

Raising the Bar for REDD+: Strengthening the Role of Women and Gender Equality





Setting the Stage

Climate change mitigation broadly refers to activities that involve reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either by reducing their source or by increasing their sinks.

REDD+ is a key approach for addressing the threat of global climate change.

It aims to reduce GHG by conserving carbon pools through financial incentives and other benefits, with a focus on sustainable management of forests, conservation, and enhancement of carbon stocks.



- Is it that women do not use the forest?
- Could it be that there are no disparities in access, use, control and benefits from the forest?
- Is the knowledge of men and women the same?
- Do men and women have equal access to decision-making?
- Is the impact of degradation and climate change the same?



Inclusion



Deforestation, degradation, and sequestration each have considerable sociopolitical and gender dimensions:

- Women and men are responsible for managing different forest resources in distinct and different ways.
- Their gendered responsibilities mean they possess unique knowledge sets.
- Women have less involvement in, and influence over, decision-making processes that determine their access to forest rights, resources and benefits.
- Women have not been systematically identified as stakeholders in REDD+, PES, land use planning and related discussions and pilot demonstration activities.





Legal Mandates

- Cancun Agreement: Requests parties to address ... **gender considerations** and the safeguards ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders...
- Durban: Systems for providing information on safeguards are addressed and respected ... and respecting **gender considerations**...



Legal Mandates

- REDD+ mechanism does not happen in a “vacuum”; it needs to comply and should be framed according to development principles and criteria.
 - Rights
 - Empowerment
 - Participation
 - Good governance
- REDD+ could be an opportunity for development and to introduce reforms (land-forest tenure).



Lessons Learned

- Building local/national/int'l alliances and networks, as well as government-civil society alliances
- Creation of gender and REDD+ focal point in government
- Establishing a national-level gender team to contribute to and influence REDD+ strategies
- Benefit-sharing scheme that determines from the beginning that women can have access to and control over money



Lessons Learned

- Action research (i.e. WEDO/REDD+ SES) on the ground that builds capacity and fosters participatory content/process
- Communication and education focused on traditional leaders – engaging them to convince others
- Specific % of forest revenue allocated to poor women and socially excluded groups
- Engaging men; fostering inclusivity of genders and groups as opposed to exclusivity (youth)



What Does Transformation Look Like?

- Ghana working with chiefs' wives and mothers
- Ecuador "community lawyers"
- Peru MRV with indigenous women
- Tanzania forest and tenure laws reform
- Uganda/Mexico concessions of land to women



Challenges



- Conflicting statutory and/or customary laws on land/forest tenure
- Process takes a long time to bring (and demonstrate) results
- Working with diversity of women/multiculturalism
- Gender strategies successfully designed and endorsed but lack funds for piloting and up-scaling within national REDD+ programs (e.g. Ghana, Cameroon, Uganda)



Challenges



- Ensure sustainability of gender-related REDD+ (e.g. financial mechanisms)
- Lack of consolidated tools to measure impact of gender approach on reducing deforestation/increase conservation
- Need to promote, or guarantee, improvement of livelihoods with REDD+ program
- Coming together as an international community of practice (consolidating guidelines, standards, methodologies)



Lorena Aguilar
Global Senior Gender Adviser
lorena.aguilar@iucn.org

thank you