IN BRIEF

Gender and Forest Landscapes: Enhancing Development Impacts of Projects and Programs

Why does gender matter for forest-related investments?

- **Men and women access, use and manage forests differently, with distinct male and female knowledge and roles in relation to management of forests and use of forest resources.** Taking into account such differences can lead to improved forest program outcomes. Supporting women's non-timber forest product (NTFP) microenterprise groups in Brazil, for example, resulted in increased incomes and empowerment, as well as a reduction in deforestation (Mello, 2014).

- **Appreciating gendered differences in use of, access to, and benefits from forest landscapes matters for both fair and effective design of interventions and institutional arrangements.** For example, increasing women's involvement in community forest governance groups led to improved forest conservation in India and Nepal (Agarwal, 2009).

What we know about gender and forestry:

- Persistent **gender gaps** remain in access to services, markets and value-addition activities, land and tree tenure, voice and agency, training and hiring labor.

- Gendered norms and cultural prejudices that reinforce **forestry as a male profession** persist in many countries.

- **We lack evidence-based research and gender-disaggregated data** in relation to forests in countries where deforestation and degradation are huge problems.

- **Women's representation in forests-related decision-making remains limited** across the globe.

- Many countries have **weak forestry institutions that lack technical skills, budgets and capacity** enabling them to be more inclusive, e.g. of women, indigenous peoples and youths.

- Persistent lack of **forest policies that call for gender equity**.

KEY MESSAGES

- Designing 'with gender in mind' leads to greater impacts

- Think about ways not just to REACH, but to BENEFIT and EMPOWER

- There are many gender-responsive project actions to consider

This guide provides suggestions for developers and leaders of forests projects and programs to enhance participation by, benefits to, and empowerment of women and other potential beneficiaries with limited voice and agency. It identifies activities and actions that can be included throughout the project cycle.

How should we be thinking about gender? Reach, Benefit, Empower

Projects can design activities and take actions primarily aimed at **reaching** women and other targeted groups (e.g. indigenous peoples); those with an objective of ensuring that they **benefit** in a more equitable manner as a result of the project activities, and those that ultimately aim to **empower** them (Table 1). Strategies to do so usually involve several project activities. For example, inclusive consultations can be held to discuss gender gaps in forest policies and practices, gender working groups and learning networks can be created, management structures can be changed to be more balanced with both female and male representation and decision-making powers. Monitoring and evaluation indicators tracking involvement and project benefits will be key. Another example can be seen in new REDD+ initiatives in Asia and Africa that are building alliances between local women's groups and national or international women's organizations in order to build skills and knowledge more effectively and create the champions needed to advocate for women's rights to forest-related benefits. Other examples of actions aimed at reaching, benefiting and empowering are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Examples of activities aimed at reaching, benefiting, and empowering

Dimension	Input	Activity/Output	Short-term outcome indicators	Medium-term outcome indicators	Long-term impact indicators
REACH	Women (or indigenous peoples, or youths) identified as target beneficiaries Women on project team Team composition includes gender experts	Awareness campaign on women's rights completed Gender-specific training completed	Women reached in awareness campaigns (number) Forest management plans that specify access to use of forest resources by women (number)	Share of targeted women with knowledge on their rights	Share of women with advocacy role in communities
BENEFIT	Share/amount of project funds budgeted for women	Management Information System with gender-specific data and information designed Gender monitoring system designed	Annual Budget Guidelines include gender consideration (Yes/No) Benefit-sharing mechanism with gender consideration in place (Yes/No) Share of women organized in forest-related groups or associations	Share of women with improved access to NTFP resources Share of women with improved access to forestry extension services Share of women with improved access to capital, technology, marketing and processing (%)	Share of formal jobs in wood and non-wood processing held by women (%) Daily time to forest use activities by women (hours)
EMPOWER	Women identified as having preferential access to project funds Quota system for women	Gender-informed studies (number) Gender strategies prepared (Yes/No)	Forest Sector Plans/Policy with gender consideration (Yes/No)	Share of women with rating 'Satisfied' or above on gender-related interventions (%)	Share of forest-related household income controlled by women (%) Share of land titles allocated to women (%) Share of women with improved decision-making power over forest resources and benefits (%) Share of forest assets held by women (%)

Source: Based on Theis and Meinzen-Dick, IFPRI

What should we be doing? Types of gender-responsive activities to consider

Project and program activities can target individual capabilities and resources, and/or social norms and institutions (i.e. 'the rules of the game'). These can be broadly grouped as:

• **Provision of goods and services.** This includes the direct provision of goods, for example, *through asset transfer programs targeted at women or other marginalized groups*, and services, such as credit. These can also be provided to communities. Examples of this include support to communities aimed at sustainable fuelwood supply management, or community forest-based tourism.

• **Strengthening organizations.** This can involve forming *new groups, platforms and networks, or strengthening existing collective action efforts* that are playing a key role in reaching target beneficiaries, including women and indigenous people. For example, the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) is working in 16 African countries, advocating and fighting for women's rights through land policy reform and enhanced decision-making with respect to forest management, tree planting and equitable benefits from ecosystem service payment schemes. Forest projects work with many types of groups such as forest user groups and credit/saving groups. Some projects support nested levels of groups, such as mixed-sex forest groups that are further broken down into smaller groups made up of a small number of individuals that trust each other. Women's capacity to meaningfully participate in the groups can be supported through literacy, leadership and organizational trainings. Building awareness on gender issues and women's role in forestry value chains is also important for different types of groups.

• **Strengthening forest policies and institutions.** A good example of the benefits from *investments in making forest policies and institutions more inclusive* comes from China, where the World Bank Group has supported the forestry sector for over 30 years. Policy change focusing on ownership of forests resulted in tenure rights to formerly collectively owned forest lands being granted to over 90 million farming households, covering around 184 million hectares of forest land (World Bank 2016). New initiatives are now focusing on adding women's names to these forest right certificates, which is expected to lead to the restoration and reforestation of many more hectares of forest landscapes.

• **Building knowledge and skills.** For forest-related projects, examples include *tree nursery and forest management trainings*, or building capacity and *increasing market access for women and others in timber and non-timber forest product value chains*. While many projects train women, forestry officials are typically men and technical forest-related advice is often provided only to men. Some new forest initiatives are thus providing forest technical information and trainings to both men and women in the same household.

• **Influencing gender norms and attitudes.** This is often done through sensitization programs that target women, but ideally also include men and boys. Awareness raising efforts typically aim to make people aware of gendered attitudes and norms and their implications, potentially leading to changes in attitudes and behavior. *Dialogues addressing gender norms and attitudes involving community members* and *project staff* that identify gender gaps in forest policies and practices can be an even more effective approach for 'co-developing' strategies to address them. *Gender roadmap action plans* using participatory, inclusive approaches have been developed, for example, in countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda that are working toward accessing carbon payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) efforts. Implementation of such plans will increase the likelihood that the benefits of such investments will be equitable.

*Source: Based on Johnson et al., IFPRI, 2017.*

Photo: CIFOR

When? Key strategies and actions to consider throughout the project cycle

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND CONCEPT NOTE STAGES

- Identify specific gender gaps related to the project by reviewing existing gender analyses as part of the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), Country Partnership Framework (CPF), environment and social assessment (ESA), and/or literature.

- Use participatory methods with targeted communities and key decision-makers (e.g. using the PROFOR forests-poverty toolkit) to identify relevant gender gaps and related outcomes sought (e.g. reach, benefit, empower).

- Identify strategic gender partners and include gender and social development specialists on the team.
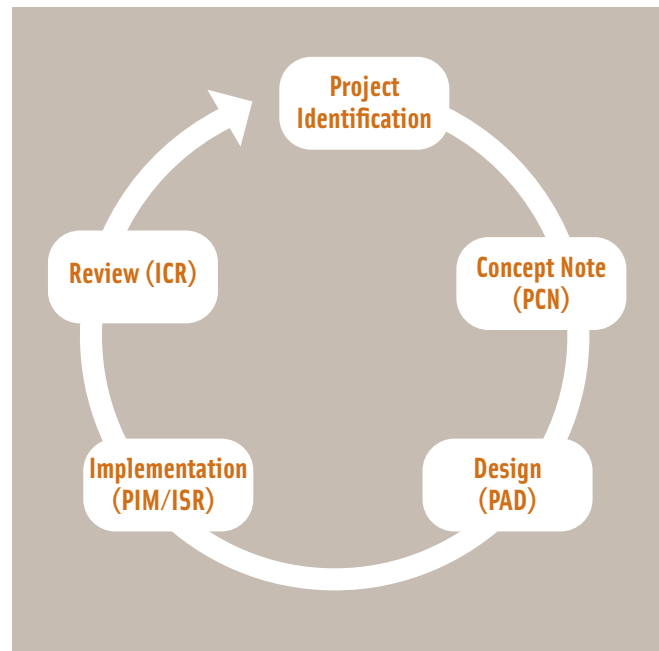
FOREST GENDER ACTIONS IN MEXICO

Mexico's forestry commission, CONAFOR, assists over 4,000 communities in sustainably managing forests via payments for environmental services, technical assistance and subsidy payments for forest management infrastructure, among other support. Women's participation in these programs, however, has historically been low. For example, under the Bank's Forest and Climate Change Project, less than 25% of direct beneficiaries are women. While most of Mexico's forests belong to rural communities under a legally established collective ownership system – a tenure situation unique in the world, these land tenure rights are primarily held by men. As such, women's participation depends on overcoming exclusion based on land tenure rights and proactively supporting activities that are not linked to land tenure. In its efforts to increase women's participation in its national programs, CONAFOR has recently established a *dedicated funding window* specifically targeting women. It supports projects in forest landscapes where women either have management responsibility or are involved in productive activities that include ecotourism, commercialization of non-timber products such as honey and mushrooms, and arts and crafts.

In addition, a new World Bank Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Project will further support these efforts by providing *targeted grant funding to women, youth, and other marginalized groups* for rural production and landscape projects. The project will ensure that women have adequate voice by *including and providing training to women* on its steering committee and regional group *that oversee the project's grant mechanism*. Mexico is also piloting a FCPF-supported initiative aimed at seeing more active participation of, and equitable benefits to, women in REDD+ planning and implementation.

DESIGN STAGE

- Define specific gender outcomes linked to the gender gaps identified above (e.g. increase in proportion of women employed in forest SMEs), and strategies and activities aimed at reaching them.

- Include appropriate resources and budget for gender-disaggregated data collection and gender activities such as those described in Table 1.

- Identify gender capacity needs with project implementers.

- Ensure decision-making bodies include both men and women.

- Include gender expertise and select mixed teams of women and men.

- Identify gender outcome indicators (Table 1) in the result frameworks and sex-disaggregate all beneficiary-related data.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

- Involve women and men in planning activities, and identify actions that will enable women and more vulnerable people to participate, benefit and/or empower them.

- Identify implementers that will support specific gender activities (women's affairs ministries, women's organizations, youth groups, indigenous forest groups, etc.).

- Include indicators of progress towards gender outcomes sought (e.g. women's empowerment) in M&E plans, and incentives to ensure they are monitored.

- Include discussion of how women were consulted/ participated, including project staff, clients and beneficiaries, and other gender progress in Implementation Status Report (ISR) and adjust gender strategies as needed.

COMPLETION AND REVIEW STAGE

- Assess how well the project reached, benefited and empowered women and other targeted beneficiaries.

- Assess the project's contribution in closing targeted gender gaps.

- Summarize lessons learned on how gender outcomes could be enhanced and sustained.

Source: World Bank, 2012.

Tools, approaches, and resources for forest-gender assessments

Two key documents are available for project designers, researchers, development practitioners and others with an interest in understanding the issues related to, and links between, forests and gender:

1) An annotated bibliography of gender and forests literature (broadly defined to include landscapes with forests and agroforestry). PROFOR 2017b.

2) A guide that describes a range of tools and approaches freely available for the study and analysis of issues related to forest-gender/poverty issues. PROFOR 2017a.

Key gender-related questions/issues in relation to forest landscapes

Key areas	Potential research or project/program design questions
Gendered practices and culture, knowledge and priorities	• What forest products do men and women use? • In what ways do they use forest products differently? • How can forest product value chains be developed in ways that maintain or strengthen women's positions in specific chains? • What tree species are valued by women? By men? • What gender stereotypes exist with regard to trees and forests? • How do men's and women's priorities, practices and behavior change as forest structure changes? What are the implications for conservation?
Gender and climate change	• How can women more effectively participate in the design of local and national climate change policies? • What adaptation strategies are men and women adopting? • What forest resources do women need to improve their adaptation strategies? • How does climate change affect men's and women's use of time, access to income or access to forests? • What kind of forest-related strategies can improve women's mitigation efforts? How do these differ from men's?
Gender and participation in research and program design	• How does the participation of men and women make a difference to the research or program design? What can you do to foster it? What constraints will you face in engaging men and women more equitably? • What are the gender-differentiated determinants of participation in different forest-related activities, for example value chains, national adaptation plans and conservation efforts? • How can mechanisms or decision support tools for conservation, climate change policies or forest use be evaluated for their effectiveness in fostering equitable participation?
Gender and decision-making, participation in policy processes, policy to practice	• What mechanisms are needed to ensure both men and women are able to participate in and influence decision-making? • What factors contribute to increasing the participation of men and women in, and their influence on, decision-making at the national level? • What are the consequences of increasing women's participation at different governance scales? • What mechanisms are necessary for translating national gender commitments in the forestry sector into practice? • How well are women represented in the staff of forestry agencies? What factors limit women's participation in these agencies?

Key gender–related questions/issues in relation to forest landscapes *continued*

Key areas	Potential research or project/program design questions
Gender and assets and ability to adopt new practices/technologies	• How will differences in men's and women's assets affect their ability to participate in decision making processes at the community, regional or national level? • How do differences in their assets affect their access to payments for ecosystem services (PES)? • How do differences in men's and women's assets, roles and responsibilities affect their ability to adopt new technologies?
Gender and rights, tenure	• What rights do men and women have to forest products under different tenure regimes? • How will changes to tenure affect men's and women's access to forest products? • What mechanisms strengthen women's rights to use forests at different governance scales? • What mechanisms strengthen women's ownership of forest lots at different governance scales? • How can women's groups influence policies and decision making processes to enhance women's access to, and ownership of, assets or secure rights to forests, trees and land?
Gender and PES, benefit-sharing	• How can policies be designed to ensure equitable access to benefits from payments for ecosystems services (e.g. REDD+?, eco-labeling, eco-tourism, conservation easements/concessions, cap and trade mechanisms for watershed protection, etc) • How can benefit-sharing mechanisms be designed to reward women and men for their mitigation efforts? • What tools are required to measure the gender-differentiated effects of PES? • What policies, strategies or mechanisms are required to ensure an equitable distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from PES, REDD+, community forest projects, forest certification or other forest initiatives? • What types of benefits do women value most? • What types of benefits do men value most? • How can gender specific incentives be designed to improve conservation efforts? • How can REDD+ or other PES schemes measure men's and women's contributions to conservation or mitigation?
Gender and value chain analysis	• How do gender roles and responsibilities affect men's and women's participation in specific value chains? • At what stages of the chain are women absent? Why? • How will differences in men's and women's assets affect their ability to participate in specific value chains? • How do differences in men's and women's assets affect their ability to improve their position in value chains? • How will changes to specific value chains to meet sustainability objectives differentially affect men and women's participation in those chains?

Source: Adapted from CIFOR, 2013

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About Us

The Program on Forests (PROFOR) is a multi-donor partnership housed at the World Bank Group that generates and shares innovative knowledge on forests.
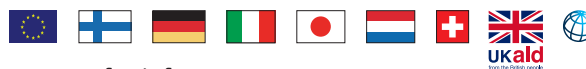
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