



Introduction to Gender and REDD+ : Results of an Assessment in Asia

**Presented at National Seminar on Gender, Forestry
and REDD+
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Outline

Intro to REDD+ and its scope

Gender and REDD assessment
methodology

Findings

Women's roles in forest management

Constraints

REDD +

- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation to create incentives for developing countries to reduce GHG and invest in low carbon paths to sustainable development
- REDD+ goes beyond, to include role of conservation, SFM
- Performance-based payments to forest owners and users
- Should be possible for poor forest

If designed and implemented well...

Significant co-benefits could include:

- Secure tenure and rights
- biodiversity conservation
- poverty reduction
- sustainable livelihoods
- Improved governance
- climate change adaptation
- enhanced forest health

Risks to community members

- Lack of secure rights and tenure
- Restrictions on forest use in forests managed for conservation, carbon sequestration
- Unequal benefit sharing
- Too much focus on technical aspects, overlooking social



USAID study in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal

1. How have gender issues been incorporated in REDD+ projects?
2. What are women's roles in forest management?
3. What constraints affect gender integration into REDD+?
4. Recommendations for REDD+ and Sustainable Landscapes program



Research Questions

1. How might REDD affect the different roles and status of women and gender relations?
2. How might different roles and status of women and men affect the achievement of REDD+ projects?



3. How do the anticipated results of REDD+ projects affect men and women differently?



How have gender issues been incorporated in REDD projects?

- Little evidence that institutions implementing REDD or PES projects have incorporated gender in systematic and significant ways.
- No specific recognition of women as a stakeholder group that will be affected by REDD differently than men.
- Assumptions that women will benefit automatically from community-focused activities.

Women's roles

- Primary users and managers of forests
- Holders of local knowledge
- High dependence on NTFPs for livelihoods
- Roles in forest protection, not only harvesting



- Reliant on NTFPs for household energy needs, livestock feed, soil nutrients, medicine, food and income.



Success stories

- Women's groups managing forests in Nepal
- Green Belt movement in Kenya
- Other related sectors: agriculture, water, livestock





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and yet...puzzling levels of
women's exclusion in:

- forest governance systems
- benefit sharing systems
- policy making fora
- capacity building opportunities
- education and jobs



Why? Institutional 'gender blindness'

- lack of awareness of gender issues
- lack of recognition of roles, responsibilities and rights of women in forest management.
- institutional biases that determine 'appropriate' roles for women, based on socio-cultural norms and unquestioned assumptions.





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- few women professionals to challenge these norms
- results in a failure to recognize and legitimate women's roles, knowledge and contributions to forest management.

Participation



Low levels of ‘meaningful’ participation by women in forest governance bodies, locally, nationally and globally.

Forest governance

Few women in forest management governance bodies at community level...



or at national & global policy making levels

- No women in senior level positions of govt. forestry departments in Africa (FAO, 2006)
- No representation of women's interest in FCPF, FIP and UN-REDD (2011- changing?)



Leadership

Perception that women cannot lead, based on low education levels.

No activities to strengthen women's leadership in forest governance.



Capacity building



- Extension activities miss women by targeting Heads of Households
- Assumption that skills and knowledge are passed down to wives

Limited Free Time and Mobility

Work burdens of women that allow little time to participate in capacity building activities, and opportunities to voice their concerns and perspectives.



How might REDD affect the different roles and status of women and gender relations?

- Rights to land and trees weaker than men's.
- Few countries provide joint rights to community forest user group membership, or formal rights needed for revenue sharing.

‘Do no harm’ ?

If women’s rights are ignored, REDD can result in women’s restricted access to forests and NTFPs, increasing time and distance to collect fuel wood, food, other products and further marginalizing women.



Women's Rights

But..if REDD+ brings about compliance with international conventions on women's rights (i.e. CEDAW), it could positively affect women through payments and co-benefits, including land rights.





How do roles and status of women and men affect the achievement of REDD+ projects?

Exclusion of women and failure to address their livelihood needs may force them to illegally harvest NTFPs, affecting protection of forest resources.

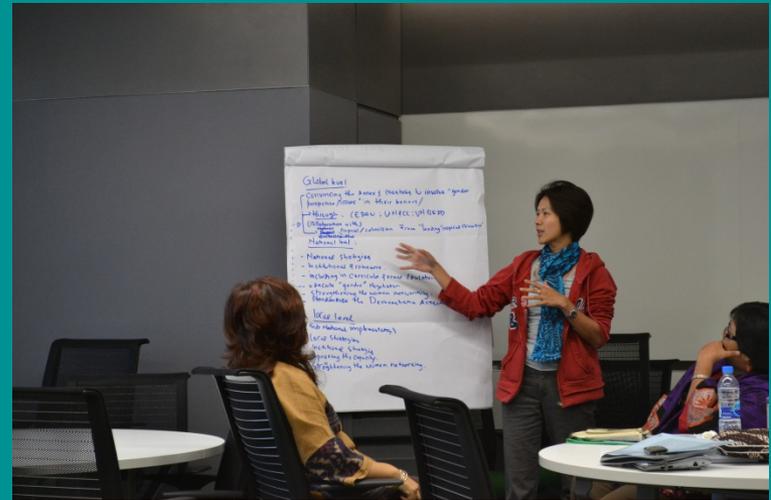


Agents of change exist

At the community level...



in forest institutions...



and in national and global
REDD related
mechanisms.



Recommendations

1. All REDD+ stages of project design and implementation should identify and address gender issues.



2. Mandate at least 30% women's membership in governing bodies , REDD committees, etc.



3. Strengthen women's organizations/self help groups to provide them with skills and knowledge to enable them to advocate, negotiate and implement project activities.



4. Develop benefit distribution systems that recognize and reward women's contributions to forest management, and include attention to securing formal access rights.



5. Promote technologies that reduce women's work loads while promoting conservation

Fuel efficient cook stoves and biogas:

- reduce firewood consumption
- reduce CO₂ emissions
- improve health of women and children
- reduce time spent collecting fuel wood



6. Strengthen technical and leadership capacities of women and men to become ‘champions’ that can influence and train others.



7. Generate men's support



8. Strengthen in-house gender expertise in forestry institutions and REDD implementing agencies.



8. Make space for women's voices and leadership.





Thank you.

jeannettegurung@wocan.org



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