and opportunities faced by women and men in areas affected by, or potentially affected by, REDD+

¹ UN-REDD Programme (2011). "The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+". December.

² Human Development Report (2011). "Development and Equity". Available at http://www.beta.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2011%20Global%20HDR/English/HDR_2011_EN_Complete.pdf

³ International Institute for Environment and Development (2012). "His REDD+, her REDD+: how integrating gender can improve readiness". September Issue. Additional guidance on how to engage women as stakeholders and encourage their participation can be found at [http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/attachmentsbytitle/p_stakeholderengagement_full/\\$file/ifc_stakeholderengagement.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/attachmentsbytitle/p_stakeholderengagement_full/$file/ifc_stakeholderengagement.pdf), pp.56-62.

strategies. Analysing the distinct roles of women and men can encourage a gender approach from the outset, as well as provide baseline data for monitoring.⁴

- **Ensure monitoring and evaluation processes are gender-sensitive.** Monitoring and evaluation systems inform decision-making and promote transparency and accountability. Building on the outcome of a gender analysis, establishing an evidence base on the gendered dimensions of resource access, knowledge and use can help to more accurately identify the drivers of deforestation and new opportunities for sustainable forest management. In turn, this can result in better designed interventions and lead to more effective REDD+ project implementation. Developing gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation systems is also critical to accurately detailing project effects on women and men, as well as to strengthen successful practices or implement corrective measures. At a minimum all data should be disaggregated by sex. Gender specific indicators should also be created to monitor, evaluate and track progress of REDD+ policy/programme activities and impacts.
- **Allocate adequate financial resources to mainstream gender.** Meaningful gender equality and women's empowerment activities requires sufficient, dedicated funds throughout all phases of REDD+. Such budgeting strategies are needed to help addressing gender gaps in policies and programming, and help ensure that gender-responsive activities have the proper financial support.
- **Include technical social and gender expertise in all REDD+ phases.** Ensure gender specialists are involved in and consulted throughout all phases of REDD+, to facilitate adequate technical support to mainstream gender in policies, programming, in developing measurable gender indicators, and in facilitating stock-taking of progress on gender mainstreaming milestones. In this regard, it could be useful to partner with local gender expertise that can be called on to provide guidance and technical assistance. UNDP and partners have established pools of regional gender and climate change experts based in several UN-REDD countries that can be called upon to help in such efforts.

Additional resources:

UN-REDD Programme (2011). "The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+". Available at http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/Low_Res_Bus_Case_Mainstreaming%20Gender_REDD+.pdf

⁴ CIDA (2011). "Gender Analysis as a Tool". Available at <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/EMA-218123616-NN9#a3>. Additional resources and guidance on conducting a gender analysis can be found at <http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/192862/Module2/Module2-index.html>.