

# Gender and REDD+

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**REDD+** clearly presents some opportunities for positive social outcomes but also risks serious negative outcomes.

Current discussion on social impacts of **REDD+** is weak with respect to the gender dimension.



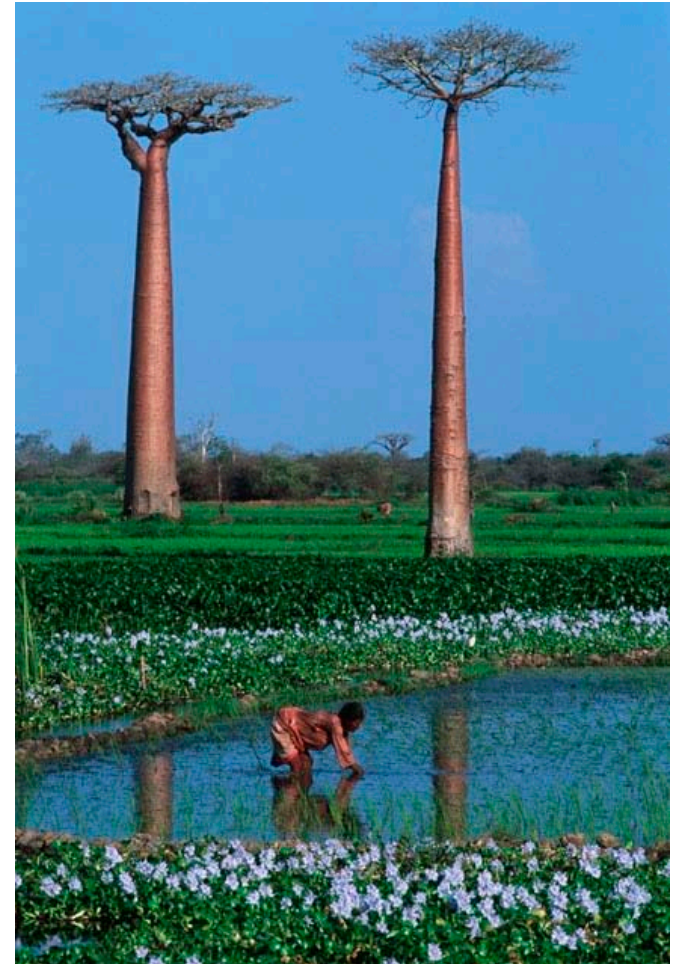
# Why Forests and Gender



Forests provide global food security and resources, food, fodder, fuel and medicine for most of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty.

**Women constitute 70% of the poor worldwide.**

The way people use and manage forests depends on the socio-economic and socio-cultural factors, age and gender.



# Why Forests and Gender



Men and women often have different roles with regard to forest resource management.

Men are more likely to be involved in extracting timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for commercial purposes.

Women typically gather forest products for fuel, fencing, food for the family, fodder for livestock and raw materials to produce natural medicines, all of which help to increase family income and food security.





# Why REDD+ and Gender



Forest policies and organizations overlook women's specific needs and contributions, in part because of the identification of forestry as work of men.



# Why REDD+ and Gender



In development of the proposed REDD+ programmes it is very important to address gender gaps so that:

- Standards take full account of the differentiated rights, roles and responsibilities of men and women
- Gender equality in REDD+ policy and practice can be promoted for reasons of efficiency and justice.



# Women and Forests:

## Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities



**Fact: Women bear greater responsibilities for crop and food production and preparation in most of the developing world.**

Women are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, as they must adapt to declining water supplies, climate variability, natural disasters, pest outbreaks, changing precipitation patterns and other impacts of climate change on crop production.





# Women and Forests: Roles, **Rights**, and Responsibilities



**Fact:** Women and men derive different values from forests.

Any incentive scheme that favours the carbon value of ecosystems more than other values may lead to serious negative impacts on food and water sovereignty, access to traditional medicines and seeds, and other socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and ecological values of forests.





# Women and Forests: Roles, **Rights**, and Responsibilities



**Fact:** The depletion of forest resources severely increases women's labour, especially with regard to the time required for fuelwood collection and the costs of its purchase.

Conservation measures that bar entrance into protected forests will increase women's labour and time demands considerably

Monoculture tree plantations have negative impacts on women's livelihoods and communities, as they lack multiple assets needed like fuelwood, fodder, medicine, water and soil nutrient retention, etc.



# Women and Forests: Roles, **Rights**, and Responsibilities



**Fact: Women are commonly without any formal rights to land or forests.**

Most proposed schemes for emissions trading from forests overlook questions of equity amongst ownership.

Under statutory or customary law, most tropical forests are owned by indigenous peoples or forest dependent communities but it cannot be assumed that women have equal rights with men to these lands.





# Women and Forests: Roles, **Rights**, and Responsibilities



**Fact: Women have less access to market mechanisms, because they lack skills, resources and mobility.**

Women have less access to education than men and thus fewer formally acquired skills (e.g. languages, negotiating skills), making it much harder for women to: engage in technical and legal negotiations on REDD+ in order to benefit significantly from REDD+ projects.



# Women and Forests: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities



Fact: Both women's and men's knowledge of trees and other forest products is critical to the success of forest management projects and the maintenance of biodiversity.

Women are principal practitioners of agroforestry systems in much of the world, where they devise innovations that integrate livestock, agriculture, horticultural and forest technologies and practices.

Yet their knowledge is NOT acknowledged in the science of agroforestry and forestry.





# Women and Forests: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities



Fact: Women are not just hapless victims of climate change, as so often portrayed, but are powerful agents of change who are stewards and managers of forest resources.

Women's leadership is critical in addressing all aspects of sustainable development and natural resource management, including development of scientific research and technologies and policy making.



Can an equitable REDD+,  
designed with enforceable  
standards for equity, engage  
women as primary stakeholders  
and reward their practices of  
sustainable forest management  
adequately?







# Opportunities and Challenges for Women in REDD+



# Gender and REDD: Challenges



## 1. INSECURE TENURE

- Without formal tenurial rights to land or carbon, there are risks that traditional land, forest, and resource rights of women will be violated.
- Women are at risk that their situations worsen if new sources of forest finance will encourage governments to restrict or prohibited their access to forest use, or incentivizing other actors to make claims on forest resources.



# Gender and REDD: Challenges



## 2. INEQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

- Women's ineffective participation in local governance structures for forest management and lack of power renders them unable to challenge the claims of other actors, or to demand their rights to and equitable distribution of these resources.
- The lack of a gender perspective and paucity of women who do or can represent the interests of poor women is already evident in REDD+ -related consultations at the global as well as national levels.

# Gender and REDD+: Challenges



## 3. INEQUITABLE COMPENSATION BENEFITS

- REDD+ mechanisms are likely to compensate communities or countries that are reducing their emissions significantly; those groups who are not involved in large scale deforestation activities, such as women, will not benefit significantly.

# Gender and REDD+: Challenges



## 4. WEAK CAPACITIES

- Baselines and methodologies accepted by funders, require technology, expertise, and technical know-how that are very expensive, which could limit women's involvement.
- Professionals in the carbon finance field speak a language of standards and templates, giving an impression that carbon trading requires sophisticated knowledge and understanding and is difficult to achieve with sustainable development projects undertaken by or involving poor women.



# Gender and REDD+: Opportunities



## 1. IMPROVE RURAL LIVELIHOODS

- REDD+ projects can provide women with new assets, increase biodiversity and improve ecological conditions. Women could spend less time obtaining fuel wood, have access to cleaner energy sources, increase crop yields, improve land conditions, and increase food security.
- REDD+ could also provide poor rural women with a small income and some economic independence.

# Gender and REDD+:

## Opportunities



## 2. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Women could scale up involvement in community forests so they can manage their own forest resources and harvest NTFPs for food, medicine and raw materials for making crafts/baskets/mats or clothing.
- Women could be rewarded for their biodiversity stewardship (especially regarding saving seeds and nurturing trees) through targeted and effective public governance measures that pay them for their time.
- The afforestation and reforestation programmes can improve soil fertility, reduced illegal harvesting, and increased the vegetation cover while improving women's livelihoods and empowering them.

# Gender and REDD+: Opportunities



## 3. REDRESS EXISTING INEQUALITIES

- International negotiations or regimes in relation to REDD+ must ensure compliance with international and national commitments on gender equality and equity, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- This could provide a renewed focus on legal reforms to decentralise forest management and institutions, to make them more accessible and responsive to the needs of poor women.



# Country level Analysis of the participation of women: Case Studies



# Nepal: History



More than 70% of Nepal's population depends on agriculture and the forest resources that support crop and livestock production through nutrient flows and fodder.



21 % of the forests are under community management; 14,000 community forestry groups (CFUGs) manage over a million ha of forests sustainably.



# Nepal: R Pin



The Readiness Plan Idea Note was prepared by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation in collaboration with several stakeholders.

The RPIN proposes capacity building of national institutions, database development and field level piloting. Confusion exists at the policy level on carbon rights and benefit sharing, but the initiative has already created a structure for regular stakeholder dialogues.

Women were not included in the first round of consultations.



# Nepal: Issues



Nepal's forest policy has not kept pace with the development of the CFUG's, the MFSC has not yet developed a policy that supports a targeted approach to benefit socially excluded groups, including women.

Past efforts by women's organisations and a few donors to mainstream gender into the MFSC have met with very limited success.

Very few women occupy senior positions within the Ministry and there is little evidence of structural and procedural changes that support a gender equity agenda.

# Nepal: Motivation



Nepalese women's involvement in any REDD+ related project is crucial because in the past the lack of women's participation in forestry has proven to have detrimental effects by limiting their access to forests for fuelwood and fodder.



# Ghana: History



Women in Ghana have been involved in a number of projects that have focused on setting up nurseries, distributing seedlings in local communities and replanting forest areas.

In 1995 a gender sensitive forestry project carried out by the ITTO with women was so successful achieving its goals that the government has used it as a baseline for future forestry projects.





# Ghana: R Pin



Ghana R Pin mentions that it will take into consideration the Local Governance Poverty Reduction Support Programme that supports the implementation and monitoring of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy through the strengthening of the capacity of district structures to design and implement target-group specific and **gender sensitive** programmes.

# Ghana: Issues



Yet there has not been a clear action plan established how to include women in REDD+ consultation and projects, or case studies that highlight how women have been involved.



# Country level Opportunity



In all countries it is critical that climate change negotiations and REDD+ implementation incorporate not just state actors, but include those of civil society and in particular, women's groups who are able to best represent the issues that are otherwise not being heard.



# Recommendations for measures that could be taken to enhance the influence of women





The benefits from carbon financing need to be targeted at socially excluded groups including women, through an effective social mobilization process that empowers them and raises their awareness and capacity to engage in decision making processes that affect them.



**REDD+** mechanisms must support the meaningful participation of women of forest-dependent communities in the formulation, execution, and monitoring of policies and measures emerging from national **REDD+** strategies and seek to integrate gender into all **REDD+** programs, from inception through implementation, benefit sharing, and monitoring and evaluation.



The standards for national and sub-national level **REDD+** programs and policies should require a gender-based approach that captures the socially-defined differences between women and men, i.e. gender-based differences in roles and responsibilities, needs and priorities, knowledge of, and access to and control over forest and tree resources in order to enhance the influence of women in **REDD+** mechanisms.



# Gender and REDD+:

## Principles



In order to ensure that REDD+ is equitable and effective, parties must ensure that the following principles are secured in any REDD+ process and agreement:

- recognition that women are key agents in forest related climate change processes
- recognition and respect for the rights of women to their traditional uses of the forest. Implementation of REDD+ **must** not lead to obstruction of women's access to forests to meet their subsistence needs (do no harm).



# Gender and REDD+:

## Principles



- REDD+ **must** contribute to transparent, inclusive, and accountable forest governance and to bringing about changes in forestry institutions to enable them to be accountable and responsive to poor women's needs.
- Responses to global climate changes should have broad goals that aim to reduce climatic change, protect natural resources, improve social well-being, and promote equality.

# Gender and REDD:

## Principles



- Parties willing to participate in REDD+ **must** ensure compliance with international and national commitments on gender equality and equity, including the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Women of local communities and women's organizations **must** be involved at all stages of decision-making about REDD+, from the design process (International and national) to the implementation and evaluation.

# Gender and REDD+:

## Principles



- Ensure women have clear ownership rights to forest carbon and forest land.
- Promote equal access of women to land ownership and other resources necessary for effective socio-economic participation in forest management and climate mitigation strategies (e.g., land, capital, technical assistance, technology, tools, equipment, markets and time).

# Gender and REDD:

## Financing



- Local communities should benefit from their conservation efforts and revenues from REDD+ should be equitably shared between and within communities.
- REDD+ finance **must** be managed in a transparent and participatory manner by all stakeholders including representatives from women's groups at the local and national levels.
- The funds for REDD+ initiatives **must** be administered transparently at the national and local levels by multi-stakeholder bodies.



# Gender and REDD+:

## Capacity Building



- Both women and men must be trained in methods to increase carbon sequestration through new forestry technologies, including nursery techniques, site selection and selection of species, land preparation, planting, weeding, and maintenance.
- Intermediary organizations have an important role in supporting women's groups to coach and build their capacities on awareness-raising, negotiation and advocacy, conducting a baseline study, accessing and managing funds, and reporting. But the capacities of intermediaries themselves may be required, given the complexity of REDD and the fact that organizations working with women are vastly underfunded.

# Gender and REDD+:

## Monitoring and Evaluation



- A comprehensive **gender assessment** is needed of the potential impacts of different policies and incentives before the negotiations on this issue are continued within the framework of REDD+.
- A list of national indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as specific indicators to measure women's access to and control of forest resources must be prepared in consultation with women's organizations and gender advisers.

# Gender and REDD+: Monitoring and Evaluation



## Gender Mainstreaming

A framework for gender mainstreaming includes four elements:

1. generating political commitment
2. developing technical expertise for gender
3. developing mechanisms for accountability
4. addressing organizational cultures to ensure against institutional gender blindness.

# Gender and REDD+: Monitoring and Evaluation



## Criteria

REDD+ standards should support the inclusion of a gender mainstreaming strategy based on a recognition of the rights of women and their role in sustainable forest and forest carbon management in order to achieve an effective and just mechanism to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation.



Thank you.

