

Integrating Gender Dimensions into the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility’s Work

Overview

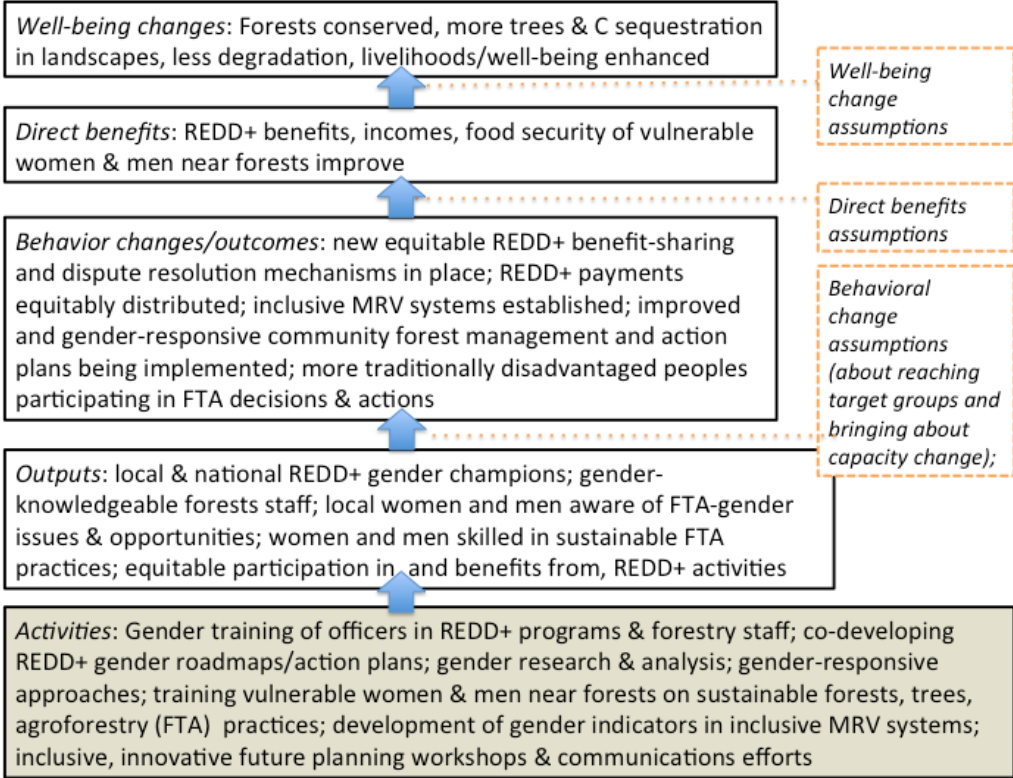
A socially inclusive approach—in which vulnerable or traditionally excluded social groups such as women, indigenous peoples, and other forest dwellers are treated as partners in planning the operation of funds and deployment of climate finance—has been a hallmark of the World Bank Group’s Forests and Landscapes Climate Finance Funds.

With the focus of emission reductions programs shifting to implementation, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) has an excellent opportunity to guide the integration of gender into program activities from inception. The recently launched [World Bank Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2023](#)—which looks in particular at the inclusion of women in development approaches to help close gender gaps and achieve results—provides an additional impetus to translating gender-focused strategies into action on the ground.

The information in this brief is based on a panel discussion about the integration of gender dimensions into FCPF’s work that took place during the twenty-first meeting of the [Participants Committee](#) (PC21) in Washington, DC.

Theory of Change

The ‘Theory of Change’ illustrated here lays out a roadmap for gender-responsive REDD+ initiatives. Project activities in a particular country or location lead to outputs, which in turn lead to changes in behavior or outcomes that generate direct benefits and ultimately to changes in well-being. Indicators can be developed to monitor progress at each stage, and strategies to deal with the assumptions (in orange boxes) can be developed by project teams (e.g. for enhancing reach and capacity of vulnerable groups, making sure women as well as men access and use REDD+ program benefits, etc.).



10 Gender-responsive Actions

A number of FCPF programs engage forest users and producers to foster benefit-sharing and participation of women, in particular in local forest governance, tenure security, and forest-based livelihoods. While the discussion of gender can often be theoretical, this list of concrete actions identified by key stakeholders with on-the-ground experience highlights how countries can move ahead with more meaningful REDD+ participation from women:

1. Develop a **gender roadmap/action plan** using a participatory, inclusive approach ([examples available from Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda](#)) and **strengthen local capacity** to implement it. For example, Uganda's new gender-REDD+ roadmap and action plan is expected to significantly influence benefit-sharing arrangements so that women are not left out.
2. Include women's organizations and place women on steering committees and in other **leadership and decision making roles**.
3. Undertake **gender awareness trainings**, particularly with young people (e.g. describing all people's rights in existing laws, treaties, and conventions).
4. Advocate for **strengthening land, tree and water rights** for women.
5. **Collect sex-disaggregated data** to enhance the evidence base for why gender-responsive actions have returns.
6. Pursue **income-diversification and empowerment opportunities** for women and other disempowered groups.
7. Involve **gender focal points** in all Ministries and high-level gender champions. For example, Indonesia has a gender focal point in their Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and a Forests focal point in their Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.
8. Support **structured, inclusive and well facilitated engagement processes** ('meaningful participation'), and see examples of good practices and guidance, e.g. [UN-REDD's Guidance Note on Gender-Sensitive REDD+](#).
9. Pursue **innovative communication strategies** (e.g. use of new Information and Communication Technologies – cellphones, social media, radio, TV, etc.) and make the important role women can and do play in managing and protecting forest resources, planting trees and pursuing [climate-smart landscape management strategies](#) more visible.
10. Strengthen **women's groups, networks and collective action** by women and others, as exemplified by the [African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests \(REFACOF\)](#).

Country Examples

Three FCPF countries in particular—**Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda**—have made significant strides in this area through the creation of Gender Roadmaps. Specific actions in their roadmaps include:

- Establishing gender and forest task forces.
- Developing training materials on sustainable management of forests and REDD+ issues that are accessible to women.
- Conducting a gender sensitive REDD+ sensitization campaign that includes several sessions (via radio, audio-visual, press, flyers, etc.), that pays special to women's media preferences.
- Conducting a gender analysis of community forest management.
- Securing invitations for a representative of the gender and forest task force to the parliament sector work group consultations.
- Lobbying the parliament, relevant government Ministries, local governments and organizations involved in designing legislation related to REDD+.
- Assessing gaps, challenges and opportunities for women in different land tenure systems and forest types, with special attention to institutional, cultural barriers that could prevent women's access to land tenure.

- Training local women on land acquisition procedures.
- Institutionalizing gender-sensitive benefit sharing schemes, MRV system, forest management, agroforestry systems, and information and communication systems.
- Institutionalizing of monitoring and evaluation system of safeguards through a comprehensive study of projects to determine their compliance with social safeguards and suggestions of reform measures.

Conclusions

How climate funds are allocated and distributed shape—and are shaped by—social institutions and policies that influence the livelihoods of men and women, and their responses to a changing climate. Hence, taking into account how incentives, preferences and needs differ between different kinds of people—young, old, male, female, indigenous, poor and less poor—is important. Understanding what factors enable and restrict their access to resources, and what kinds of institutional arrangements can enhance their ability to make decisions that empower them: this will be critical to the success of REDD+ efforts.

Additional resources

Since 2011, IUCN has supported participatory, multi-stakeholder outreach with government and civil society in many of the country examples included in this brief to develop gender and REDD+ roadmaps. Learn more about this work:

- [Making gender equality a priority in REDD+ countries](#)
- [The importance of gender in REDD+](#)