

**TRAINING MODULE 6**

**Gender and REDD+**

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# 1

## *Purpose of the training module*

### **1A** *Rationale*

As the United Nations' lead development agency with extensive field experience, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has implemented numerous innovative initiatives that support national-level work on gender equality and women empowerment. UNDP's work on gender is guided by the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and frameworks provided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP Gender Team presents updated versions of 10 training modules and policy briefs on gender dimensions of climate change covering a range of themes and sectors. An additional set of knowledge products has also been added covering the gender and REDD+ interface. These knowledge products are designed to build capacity in member countries with respect to gender and climate change within the context of sustainable development. Their preparation has been made possible by contributions from the Government of Finland.

This sixth module in the series deals with gender issues related to REDD+.

#### **Box 1** *Icon Key*



*Activity  
or Exercise*



*Link to other  
Modules*



*PowerPoint/video  
presentation*



*Readings*



*Important  
information*



*Timing  
indication*



*Internet  
link*

## 1B *Module structure and method*

This module provides basic information and learning tools for understanding, advocacy and/or action on:

- The role of sustainable management of forests in carbon sequestration (climate mitigation); ecosystem services provisioning and improvement of livelihoods
- Gender dynamics in sustainable management of forests and REDD+ action
- The need and options for the integration of a gender perspective in REDD+

Part II of this module outlines learning objectives, i.e., what users are meant to understand upon conclusion of the training. Part III presents key messages, followed by Parts IV and V, which examine the nexus among gender, sustainable management of forests, REDD+ action and sustainable development, including the gender-based constraints that women face in forest use and management as well as the importance of undertaking gender-responsive REDD+ action. Part VI presents tools and entry points for helping address gender-related barriers around forests and effectively integrate a gender perspective into REDD+ policy and action.

The learning tools in this module include case studies from REDD+ counties, group activities and videos. It also uses seven easily identifiable pictures and icons (see Box 1).

This module includes references to other thematic modules in this series. Facilitators and participants are, therefore, encouraged to consult the other modules in this series. Training based on this module could be delivered in three sessions:

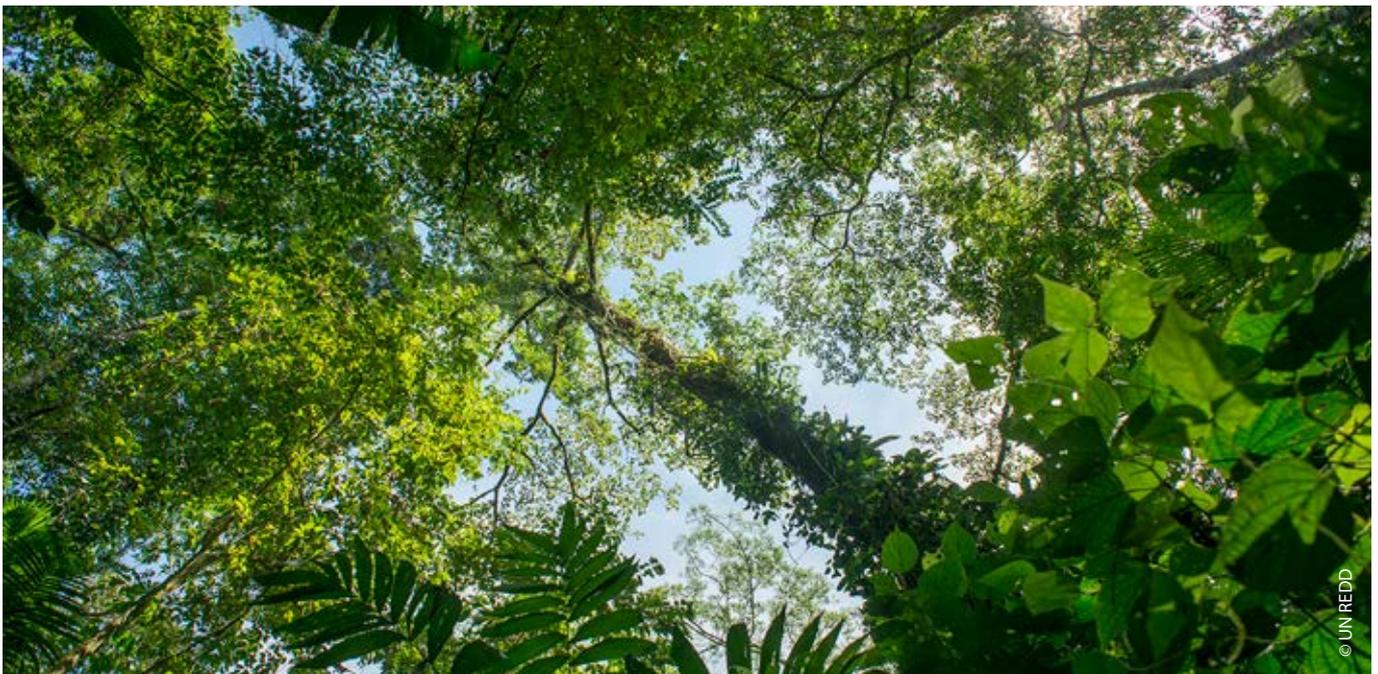
- Session 1: Parts III and IV (1 hour)
- Session 2: Part V (1 hour)
- Session 3: Part VI (1 hour)

The learning tools section offers a breakdown of time for different activities.

# 2

## Objectives

- *Understand the relationship and linkages among gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable management of forests, REDD+ and sustainable development goals.*
- *Understand the gender dimensions of forest use and management under REDD+ action, including the ways in which improved social inclusion and promotion of gender equality can benefit REDD+ and help better livelihoods of poor forest-dependent communities, especially women.*
- *Identify entry points for gender-responsive REDD+ policy and action that empowers women and other marginalized groups (e.g., indigenous people, youth, elderly, disabled, etc.).*



# 3

## Key messages



Forests support the lives and livelihoods of 1.6 billion people in the world who rely on forest produce directly or indirectly. They also provide key eco-system services and contribute to climate change mitigation, such as carbon sinks.

Deforestation and forest degradation are also major anthropogenic sources of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) both in terms of the direct emissions of carbon stored over the lifetime of forests and lost carbon sequestration potential.

REDD+ action seeks to address forest loss by creating financial incentives for results-based actions, wherein developing countries are rewarded and compensated for their efforts in preventing deforestation and/or forest degradation.

REDD+ readiness and implementation benefits from considered inclusion of women and men and recognition of gendered differences in use and knowledge of forests. Women's key skills and knowledge in forest use and knowledge in forest conservation and management can add value to and enhance the efficiency and efficacy of REDD+ action.

Women in poor forest dependent communities often do not fully benefit from their forest conservation activities or efforts to support REDD+ action – this is especially true in countries where land and forest rights are not equitably guaranteed between women and men.

To remedy systemic discrimination related to land access, ownership and control as well as decision-making at the household, community and state levels, gender issues need to be fully integrated into REDD+ benefit-sharing schemes and/or incentive allocation systems.

Progress has been made in promoting social inclusion within REDD+ initiatives, including by integrating gender equality and women's empowerment principles into national REDD+ strategies.

Efforts towards gender-responsive REDD+ at the national and local levels should be continued – context-based and locally appropriate guidance (guided by clear gender indicators) on gender mainstreaming could help guide this process.



REDD+ initiatives should aim to progressively change structural inequities that deny women and other marginalized groups (such as indigenous communities) land and forest tenure. Development and implementation of REDD+ policies and measures and REDD+ safeguards present critical entry points at the national level for promoting such work.

REDD+ standards and safeguards need to be developed with full, equitable and meaningful participation from women and men as well as addressed and respected in a gender-responsive manner.

# 4

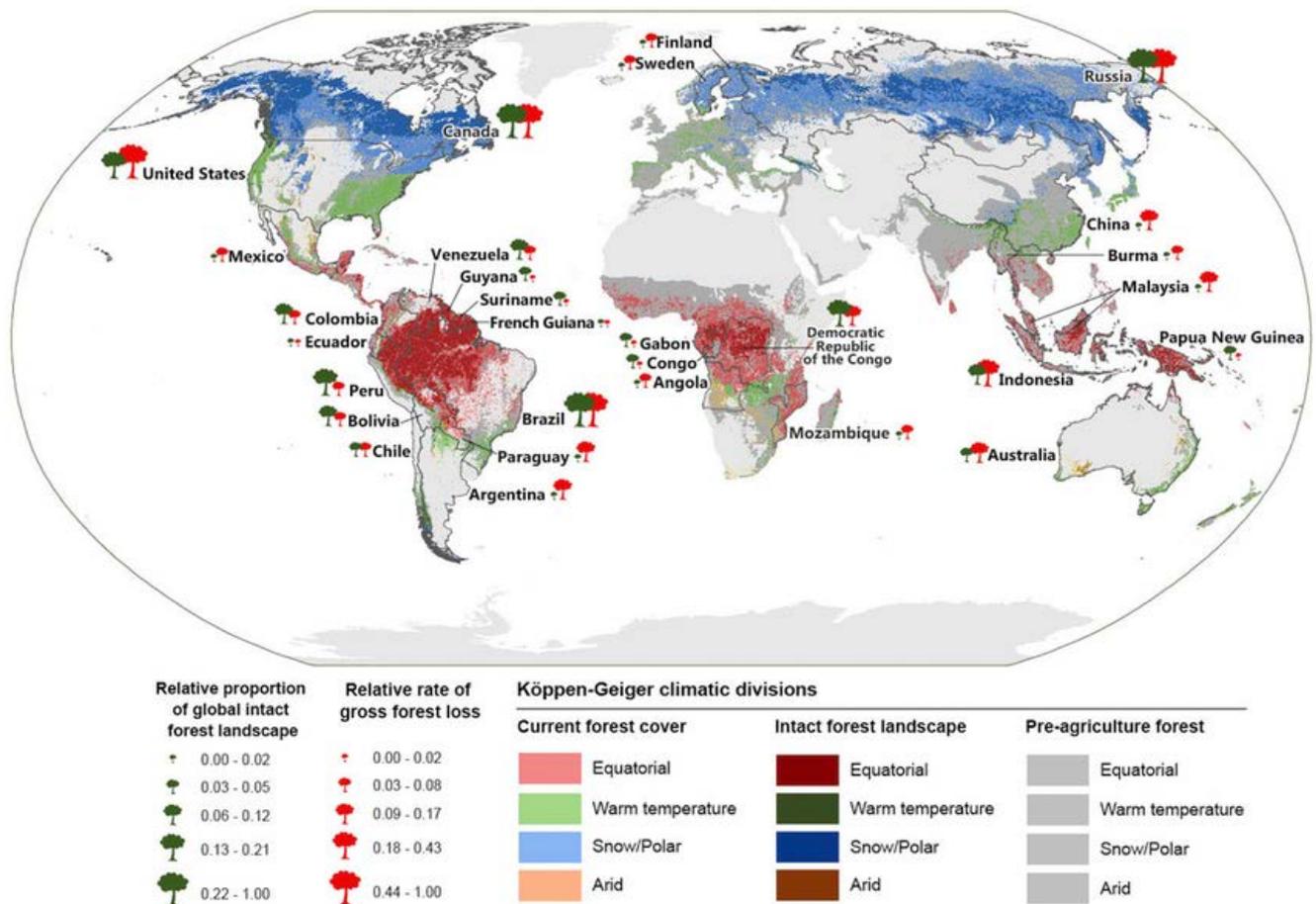
## *REDD+ and sustainable development – the big picture*

### *Learning objective:*

*Understand the role of REDD+ in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the sustainable development goals*

1. Spanning over 4 billion hectares (nearly 31 percent of Earth's land surface area), forests play a pivotal role in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, ecosystem services provisioning and supporting livelihoods. Three hundred million people live in forests and 1.6 billion people around the world depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests absorb up to 30 percent of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) from the atmosphere through photosynthesis; they provide critical habitat for 80 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity; they purify the air we breathe, conserve our soil and water and prevent flooding; and they have tremendous cultural and aesthetic value (UN 2016a; Shimel et al. 2015; Chao, S 2012; Foley et al. 2007).
2. Despite efforts to conserve forests, the Earth's forests continue to decline as forest areas continue to be changed to agricultural and other uses such as ranching and development, fueled by numerous stressors, including population growth (Mackey et al. 2015). Here are some figures that demonstrate the magnitude of the challenge:
  - According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), around 46 million to 58 million square miles of forest are lost each year, which is equivalent to 48 football fields every minute.
  - In the Amazon, around 17 percent of the forest has been lost in the last 50 years, mostly due to forest conversion for cattle ranching.
  - According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), some 129 million hectares of forest - equivalent in size to South Africa - have been cleared in the last 25 years.
  - According to one estimate, some 289 million hectares of tropical forest – the size of India – could be cleared during 2016–2050, dumping a significant amount of carbon (169 GtCO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. The projected emission represents one sixth of the allowed carbon to be emitted if the rise in Earth's temperature is to stay within the 2°C cap recommended by the Paris Convention on Climate Change. (FAO 2015; WWF 2016; Busch and Engelman 2015; see also Figure 1)

**FIGURE 1** *Distribution of forest cover and forest loss*



*NB: The green tree icons indicate the proportion of global total intact forest landscapes for the top 20 forest countries. The red tree icons indicate these countries' relative proportion of total global gross forest loss*  
 Source: Mackey et al. 2015

3. Deforestation and forest degradation contribute to GHG emissions through burning of forest biomass and decomposition of remaining plant material and soil carbon (van der Werf et al. 2009).
4. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) currently represents 20 percent to 24 percent of total emissions globally, the largest emitting sector after energy, and accounts for more than the emissions caused by transport and buildings combined (Smith et al. 2014). This is an average estimate – AFOLU-related emissions could actually be much bigger (or smaller), depending on the importance of the sector in a country's economy. For example, AFOLU emissions represent 63 percent of total national emissions in Indonesia (Republic of Indonesia 2015).
5. Recognizing the enormous ecological, economic and sociocultural worth of forests, there have been numerous initiatives at all levels (local/community, national and international) geared towards conservation and sustainable management of forests.

6. At the global level, numerous global processes have been undertaken to help combat this forest loss, reduce emissions that result from such activities, and mitigate the effects of climate change. The main international mitigation mechanism, and the primary focus of this module, designed to encourage developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), was first introduced by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2005. In 2007, at COP-13, the scope of REDD was expanded to include the “the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, and thereafter was referred to as REDD+ (UNFCCC 2008). REDD+ creates financial incentives for results-based actions and compensates governments, companies or owners of forests in developing countries for measurable, reportable and verifiable reductions in GHG emissions from activities in the forest sector.

7. Under the UNFCCC, a three-phased approach to REDD+ was defined at COP-16 within the Cancun Agreements, wherein the first two phases have often been referred to as “REDD+ readiness”. These three phases are: 1) development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building; 2) implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities; and 3) results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified (UNFCCC 2011).

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1. For more information on these four elements, please see the UN-REDD REDD+ Learning Journals located at: <http://www.unredd.net/documents/global-programme-191/redd-academy-3509/redd-academy-learning-journals/english.html>

8. Additionally, these Cancun Agreements also requested countries to have in place four key elements for REDD+ implementation and to access results-based payments and finance (UNFCCC 2011):<sup>1</sup>

- a. A national strategy or action plan
- b. A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (NFMS) for the monitoring and reporting of the five REDD+ activities, including for measurement, reporting and verification results
- c. A national (or subnational as interim) forest reference emission level (FREL) and/or forest reference level (FRL)
- d. A safeguard information system (SIS)

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2. For more information on the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, please see: [http://unfccc.int/land\\_use\\_and\\_climate\\_change/redd/items/8180.php](http://unfccc.int/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/items/8180.php)

9. Recently, global initiatives have further underscored the relevance and importance of forests and the need to address forest loss to help mitigate the effects of climate change and to promote sustainable development. The following are some of the most prominent examples:

- Since COP-13, REDD+ decisions under the UNFCCC have been progressively adopted, with decisions being taken to develop and further define a set of guidance, rules and modalities to guide the development and implementation of REDD+, including on safeguards, REDD+ strategies and forest reference levels, among others. At COP-19 in 2013, with the adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (a set of seven REDD+-related decisions),<sup>2</sup> most of the REDD+ work programme under the UNFCCC was finalized.

- The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), signed by more than 180 governments, companies and business associations and CBOs in 2014, provides a global timeline to cut natural forest loss in half by 2020 and strive to end it by 2030. Meeting these goals would lead to an annual removal of 4.5 billion to 8.8 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, about as much as the current emissions of the United States.
- The IPCC devoted a separate chapter on AFOLU (chapter 11), elevating the stature of the sector in terms of its significance to keep the Earth's temperature below 2°C - previous IPCC reports did not include an independent chapter on same.
- The UNFCCC 2015 Paris Climate Agreement formally recognized the role of forests in combating climate change.
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has also set an ambitious goal to conserve forests, setting universal targets including an end on deforestation by 2020.

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→ Source: Climate Focus 2015; Smith et al. 2014; UN 2015b

10. Although REDD+ is specific to the forest sector, it can be viewed as a thread that runs through many SDGs – e.g., SDG 13 (climate change mitigation), SDG 15 (sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems) and SDG 7 (access to energy). To the extent that REDD+ has non-carbon benefits that come in the form of conserved biodiversity (from avoided deforestation) and socio-economic benefits to forest communities (with alternative livelihood options, recognition of rights to lands, purchased offsets, etc.), its objectives and possible outcomes can also promote the achievement of other SDGs such as SDG 1 (poverty eradication) and SDG 2 (sustainable food security) (MGB Lima et al. 2015). Additionally, if REDD+ is designed and implemented in a gender-responsive manner and meaningfully incorporates the rights, concerns and aspirations of forest-dependent communities, including equitably women and men, it can catalyse progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5).
11. The scope of REDD+ action has evolved over the years and has ranged from project-based to subnational- and national-level approaches. More recently, there has been a growing recognition on the need to create more scaled-up REDD+ action at the subnational and national levels (Eggerts 2015). While often much more complex and lengthy, subnational and/or national approaches can provide opportunities to engage with governments to align policy strategies at a larger scale, develop consistent approaches for measuring emissions and involve multiple land-use types (Fishbein and Lee 2015).
12. Various REDD+ thematic areas and components exist across the three phases of REDD+ - that is, across the REDD+ policy cycle, including within design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. These REDD+ components often include policies and measures (PAMs), national REDD+ strategies, governance, stakeholder engagement, safeguards, NFMS and benefit-sharing (also known as allocation of incentives), amongst others.

13. Currently, support for REDD+ action can come from a wide range of private and public sources. Such support can range from international funding mechanisms, such as the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership (FCPF), the Forest Investment Program of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) and the Green Climate Fund. It can also be made through multilateral arrangements (e.g., UN-REDD Programme, EU REDD Facility, etc.) or bilateral agreements directly between donor countries looking to offset their emissions by financing REDD+ within developing countries. Additionally, funding and support can come from various international and national organizations, including NGOs and conservation networks as well as from countries themselves, looking to support REDD+ action within their own borders through national funding vehicles.
14. When designed and implemented in a fair, socially inclusive, participatory and gender-responsive manner, REDD+ policy and action can help reduce forest emissions and enhance carbon stocks in forests while also improving livelihoods, conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change and, more broadly, achieving SDG targets. The next section will delve into the gender dimensions around REDD+ action.



*For background on the gender-climate change nexus, see TM 1*

*For more on the gender-climate finance nexus, see TM 5*

## ***Summary questions***

- *What is the role of forests in climate change mitigation?*
- *What is REDD+? How does it work?*
- *How might REDD+ be relevant for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, besides SDG 15?*

# 5

## *Women and REDD+: A symbiotic relationship*

### *Learning objective:*

*Understand the gender dynamics around REDD+ and the role of social inclusion and gender equality in REDD+*

15. Women and men's specific roles, rights and responsibilities, as well as their particular use and knowledge of forests, shape their experiences differently. They also often respond differently to corresponding incentive measures and public policy interventions, have different relationships with institutions and use the forests differently. For example, while gendered practices of forest use and management are much more nuanced, men generally tend to focus on timber and profitable non-timber forest products, while women likely focus on firewood and fodder (Sunderland et al. 2014). In addition, women tend to rely more on natural resources for their livelihoods (World Bank 2010) and are often the primary users of forests, whose practices can include traditional agroforestry systems, gathering wild plants for food and medicinal purposes, collecting non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and, in some countries (e.g., Indonesia and Viet Nam), forest patrolling and monitoring (Setiyoati 2011).
16. Given various social, economic and cultural inequalities and legal impediments, particularly within the forest sector, women (and often other marginalized groups, such as indigenous people, the poor, youth, handicapped, etc.) continue to experience ongoing exclusion in many societies that limit their ability to fully participate in, contribute to and benefit from REDD+ action. As result, while women in forest-dependent communities contribute considerably to the management of forests, they do not often benefit from forest-related investments and/or are excluded in relevant decision-making (Agrawal 2001). They also often face large inequalities around forest and land tenure as well as possess fewer assets to overcome such hurdles (World Bank 2010). Box 1 provides, among others, numerous statistics that illustrate the gender gaps that directly and indirectly contribute to gendered experiences in forest use and management, including land ownership and access to socio-economic and political and decision-making powers. (See also Box 1.)

### Box 1 Gender statistics around REDD+

- 129 million hectares of forest - equivalent in size to South Africa - have been cleared in the last 25 years. Deforestation deprives of poor communities of their livelihood resources.
- Almost 75 percent of the world's poor are affected directly by land degradation.
- Study in 20 REDD+ sites in six countries found that women have been less informed and less involved in the design and decision-making related to REDD+.
- With limited land ownership and control over productive resources, women, relative to men, may not have strong incentive to engage in tree planting. Studies (e.g., Ethiopia) show that land certification significantly increases productivity on plots farmed by women.
- Ninety percent of Africa's rural land is currently undocumented, leaving rural communities vulnerable to land-grabbing. Land grabs have been shown to adversely affect rural livelihoods, especially women.
- Since 1980, Brazil has approved more than 300 territories where indigenous peoples have the right to use their forests for their own needs, wherein it is safe from external outside pressures (e.g., soy farmers, ranchers, gold miners, etc.).
- Study in India shows that women's participation in forest projects is associated with a 28 percent greater probability of forest regeneration.
- Countries with higher female representation in parliament are more likely to safeguard protected land areas.

Sources: Larson et al. 2015; Forest Trends 2015; Bernier Q, et al. 2013; Bezabih et al., 2012; Agrawal et al. 2006; UNDP 2011; UNEP 2016; Oxfam, ILC, RRI 2016; UN 2016

17. The gender disparities in most cases are even sanctioned by law – a recent study by the World Bank indicates that nine in 10 countries in the world (155 of the 173 economies covered by the study) currently have at least one law impeding women's economic opportunities (Iqbal 2015). Increasing commercial demand on land is also creating challenges for secure and equitable access to land for poor women (UNEP 2016). This asymmetry in power has a cumulatively negative effect on sustainable development in general and sustainable management of forests in particular.
18. It is widely acknowledged that gender equality and women's empowerment are catalysts for reaching sustainable development, including in REDD+ (UN-REDD Program 2016). Women and men are key agents of change and their unique but often differentiated knowledge, skills, and experience are central to economic development as well as environmental sustainability. For example, recent research from the McKinsey Global Institute finds that if women were to participate in the economy "identically to men",

they could add as much as US\$28 trillion, or 26 percent, to annual global GDP (roughly the combined size of current US and Chinese economies) in 2025 (MGI 2016). Studies also show that countries with higher representation of women in congress/parliament are more likely to set aside protected land areas and to ratify multilateral environmental agreements (UNDP 2011).

19. As primary users and managers of forest products in many communities, women play a crucial role in the sustainable management of forests as well as in other productive and reproductive activities at the household and community levels. This puts them in a position to contribute to livelihood strategies adapted to changing environmental conditions. Such knowledge and capabilities can and should be deployed to benefit climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management strategies.
20. There is strong evidence (e.g., India and Nepal) that shows conservation outcomes were improved in forest projects by providing women with more powers in decision-making (World Bank 2012). Additionally, a study of 61 countries cited in UNDP's '2011 Human Development Report' showed that the per capita number of women's and environmental NGOs is negatively correlated with levels of deforestation. Women's participation in decision-making, therefore, has intrinsic value and instrumental importance in addressing equity and environmental degradation.

### **Box 2** *The symbiotic relation between forest conservation and women's empowerment – examples from India and Nepal*

*Review of 17 studies in natural resources management demonstrates that increased participation by women leads to improvements in local natural resource governance and forest (and fisheries) conservation efforts in India and Nepal (Leisher et al. 2016). For example, one study found that women's participation is associated with a 28 percent greater probability of forest regeneration (Agrawal 2006). Additionally, forest initiatives, which include women and poor communities in forest management (e.g., reforestation, forest surveillance), can measurably improve their livelihoods (World Bank 2009). For example, research from West Bengal (India) shows that gender-sensitive participatory forest management decreases the labour and time women put in collecting non-timber forest products and increases their input to family income (Das 2011). Similarly, research from Nepal shows that inclusive forest governance led to increased income for poor communities, especially poor women (McDougall et al. 2013).*

21. Therefore, gender-differentiated needs, roles, experiences and knowledge of the forest need to be valued equitably in the design and implementation of REDD+ action, across the policy cycle and within the various REDD+ components (e.g., REDD+ PAMs, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, governance, NFMS, etc.). They all serve as critical inputs to REDD+ policy and programmatic interventions, which can help promote that REDD+ is gender-responsive and, thus, efficient, effective and sustainable in policy and in practice. The following section discusses strategies and entry points for integrating a gender perspective and women's empowerment principles within REDD+ policy and action.



*A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry & REDD+*

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*Appendix B: Learning tools*

## **Summary questions**

- *What are the sociocultural and legal impediments women face in the context of forest use and management?*
- *How does REDD+ benefit from being socially inclusive, especially from the knowledge and skills of women?*
- *Provide examples of how REDD+ action might address the challenges of climate change mitigation as well as socio-economic and gender inequalities.*

# 6

## Achieving gender-responsive REDD+ action

### *Learning objective:*

*Identify entry points for effectively designing and implementing gender-responsive REDD+ policy and action*

22. Initiatives involving forest conservation and sustainable management of forests benefit women and benefit from women (see Box 2). Acknowledging this and the critical role gender equality and women's empowerment play in the long-term success of REDD+, various entities supporting REDD+ action as well as REDD+ stakeholders – ranging from government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations to women, men and youth from forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples – are increasingly developing and undertaking gender-sensitive REDD+ policy and action and implementing associated safeguards to ensure the social inclusion of more marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth, indigenous peoples, etc.) in the REDD+ process (UN-REDD 2016).



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23. These efforts have helped to support women's increased participation and the integration of a gender approach across various thematic areas of REDD+ (e.g., REDD+ policies, governance, stakeholder engagement, safeguards, allocation of incentives, NFMS, etc.), including national REDD+ strategies. For example, the National REDD+ Strategy of Indonesia underscores, as a key principle, the need for building capacities and ensuring participation in decision-making of local communities, especially women and other vulnerable groups (Indonesian REDD+ Task Force 2012).

### **Gender-sensitive REDD+ action supported under the UNFCCC**

*REDD+, as it evolved under the UNFCCC over the years, has become a complex and technical climate financial mechanism, largely due to efforts to ensure that it is fair, transparent, inclusive and effective (Eggerts 2015). In this process, a few key UNFCCC REDD+ decisions have ultimately impacted and encouraged the uptake of gender-sensitive REDD+ policy and action as well. For example, at UNFCCC COP-16 in Cancun in 2010, Decision 1/CP.16 guided countries in addressing gender considerations, among other issues, when developing and implementing their REDD+ national strategies or action plans (UNFCCC 2011). Building on this guidance, the Durban Outcomes (Decision 12/CP.17) at COP-17 further guided countries such that, when countries provide information on how safeguards are addressed within their efforts on REDD+ (what is now commonly referred to as safeguard information systems (SIS)), gender considerations should also be respected (UNFCCC 2012).*

24. Nevertheless, there remains the continued and pressing need to better integrate gender-responsive activities in a more cohesive and systematic way throughout the REDD+ policy cycle, including in design, implementation and monitoring. For example, a recent study of 77 villages in 20 REDD+ sites found that women have been less informed and less involved in the design and decision-making related to REDD+ (Larson et al. 2015). Additionally, when efforts are made to undertake gender mainstreaming, there can be the tendency of having REDD+ designers and implementers misinterpret what is needed to integrate a gender perspective into REDD+. Here, gender mainstreaming is only seen as increasing, in numerical terms, women participation, which, while helpful, is far from sufficient to advance women's effective and meaningful participation in REDD+ (UNEP 2016).
25. These challenges do not involve only one problem, but rather a multitude of issues within REDD+ policy and action. Varying across countries, some of these challenges range from limited integration of women's roles and needs as primary users of forests conservation in REDD+ policies, to underrepresentation of women's meaningful engagement and influence in REDD+ decision-making, to insecure rights to forests for women and other marginalized groups, to lack of knowledge by those designing and implementing REDD+ on how to develop, implement and measure gender-responsive REDD+ policies (Setyowati 2012; 2014; IUCN and USAID 2014). As such, multipronged efforts are needed, wherein actions are undertaken to ensure that gender-responsive REDD+ policies are not only developed, but also implemented in a gender-responsive manner at national, subnational and local levels. (See Box 3 for some of the key questions to help assess if and where gender issues and inequalities exist around REDD+ action.)

### **Box 3** *Sample questions to guide developing gender-responsive REDD+ policy and action*

- *Which women's and men's roles affect the use and management of forest resources?*
- *Is there gender differentiation in labour and responsibilities in forest use and related activities?*
- *What gender-related factors determine access to and control over forest resources and REDD+ benefits?*
- *Will the project affect the level of women's engagement in forest-related activities? How?*
- *What constraints – time, financial and social – are there to the participation of women in REDD+ decision-making and capacity-building activities?*
- *Do these parameters vary depending on the time of year?*
- *What are women's needs to enhance their effective participation?*
- *Are there harmful cultural practices that might be supported or exacerbated by REDD+ policy and action at either national and/or local levels?*
- *What are the practical and strategic needs of women and men affected by REDD+ to mitigate harmful practices and leverage social change?*

*Sources: A. Setyowati 2012*

26. Thus, increased effort in the form of context-specific and locally appropriate guidelines for gender-responsive REDD+ is crucial. Key work streams to support such gender mainstreaming efforts across the REDD+ policy cycle, including in design, implementation and monitoring, are mentioned below (see Box 4; Figure 2). These streams can and should also be integrated across REDD+ thematic areas as well, such as in NFMS, governance arrangements, stakeholder engagement, safeguards, benefit-sharing and/or incentive structures, etc.

## Box 4 Key work streams to support gender-responsive REDD+

### Stream 1 Undertake gender-responsive and gender-specific assessments:

Conducting gender-responsive and gender-specific assessments can help establish a gender baseline and identify areas for improvement in REDD+ policies and programmes and where gender equality and women's empowerment can be promoted. In practice, this could involve, *inter alia*, ensuring that the methodology applied to the assessment integrates gender considerations, reviewing literature and policies on gender during the literature review and incorporating any gender dynamics into the assessment report and its findings. Such analyses (either as a separate exercise or as part of another assessment) can provide information on the different social, economic and political conditions that women and men (and youth, girls and boys, when applicable) face in a specific context and whether policies exclude or restrict rights of certain groups (i.e., women, youth, indigenous groups) as well as help identify potential opportunities, barriers and risks associated with REDD+ policies and processes.

### Stream 2 Raise awareness and build capacity on gender:

Gender mainstreaming relies on stakeholders having proper knowledge of gender equality and women's empowerment concepts. Awareness-raising and capacity-building on gender among stakeholders are therefore crucial to help ensure gender is effectively mainstreamed. Such efforts range from including training discussions on the need for and benefits of gender-responsive REDD+ processes and addressing misperceptions concerning gender issues, to building capacity on how to integrate gender considerations within REDD+ readiness and implementation. Capacity-building can take the form of specific training on gender approaches, the engagement of gender specialists in technical work, development of context-specific and locally appropriate gender-responsive REDD+ guidelines, and the inclusion of gender elements in resources/tools developed, among others.

### Stream 3 Ensure gender-responsive participation:

Ensuring that REDD+ consultations, committees, platforms, taskforces, decision-making bodies, etc., equitably involve women and women's groups and take their perspectives into account is part of a socially inclusive policy process<sup>3</sup>. Acknowledging, however, that there are often socio-economic, social, cultural and political barriers faced by women within many developing countries, explicit and deliberate action needs to be taken to ensure that women, in addition to men, are equitably, actively and meaningfully involved, wherein REDD+ efforts are adapted to the reality, culture and local context of local and indigenous women as well. This can help ensure that women, in addition to men, are equitably involved and can meaningfully participate; it can also increase the likelihood of widespread support, ownership and sustainability of REDD+ processes.



3. In line with the target endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council, it is widely held that women, at a minimum, should at least make up 30 percent of any decision-making body, committee, consultation, workshop, etc. (United Nations (1995), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>)

## **Box 4** Key work streams to support gender-responsive REDD+

### **Stream 4** Undertake gender-responsive planning and monitoring:

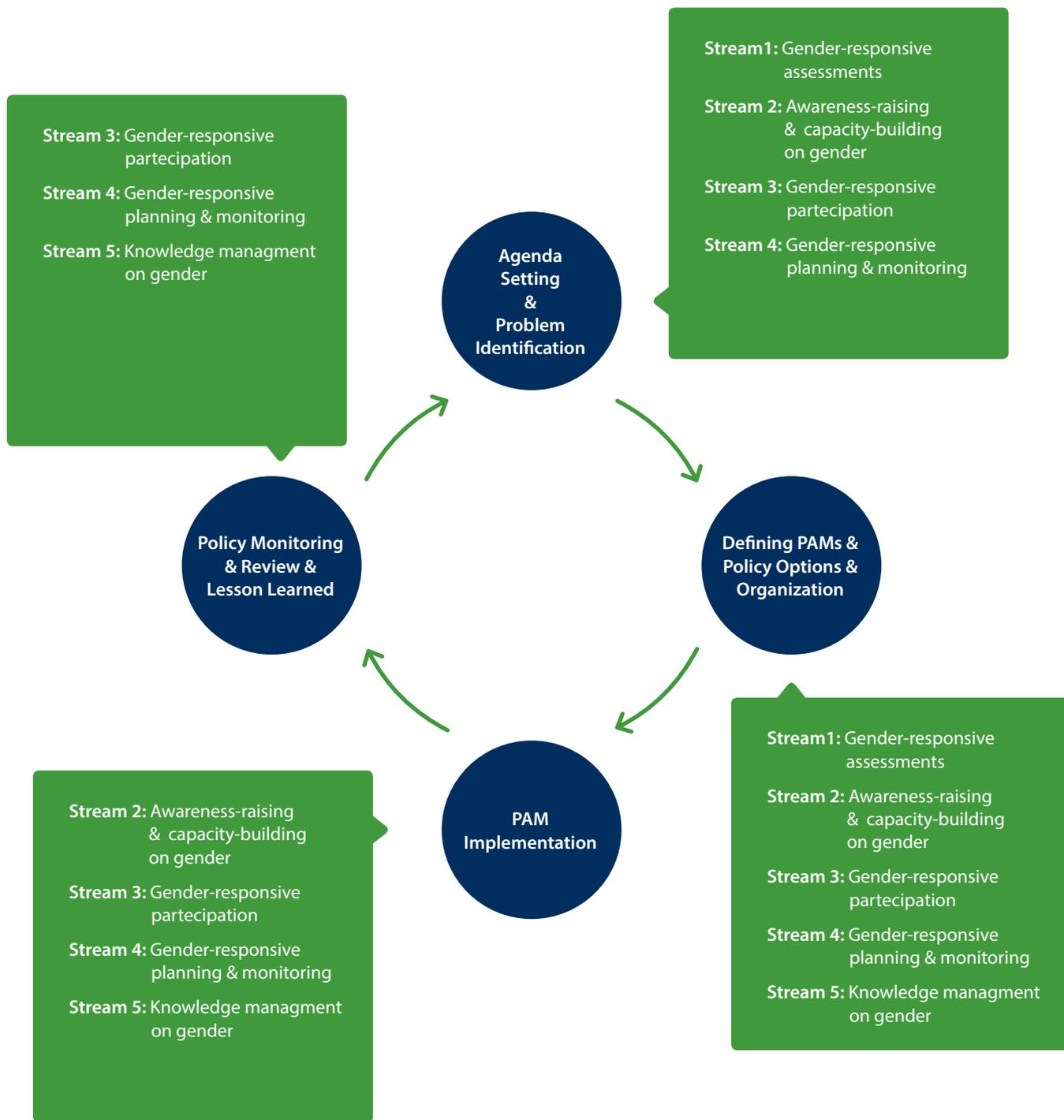
*Developing gender-responsive planning and monitoring measures, including within budgets and targets and indicators in reporting frameworks, can help assess whether women and men (and youth, girls and boys, when applicable) are benefiting from REDD+ and assist in ensuring that there are adequate financial resources to implement gender-related activities. Gender-responsive reporting, monitoring and budgeting are accountability tools that help reinforce and promote the full consideration of gender in REDD+ planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.*

### **Stream 5** Exchange knowledge on gender:

*Systematizing good practices and lessons learned for gender-responsive REDD+ action is critical for demonstrating how to move from policy to action in integrating gender equality and women's empowerment concepts into REDD+ processes. Sharing such experiences on gender among countries and regions as well as among stakeholder groups helps to reinforce the relevance, need for and benefits of gender-responsive REDD+ action. It can also serve as an effective vehicle to drive change, illustrate what is possible and empower others to undertake similar action.*

*Source: UN-REDD Programme 2017; see also Figure 2. (NB: A menu of gender-responsive activities for each of the five methodological work streams described above, as well as possible indicators to help measure such work, are provided in Annex 1 of this resource, the UN-REDD Programme's "Methodological Brief on Gender")*

**FIGURE 2** Gender Entry Points within the REDD+ Policy Cycle



Source: UN-REDD Programme 2017

27. In this process REDD+ action should go beyond a gender-sensitive approach (e.g., ‘do no harm’) to instead achieve a gender-responsive approach of ‘doing better’. Undertaking a gender-responsive approach focuses on catalysing broader socio-economic development throughout the REDD+ policy cycle by changing national and local laws, attitudes and customs that impoverish marginalized groups, including women. This will advance gender equality and women’s empowerment and thereby make REDD+ processes and outcomes more sustainable. With this enhanced conceptual and practical focus, emphasis is on ensuring the equitable, full and effective participation of women in REDD+ decision-making and policy design and implementation.

## Summary questions

- *What advice would you give to a REDD+ country that has embarked on developing a national approach to REDD+ safeguards?*
- *What are the five key work streams to support gender-responsive REDD+?*
- *Beyond ensuring that there is no environmental and social harm, how might REDD+ processes help to catalyse broader socio-economic development, including gender equality, throughout the REDD+ policy cycle?*

28. Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries constitute over 20 percent to 24 percent of global GHGs annually (Smith et al. 2014). On the other hand, existing forests help offset up to 30 percent of the annual global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (see Langanieri et al. 2010). In recognition of their current and potential role in helping keep the Earth's temperature below 20 C, recent global processes, including the Paris Climate Change Agreement, have formally accepted forests as a critical sector in the fight against climate change.
29. However, forests are relevant to sustainable development in more ways than climate change mitigation. Covering almost a third of the Earth's land surface area, forests provide invaluable benefits to humanity: they support livelihoods and play a fundamental role in plant productivity, terrestrial biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provisioning. REDD+ is an international effort to address forest loss and mitigate the effects of climate change by compensating governments, companies or owners of forests in developing countries for measurable, reportable and verifiable reductions in GHG emissions from activities in the forest sector. It aims to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while allowing developing countries to benefit from the carbon sequestration capacity of their forests.
30. There are many challenges that marginalized groups, especially women, still face around forests, including lack of rights around forest use and land tenure and effective participation within associated decision-making processes. To help remedy systemic discrimination related to land access, ownership, control and decision-making, gender considerations need to be fully mainstreamed in REDD+ action, wherein structural gender inequalities around land and forests are addressed, so that benefits from REDD+ are equitably shared among those undertaking action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. A gender-responsive and participatory approach throughout the REDD+ policy cycle can enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of such work and increase ownership and maximize the ecological dividends of forest conservation. In this effort, REDD+ action should go beyond a gender-sensitive approach (e.g., 'do no harm') to instead achieve a gender-responsive approach of 'doing better'.
31. Because of its unique place at the intersection of key livelihoods and mitigation, REDD+ action can help reduce poverty by improving the resource base and rights of historically disadvantaged groups, especially women, while simultaneously delivering mitigation and biodiversity benefits. In this way, REDD+ could become a catalyst for progress on all relevant SDGs, including on poverty eradication gender equality and women's empowerment.

# A

## Appendix A: Case studies

### CASE 1 *Gender mainstreaming, tenure reform and sustainable management of forests (The Philippines)*

The Wao municipality, in the poor Province of Lanao del Sur in The Philippines' Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, illustrates the benefits of gender mainstreaming in forest management and that providing secure tenure rights to women (like men) can help promote sustainable management of forests and poverty alleviation in impoverished regions. Half of Wao's land area is forest, but its forests have been subjected to logging, slash-and-burn farming and other uses.

The local government unit of Wao's gender and development team facilitated the grant of 153 individual property rights (IPR) to Wao's women. The IPR is a contract over 30 hectares of forestland and authorizes holders to develop and derive benefits from the land for 25 years (a renewable lease) as part of the Forest Land Use Planning process. With this arrangement, women benefited from training opportunities on livelihoods and forest conservation and land use. Women were also given key positions in relevant municipal policy-making bodies on environment and natural resources. Thus, five of the 21 members of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council were women and a woman was chosen by the community to chair a prominent local cooperative, which cooperated with the Municipality in enforcing a forest co-management scheme in Wao.

The gender mainstreaming effort, including tenure security for women, contributed to the following noteworthy outcomes:

- Illegal logging activities covering more than 2,000 hectares of watershed were halted; land conflicts that had previously disadvantaged women-led households were halted.
- Two-hundred-forty hectares of bare forestland were turned into productive farms.
- Unsustainable upland monoculture was transformed into conservation-oriented agroforestry with endemic perennials.
- Deforestation was prevented annually for about 40 hectares of natural forest; estimated carbon benefits of nearly 9,000 tonnes/year were produced from avoided deforestation and carbon sequestration.

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- Source: Butardo-Toribio et al. in Lorena Aguilar et al. (eds.), *Forests and Gender*. 2011.
  - Source: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland in collaboration with WEDO, New York. USA
  - Source: [http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/ForestsAndGender\\_WEDO.pdf](http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/ForestsAndGender_WEDO.pdf) – p. 56

## CASE 2 *Cambodia's Interministerial Gender Group on REDD+*

Although there are policies and institutions in Cambodia to promote the integration of gender considerations into forestry and other natural resources management sectors, barriers have prevented the effective function of such institutions and implementation of these policies. Acknowledging these gaps between policy and practice, Cambodia, from 2012–2014, agreed to serve as a pilot country in a regional joint initiative on women's inclusion in REDD+, organized by the UN-REDD Programme, USAID Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN). Through a country assessment (available at: <http://bit.ly/1jt9Ss3>), concrete barriers to women's inclusion and integration of gender perspectives in REDD+ (at institutional & community levels) were examined; corresponding key entry points and recommendations for removing those barriers were formulated; and good practices on gender issues for replication were identified. These recommendations were informed and prioritized through a National Forest Dialogue held with a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs/CSOs, academics and local communities.

In response to these findings/recommendations, in 2014, the government decided that creating an Interministerial Gender Group at the national level would be an effective initial measure to help the REDD+ Taskforce to 1) address some of these identified gender gaps and barriers in a cost-effective and efficient manner within its ongoing REDD+ work and 2) strengthen existing good practices on gender. Made up of four government representatives (from the Forestry Administration, the Fisheries Administration, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Women's Affairs), the objectives of the time-bound Gender Group (until the end of 2015) were to build awareness about gender and women's empowerment concepts among members of the REDD+ Taskforce, Consultation Group and Technical Teams and to advise on gender in components of the National REDD+ Strategy and subsequent implementation guidelines as they were prepared.

The key activities the Gender Group undertook to fulfil its identified objectives included:

- Conducting two gender and REDD+ awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops, including with the four REDD+ Technical Teams and the REDD+ Consultation Group
- Providing written comments and recommendations to the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat on ways to strengthen the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment concepts within the draft National REDD+ Strategy
- Raising awareness about gender and REDD+ and the work of the Gender Group through a radio talk show and the National Television of Cambodia

Additionally, supportive tools and processes informed and guided the work of the Gender Group. At the request of the Gender Group, this work included conducting an internal training on gender and REDD+ in November 2014 with the Gender Group on the intersection of gender equality, women's empowerment and REDD+ and developing a Gender Checklist to serve as a tool to help guide the Gender Group's review of the draft National REDD+ Strategy.

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→ Extracted from UNREDD Programme (2017), 'Methodological Brief on Gender'

# B

## Appendix B: Learning tools

### TASK 1 *A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry & REDD+ (plenary)*

**Learning objective:**

Understand the concept of gender equity (and best practices) in forest use and management.



*A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry & REDD+*

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*10 minutes (video presentation)*

*20 minutes (group discussion and reflection)*

### ***Notes to the facilitator***

- Encourage a discussion on the take-away message of the video presentation.
- Encourage a discussion on the question, “What are the best practices that could help promote gender equity in community forests and REDD+?”
- Encourage the participants to discuss their experiences with other best practices on gender equity in forests.

## TASK 2 *INDCs Forests – Gender Analysis (plenary)*

### **Learning objective:**

Understand the gender-mitigation nexus in forest projects.



*Gender analysis of INDCs, specifically, forest conservation plans prioritized in INDCs*

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*20 minutes (group breakout discussions)*



*20 minutes (presentation of findings - three presentations of five minutes each)*

*20 minutes (plenary discussions)*

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*Government of Costa Rica, Costa Rica's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (2015)*

*Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea - Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)*



*Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of Viet Nam (2015)*

### **Notes to the facilitator**

- Divide the participants into 3three groups; give each group one reading.
- Appoint a leader in each group.
- Help the groups identify the relevant sections of the referenced INDCs.
- Ask the groups to use the information on the above-cited materials and do a gender analysis on the INDCs, with specific emphasis on forest-related sections of the applicable INDC.
- Facilitate a discussion about how much these INDCs incorporate gender perspectives in general and specifically vis-à-vis the forest sector.

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