




Integrating gender considerations in REDD+



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Outline of presentation

- Part 1: How do the UNFCCC and UN REDD frameworks address gender?
- Part 2: Gender dimensions of REDD+
 - Stakeholder engagement and FPIC
 - Developing REDD+ strategies
 - Land tenure
 - Benefit-sharing
 - Forest monitoring and MRV
- Part 3: Practical guidance




Part 1: UNFCCC and UN-REDD frameworks for gender





How does the UNFCCC framework address gender?

- REDD+ decision requires countries to:
 - address gender considerations when developing and implementing national REDD+ strategies (Ref: 1/CP.16, para 72)
 - ensure the full and effective participation of stakeholders
 - this includes women
- Although gender is not expressly listed as a safeguard in Appendix 1, it is incorporated in the safeguards in other ways:
 - By reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
 - By requiring REDD+ actions to be consistent with relevant international conventions (eg CEDAW)



International conventions relevant to REDD+

Category	International treaty or declaration
Human rights	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) (UNDRIP)
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) (CERD)
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) (CEDAW)
	ILO 169, Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, 1989 (Fiji only)
Governance	United Nations Convention Against Corruption (2003)
Environmental	Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

Note: All countries in the Asia-Pacific region have ratified CEDAW, except Tonga, Palau and Nauru



How does UN-REDD address gender?

- **UN-REDD Social and Environment Principles and Criteria**
 - Purpose: to ensure that its activities promote social and environmental benefits
 - To be used as an aid when formulating national programmes, when seeking funding, and to assess national programme delivery
- **UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent**
 - Integrate gender considerations
- **Operational Guidance on Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+ (pending)**




UN-REDD

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria

Principle 2 – Respect and protect stakeholder rights, including human rights, statutory and customary rights, and collective rights

Criterion 7	Respect and promote the exercise of equitable land tenure and carbon rights by indigenous peoples and other local communities
Criterion 8	Promote and enhance gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment
Criterion 9	Seek free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities and respect and uphold the decision taken (whether consent is given or withheld)

Part 2: Gender dimensions of REDD+





Understanding women and forests

- Women (and children) are often responsible for the subsistence needs of their families:
 - collection of fuel wood, water, non-forest products (honey, nuts, mushrooms, etc), fodder for livestock, medicinal plants
- Poor rural households have high levels of forest dependence
 - Forest provides a crucial safety-net for food
- Risk: if women's rights are ignored, REDD+ may increase their marginalization
 - Eg restricted access to fuel wood may force them to harvest illegally
- Therefore we need to integrate gender in REDD+

Constraints and opportunities for women's participation in REDD+

- **Gender-related constraints**

- Limited education and lower literacy levels of women
- Limited access to information and understanding (eg policy and legal processes)
- Less time to participate in REDD+ decisions because of domestic and income generating responsibilities

- **Opportunities**

- REDD+ revenues can improve women's lives
- Engagement in decision-making in REDD+ can promote women's empowerment in community/political life



Why does gender matter for REDD+?

- Gender equality is a human right (CEDAW)
- Mainstreaming gender into REDD+ can:
 - Improve the effectiveness of REDD+ strategies
 - Eg it should reduce disputes later on
 - Increase mitigation potential
 - If women's needs are addressed, there will be a greater uptake of changes in behaviour
 - Increase sustainability of REDD+ (ensuring permanence and reducing the risk of reversals)
 - Engage women in forest protection
 - Remove perverse incentives for forest destruction





Gender dimensions of REDD+



1. Stakeholder engagement

- Gender and the FPIC process

2. Developing REDD+ strategies

- How will they affect men?/women?



3. Land tenure

4. Benefit-sharing

5. Forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)



1. Stakeholder engagement

Gender and the FPIC process

- Women must be consulted as stakeholders
 - **But** we should be aware that women do not always participate equally in community consultations or in decision-making
 - Eg Social structures may limit women's ability for free expression in public meetings; women may have lower literacy rates
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) establishes a framework for protecting indigenous peoples' rights
 - **But** we should avoid the assumption that women's rights are automatically protected by engaging with indigenous peoples and local communities
 - Women can often be marginalized within their own indigenous community



UNDRIP:

How to reconcile competing rights?

- **UNDRIP establishes the right of indigenous peoples:**
 - to participate in decision-making in matters affecting them (Art 18)
 - to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (Art 32)
 - to choose their own representatives, chosen in accordance with their own procedures and institutions
- **But what happens if these procedures or institutions discriminate against or exclude women?**
 - Note: UNDRIP expressly requires the interests of women to be considered (Art 22) and requires the provisions to be interpreted in a non-discriminatory manner (Art 46.3)
 - How to ensure that representatives are legitimate representatives of the community, and of women?



2. REDD+ strategies

examples of potential gender impacts

Driver of deforestation or forest degradation	Potential REDD+ strategy	Potential gender impacts
Illegal logging	Improved forest law enforcement	Men: Loss of employment or income
Unsustainable collection of fuel wood	Area declared as 'protected area'	Women: unable to access fuel wood for heating and cooking; Loss of access to medicinal plants
Encroachment of subsistence agriculture on forest	Land use planning to identify separate areas for agriculture and forest conservation	Women: food gardens are located further away



Tanzania

Proposal for mainstreaming gender in REDD+

- Tanzania: a UN-REDD country since 2009
- Published a draft REDD+ strategy in January 2011
 - **but** there are concerns that it has left out the gender dimension
- Ministry of Environment and civil society have written a **proposal** for a comprehensive gender analysis of the national REDD+ framework, including:
 - Identify and review Tanzania's national commitments on gender and women's empowerment (eg CEDAW)
 - Undertake gender analysis of proposed REDD+ structures to determine whether they are gender sensitive (eg REDD+ Taskforce, REDD+ Secretariat, REDD Trust Fund, benefit-sharing)
 - Consult ministry responsible for gender and women's affairs
 - Include gender in university curriculum on climate change
 - Organize workshops with gender networks



3. Land and resource tenure

- **National REDD+ strategies must consider land tenure**
 - Risk that indigenous peoples and local communities who have uncertain land tenure may be exploited as REDD+ is implemented
 - REDD+ may result in a push for registration of customary land
- **However, women may be disadvantaged or marginalized in traditional or formal processes that establish land tenure**
 - Women may have unequal access to information and legal processes
 - Women's customary rights of full involvement in decision-making can be usurped by male relatives when land titling occurs or when natural resources (eg carbon) become economically valuable
 - Risk of exclusion from REDD+ benefits due to weak right to land and trees



Customary land tenure in the Pacific

- The Pacific has the highest level of customary land ownership in the world
 - Eg Compared to Africa where most land is owned by the State
- In the Pacific, REDD+ may trigger a push for land registration; but this carries risks, including risks to women:
 - Eg in PNG, a ‘big man’ may represent the landowning group in negotiations with investors and state institutions, but may not always make decisions in the best interest of the group, as required under customary law (referred to in corruption terminology as the ‘agent-principal problem’)
- Lesson: land registration, if necessary, must not be rushed and must be participatory



4. Benefit-sharing

- Each country will need to develop its own benefit-sharing system
 - National level: eg National REDD+ Fund
 - Local level: eg Village Fund or trust fund
- Purpose of benefit sharing is to:
 - give incentives to local communities to preserve forest areas, and to community ownership of REDD+
 - To alleviate poverty.
- Each country will need to develop its own, unique, benefit-sharing system.



Benefit-sharing and gender

- **Management of REDD+ funds**
 - How to ensure that management of REDD+ funds is transparent and accountable and is not subject to ‘elite capture’?
 - Women may be less aware of rights and therefore less likely to demand account for missing funds
 - Women’s groups are usually effective structures for community-based forest management and could be used for benefit-sharing
- **How to distribute benefits?**
 - Is cash the best way to deliver REDD+ benefits to a community?
 - Cash can have adverse impacts on women, eg if funds are used to purchase vehicles or alcohol
 - REDD+ benefits could be used for community programmes, eg maternal health clinics, scholarships, etc



Papua New Guinea

Case study: Improved ILG governance and benefit-sharing

- PNG has one of the highest levels of customary land ownership in the world (97%),
 - BUT, this has not led to open and transparent benefit-sharing arrangements for natural resources (oil, gas, timber)
- Main vehicle for benefit-sharing before REDD+ has been through Incorporated Land Groups (ILGs)
 - Potential for ILGs to be used for benefit-sharing for REDD+
- ILG Act amended in 2007 to improve governance, including:
 - Requirement for Management Committees to have between six to 10 people, **at least two of whom must be women**
 - A Code of Conduct which prohibits 'self dealings'



5. Monitoring and MRV: Gender issues

- REDD+ will require forest monitoring, and possibly carbon monitoring too, to demonstrate ‘results-based actions’
 - this should include indigenous peoples and local communities carrying out on-the-ground forest monitoring activities
- Data can be collected at two levels:
 - Participatory Monitoring (of forest area only); and
 - Participatory Carbon Monitoring (PCM)
- When establishing monitoring framework, safeguards should be put in place to ensure that women:
 - Have equal access to training and employment opportunities
 - Are compensated equitably with men for forest protection and carbon monitoring activities



Viet Nam

Participatory monitoring

- With support from the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam is piloting Participatory Monitoring
 - local communities collect basic forest measurements (eg diameter at breast height, tree species, basic GIS data, etc)
- Data will be used to supplement the national forest inventory and satellite-based data showing forest cover change
- Benefits: improving local communities understanding and ownership of REDD+; employment and training
- A Participatory Monitoring manual is being developed
 - See: Piloting Participatory Carbon Management in Vietnam under the UN-REDD Programme:

<http://www.youtube.com/v/MfBsw3a8aIE?version=3>

Part 3: Practical guidance

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Practical guidance in the field

- Collect separate statistics on men and women so that you can measure gender-differentiated impacts
 - called ‘disaggregated data’
- Consider using women-only interviews and men/women only group consultations
- Use gender as an indicator to measure the impact of REDD+ activities:
 - Number of women on REDD+ decision-making bodies?
 - Number of women directly receiving REDD+ benefits?
 - Number of children completing primary/secondary school?
- Clearly target women as project beneficiaries
 - Eg. Women’s names on land titles and certificates



Practical guidance: REDD+ governing structures

- Consider gender balance in any REDD+ governing bodies
 - are women represented on REDD+ Taskforce / REDD+ Trust Fund?
 - general rule: women should make up **30%** of a governing body for effective and sustained participation (USAID report)
- Be aware of gender balance in government institutions
 - women are often under-represented in Forestry Agencies, in both administrative and management positions
 - Eg Nepal: 246 professional forestry officers / only 5 are women
- Link up with government ministries responsible for women's empowerment (eg Human Rights Commission) and women's organizations
 - Provide them with capacity-building on REDD+



References

UN-REDD / UNDP documents

- UN-REDD Global Programme documents
 - Social and Environment Principles and Criteria, Version 3 draft for consultation, September 2011
 - Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (draft for comment, December 2011)
 - Operational Guidance on Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+ (pending)
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Thank you!

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